



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5 pm
Sunday 7:30 am; 9 am;
10:30 am & 5 pm

Weekday Masses
Monday – Friday 9:30 am

Adoration
 Friday 10 am – 11 am

Reconciliation
 Saturday 11 am – 12 pm (with Adoration)

PARISH CLERGY

Fr John Ho PP
 Fr Richard Healey AP

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

9 am to 3:30 pm (Tuesday to Friday)
 Secretary: Michelle Quinn

PRIMARY SCHOOL

(02) 4625 1171
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 info@sjctdw.catholic.edu.au

Sunday 21, Year A | 23 August 2026

PARISH MISSION & VISION - Celebrating Catholic life since 1822

To know, follow and share Jesus with our neighbours.

To see every neighbourhood transformed by the love and power of Jesus.

Mass Today

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
 save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the
 day long.*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 22:19-23

*I place the key of the House of David upon his
 shoulder.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 137

**Lord, your love is eternal;
 do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING | Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
**You are Peter, the rock on which I will
 build my Church; the gates of hell will
 not hold out against it.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 16:13-20

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of
 the kingdom of heaven.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
 has eternal life, says the Lord,
 and I will raise him up on the last day.*

This Week

9:30 am Mass – Mon 24 Aug - **St Bartholomew [Feast]**

9:30 am Mass – Tues 25 Aug

9:30 am Mass – Wed 26 Aug

9:30 am Mass – Thurs 27 Aug - **St Monica [Memorial]**

9:30 am Mass – Friday 28 Aug - **St Augustine [Memorial]**

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Twenty-Second Sunday in Year A
Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

“The Prime Minister of Heaven”

Here's a question worth sitting with: What if Jesus was doing something at Caesarea Philippi His disciples would have instantly recognised — and we've almost forgotten how to see?

Follow the thread. In Isaiah 22, God fires a corrupt royal steward, Shebna, and gives the key of the House of David to Eliakim instead. He wears it on his shoulder. What he opens, no one shuts; what he shuts, no one opens. This is the office of prime minister — the man who runs the kingdom in the king's name. Seven centuries later, Jesus asks at Caesarea Philippi: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answers by revelation: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus is deliberately invoking the Davidic kingdom — Isaiah 22, Matthew 16, and the covenant together — as the key to what happens next.

As Son of David, Jesus is not merely master of the palace; He is the King Himself, free to bestow His kingdom's keys on whomever He wills. He gives them to Peter — an authority even greater than Eliakim's, since Peter becomes chief steward not of a small Near Eastern kingdom, but of the house of great David's greater Son.

This is no improvisation. It is a formal installation. The Church is a divine household with a steward appointed to govern in the King's name. And because Isaiah 22 is itself about succession from one steward to the next, the office Peter receives must be one that continues after him — for if Christ's Church is to last more than a generation, someone must succeed Peter in it.

Paul, overwhelmed, breaks into song: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Romans 11:33). That's not filler — it's the only fitting response to seeing the whole design cohere, from Abraham to Isaiah to Peter to now. The keys still exist. The steward still serves. The gates of the netherworld have not prevailed. And the question Jesus asked on that hillside is still the one every soul must answer — not with words only, but with a life. “Who do you say that I am?”

Scott Hahn - stpaulcenter.com

*In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Dharawal people as traditional custodians of this land.
 We pay our respect to all Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations peoples today.*



sjec.org.au/news



StJohnCampbelltown

You Are the Rock: Now Act Like It

Peter didn't earn the keys of the Kingdom through cleverness or credentials. He received them through revelation — a gift from the Father, not the work of flesh and blood. And that changes everything.

The first reading sets the stage: God transfers the "key of the House of David" from one steward, Shebna, to another, Eliakim — not because Eliakim was more powerful, but because God chose him. Authority in God's household has always been a matter of divine appointment, not popular election.

Then comes Matthew's great moment at Caesarea Philippi. "Who do you say that I am?" is not a trivia question. It is **the question**, the one every human soul must answer, in every age, including this one. Peter's answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," didn't rise from human reasoning. It was breathed into him by the Father. And on that confession, Jesus builds His Church. Not on a system, not on a philosophy — on a person and a faith.

The gates of the netherworld shall not prevail. That is not a hope. That is a promise.

Paul, overwhelmed by the sheer depth of it all, breaks into a doxology in Romans. Some truths are so vast they cannot be argued — they can only be adored. The wisdom and knowledge of God are unsearchable. His ways are beyond tracing out. Yet here we are — held in those ways, kept by that wisdom, loved by that God. The question echoes across the centuries: "Who do you say that I am?" What you answer — and how you live that answer — is everything.

Biblical Roots of the Mass

The theme of EUCHARIST28 is *This is My Body, Given For You*. Please join us at FaithworX in St John's Hall on Sunday evenings to watch and discuss a series of videos, The Biblical Roots of the Mass - available on formed.org and presented by Dr Brant Pitre. There are 8 more videos. All welcome, just turn up! We begin at **6:15pm** with a cuppa & biscuit, watch the video (35-50 mins) on the big screen, with discussion, and finish about 7:45pm.

Giving Glory to God

Share Your Answered Prayers!

Has God answered a prayer, brought healing, or granted a blessing in your life—big or small?

In the Scriptures, whenever God moved among His people, they built a monument of stones to remember His goodness (*Joshua 4:6-7*). When we share our answered prayers, it isn't bragging—it gives glory to God and builds up the faith of our entire parish family!

Why Share Your Testimony?

