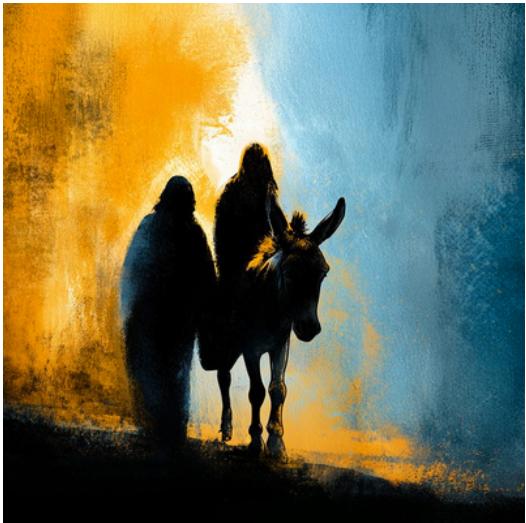




St John the Evangelist

CATHOLIC PARISH CAMPBELLTOWN



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5pm

**Sunday 7:30am; 9am;
10:30am & 5pm**

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 9:30am

Adoration

First Friday 10am - 6pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 11am-12pm (with Adoration)

PARISH CLERGY

Fr John Ho PP

Fr Richard Healey AP

Fr Darren McDowell AP

CONTACT US

sjec.org.au/hello

25-35 Cordeaux St, Campbelltown
PO Box N203, Campbelltown North 2560

(02) 4625 8044

campbelltown@dow.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

9am to 3:30pm (Tuesday to Friday)
Secretary: Marilyn Baert (Tue-Wed)
& Michelle Quinn (Wed am; Thurs-Fri)

PRIMARY SCHOOL

(02) 4625 1171

Principal: Paul Moroney
info@sjctdow.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Sunday Year A | 28 December 2025

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.

Welcome

Mass Today

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING | Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 127

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

SECOND READING | Colossians 3:12-21

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 29 Dec

9:30am Mass - Tues 30 Dec

9:30am Mass - Wed 31 Dec

9:30am Mass - Thur 1 Jan - Mary, Mother of God [Solemnity]

9:30am Mass - Fri 2 Jan

10am Anointing Mass (Parish Hall) - Sat 3 Jan

READINGS NEXT WEEK – The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

The Sanctuary of Life

Why does salvation history hinge on a family fleeing for their lives? In the Gospel, the Holy Family aren't merely refugees; they are revealed as the new Israel. Jesus goes down into Egypt to perfect the history of His people, led by a new Joseph, the dreamer who saves his family from death.

This flight reveals the family's true role. The Holy Family was the sanctuary where the Son of God was protected from a hostile world. Today, the Christian family is called to be that same sanctuary. In a culture often opposed to the Gospel, parents must be vigilant guardians, protecting the divine life of grace within their homes.

How do we build this fortress? Sirach reminds us that honoring our parents is a spiritual act that atones for sins. St Paul provides the blueprints for the interior life of this household, telling us to "put on" compassion and patience. He calls love the "bond of perfection"—the structural integrity that holds the domestic church together.

When we forgive as the Lord has forgiven us, we make our homes outposts of the Kingdom. By guarding the life of Christ in the ordinary struggles of our daily routine, we prepare to dwell forever in the house of our Father.

Dr 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



St John Campbelltown

God is With Us

It's easy at times to put God in the 'God box' - he's 'in heaven', 'far away', 'distant and remote' 'someone to be adored'. However, this is not what we celebrate at Christmas (or Easter)

Today's communion antiphon proclaims 'Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us'. Whilst our Christmas masses focused on Jesus as the baby in the manger, today's gospel gives us a much darker and terrifying scene. Joseph and Mary, with the infant Jesus, are fleeing for their very lives, escaping persecution and probably death in Bethlehem. Even at the beginning of his life, Jesus - our Lord and God - experiences rejection, hatred and threats of violence.

However, we also see something else. God the Father's continual protection. Joseph is warned in a dream to flee, he is warned in another dream to return home and then again to settle in Nazareth. Jesus, 'God with us', experiences all that his family goes through at this time, he must have known the fear and dread on his parents' faces, the arduous journey to Egypt and back and the struggle of settling back into village life in Nazareth.

As we reflect on the Christmas stories, let us take heart that our God is not distant and remote. In and through Jesus God knows all of our pain, suffering, struggles and difficulties. He knows our joys, hopes and dreams. Let us invite him to truly 'be with us' every step of our lives, each and every day.

Wishing you all many blessings this Christmas
Fr Darren McDowell



Are you part of the Prayer Ministry Team, Alpha Team, or an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist? Come for 6 sessions of training that will explore the spiritual gifts outlined in the "Spiritual Gifts Handbook" to equip you with the knowledge and skills to enhance your prayer life and the effectiveness of your ministry. Mon & Wed nights, from 5 Jan in St John's Parish Hall, 6:30pm - 9pm.