- Glorify God: Praise Him for His active presence in your daily life.
- Encourage Others: Your story gives hope to someone currently going through a hard season.
- Build Expectation: Remind our community at St John's that Jesus Christ is alive and moving in power today!

How to Share:

- Online: Visit therekindleproject.com.au/answered-prayers or scan the QR code below.
- In Person: Fill out a paper slip in the foyer and drop it into the Testimony & Prayer Box. (*You may remain anonymous if you prefer*).

Let's build an altar of praise together and give thanks for all the good things God is doing!



Parish Life & Ministry Survey - sjec.org.au

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey. Please visit the parish website today to **take the survey** or to see the results so far. Every member of the family, and every person who attends Mass at St John's, including children, are welcome to complete the survey personally. **Don't miss the chance to have your say.** *If you would like to sign up for a ministry, please complete the form also available on the parish website.*

Prayer Intentions

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Guadalupe Jordan, Fr Ross Naylor, Craig Moores, Felisa Orca, Phillip W, Sean Logan, Joan Samuel, Helen Barnes, Ronald Elliott, Jack Wheeler, Roslin, John Moore, David Jones, Nathan Taylor, Cathy Hurst, John Wagner, Alan Johnson, Allan Marquinez, Carmela Labrador, Karen Milenkovic, Josefino Pangilinan.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr John Roberts, Maria Curtis, Neville Norris, Vitoria Ahwa, Louis Michael Desperles.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Brock Bolin, Maryanne Tomarchio, Alberto Macadangdang, Bojena Tsvirko, Stanislav Tsvirko, Wadih Nehme, Dayaka Jothi, Shaneil Madhoji, Selu Paseka, Brigid McCullins, Joy Sutton.

Rosters

Sunday 30 August

Acolyte / Server

Vigil Brian Thompson

7:30 Tom Hunter

9 Pauloleono Aukusitino

10:30 Gavan Hill, Andrei Valderrama

5 Volunteer please

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Alexandra Wojcik, Marie Cassar

7:30 Florence Mascarenhas, Ian Star

9 John Hill, Amelia Jimenez

10:30 Maria Aliifa'alogo, Imelda Landrigan

5 Jismin Jio, Hazel Vargas

Readers

Vigil Angel Estepa, Jolene Gonzales

7:30 Mary Ellen Bland, John Lloyd

9 Diana Hill, Flor Artus

10:30 Norma McNally, Broone Periera

5 Sofia De Silva, Sean Donovan

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Filipino Choir

RENEWED & SENT

Renewed & Sent

Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the **Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit at St Gregory's College, Gregory Hills, from 1-3 October 2026.**

Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel. Whether you come on your own or as part of a parish team, you'll leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas to help your parish grow in faith, mission, and community. For the full program and registrations, visit

renewedandsent.com.au

World Youth Day Seoul 2027 – Diocesan Pilgrimage

One Year to go until World Youth Day Seoul 2027! Applications are open for the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage. If you're interested in joining thousands of young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience of faith, community and pilgrimage, visit dow.org.au/wyd27 for information on the itinerary, costs, travel arrangements and FAQs. An information night will be held on Wed 2 Sep 2026 from 6-8pm at the Xavier Conference Rooms (38 Harbour St Wollongong) to provide further information and provide a chance for potential pilgrims to meet each other. Anyone looking to apply is required to attend this session. Join our mailing list at dow.sh/wyd27 to receive the latest updates and announcements.

Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist

The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, who's body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises. This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to eucharist28.org for more.

St Carlo Acutis Relic and Display coming here in September!

Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage between 14-21 September 2026. The relic will visit the parishes of **Oran Park (Mon 14)**, **Rosemeadow (Tue 15)**, Nowra (16-17/9), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, but especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display. Go to stcarloaustralia.com for more information.

Cursillo Diocesan Women's Encounter

Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 Sep 2026
Carmel House Varroville

Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support and nurture our faith journey and enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. The weekend will include talks, discussions fostering friendship, daily Mass, spiritual direction, good music, fun and laughter.

Cost: **\$320** (payment options available) covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities. Enquiries: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109
cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com dow.sh/cursillo

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Peter was called by name, given a mission, and handed the keys of the Kingdom. Every vocation is a personal call from Christ — say yes, and the gates will not prevail. (Matthew 16:18-19) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, vocations@dow.org.au

Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

Compass Catholic Family Camping Weekend

Registrations are now open for our next CCFC Weekend planned for Friday 16 - Sunday 18 October. Join with families from across the Diocese for a relaxed weekend of family fun, faith and food! For more information and to register go to: dow.sh/familycamping26

Please donate to support our parish

Use the new tap machine to donate \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 or other amount (\$1 - \$99).

We know that less people are carrying cash, so the **DoW App** exists to allow you to donate on a one off or regular basis.

Visit parishgiving.dow.org.au to register to setup a donation for **Campbelltown Parish**—it takes only **30 seconds** to register and setup. All donations made are safe and secure—you need to enter your card details and then confirm your information before any payments or donations are processed. You can also change or edit your giving at any time in the app.



Upcoming Events

Anointing Mass

10am Sat 5 September

Prayer Ministry

Receive prayer for any need - physical or spiritual 11:30am Sunday 12 Sept.

Children's Mass

10:30am Sunday 23 August

Prayer & Shared Lunch

11:30am Fri 11 Sept (Parish Hall)

ST JOHN'S JOKES CORNER

Why did Peter make the best locksmith in the Apostolic College? Because he was the only one who came with keys — and a solid rock to hang the sign on!

A parishioner asked Fr John why priests always seem to have so many keys. He replied, "Well, someone has to be able to unlock the kingdom!"



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