See flyers for more information.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Lidija Faaiu Faamau, Roslin, Patrick Thompson, Lourdes Liwanag, Gina Marie Bellon, John Moore, Stephen O'Connor, David Jones, Nathan Taylor, Cathy Hurst, John Wagner, Alan Johnson, Allan Marquinez, Carmela Labrador, Karen Milenkovic, Josefino Pangilinan.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Valerie Chalker, Ruby Rodriguez Vargas, Paul O'Loughlan, Wal Glynn, Betty McNab, Maree Murphy.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Kathleen McAuliffe, James & Alice McMinn, Ron McDonald, Alejandro Aguilan, David & Nancy Flaherty, Kenneth Henry Hair, Michael Snyiuta.



The Holy Family - Jubilee Year of Hope

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family during this Jubilee Year of Hope, we look to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as pilgrims of hope who trusted God even in uncertainty. Their home in Nazareth reminds us that hope is born and nurtured in families through love, patience, forgiveness, and prayer. We pray that every family in our parish may be renewed in hope and strengthened by God's mercy.

Thank You

St Vincent de Paul Conference thank you for your generosity during our Christmas appeal. You gave \$5,686.50 that helped towards delivering food cards & toys to 89 families with 250 children. God bless each one of you & your families at Christmas and throughout the 2026.



Anointing Mass

The first Anointing Mass for the Sick and Elderly will be on **Saturday 3 January at 10am** in the Parish Hall.

Morning Tea will follow.

Sacrament of Reconciliation available.

Prayer Intentions

Rosters

Sunday 4 Jan 2026

Acolyte / Server

Vigil Michael Norris

7:30 Tom Hunter

9 Joy Kuriakose

10:30 John Hill & Andrei Valderrama

5 Raul Ladera, Kaitlyn Cooke

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie

7:30 Jean Reid, Volunteer

9 Maria Byron, Falakika Nau

10:30 Abilene Barnes, Hazel Vargas

5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

Vigil Carmel Gorman, Angel Estepa

7:30 Tarek Boulos, Atoni Kaufusi

9 Flor Artus, Wendy Fawbert,

Jyothis Joseph

10:30 Norma McNally, Broone Periera,

Tessie Yaghoobi Fam

5 Maria Brookes, Melinda Canete

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Volunteer

5 Siervas Musika Choir

Jokes Corner

My wife accompanied me this morning when I went to the barbers for a haircut. Reading a magazine in the reception area, she found an interesting article and asked if she could take the magazine next door to make a photocopy.

"Leave some ID, a driver's license or a credit card," the hairdresser said.

"But my hubby is here getting a haircut," she explained.

"Yes, I know", he replied. "But I need something that you'll come back for."



Our Parish Condolences

Our condolences to **Greg** on the death of his father, **Wal Glynn**, and to **Mary** on the death of her husband **Paul O'Loughlan**. Wal's funeral will be celebrated at **St Paul's, Camden** on Wednesday 31 Dec at 10:30am.

Paul O'Loughlan's funeral will be at 11am on Tuesday 30 Dec at St John's.

Please keep Greg, Mary, and their families in your prayers.

May their souls rest in peace.

Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas.

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal

Close of the Jubilee Year

You are invited to commemorate the official close of the Jubilee Year of Hope in our diocese. A special Mass will be celebrated by **Bishop Brian Mascord**: **10.30am Sunday 28 December, St Francis Xavier Cathedral**. "May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever." (Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit*)

100th Anniversary of the Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary

The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary celebrate their 100th anniversary this year (1 October 2025 – 4 November 2026). In honour of this milestone, the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted a jubilee indulgence for the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany, and all churches, chapels, and Schoenstatt shrines under the Sisters' care—including our Schoenstatt Shrine and House Chapels in Mulgoa.

To gain the indulgence: be in a state of grace, receive Penance and Holy Communion, and pray for the Holy Father's intentions (Our Father, Creed, and invocation of Mary, Queen of Peace). A plenary indulgence may be gained once a day. General information about the indulgence and more information are attached.

More information and resources can be found at: www.s-ms.org/en | www.schoenstatt.org.au

The Art of Dying Well – Four-Part Series

Clergy and parish communities are invited to attend The Art of Dying Well, a free four-week Saturday series presented by Bruce Missen, Managing Director of Willow Tree Funerals. Starts Saturday, 10 January 2026 10:30am – 1pm Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville Details: Light refreshments provided. Please scan the QR code on the attached flyer to register. For more information: 02 8776 1667 or willowtreefunerals.com.au

Piety Stall Notice

We now have a lot of new stock which includes **Columban Calendars, Rosaries, Missals, 2026 LED Calendars** etc. Pay by cash or EFTpos. So please come & visit the Piety Stall. We also welcome more volunteers. Contact Gilbert / Ricardo on

villarea.gilberta@gmail.com or 0419 350 763

Looking for Quality Vacation Care These School Holidays?

CatholicCare offers safe, fun, and engaging Vacation Care programs at 11 schools across our Diocese. Children enjoy exciting activities, make new friends, and are cared for by experienced staff—giving parents peace of mind and kids a holiday to remember. Ingleburn and Ruse. Secure your child's spot today: Call (02) 4227 1122 or visit catholiccare.dow.org.au for locations and enrolment details.

Seeking Peace and Healing? CatholicCare Counselling Can Help

Life's burdens can feel heavy, but you are not alone. CatholicCare offers professional counselling rooted in compassion and guided by the values of faith and hope. Whether you are facing family challenges, relationship struggles, grief, or personal concerns, our counsellors walk with you on the path to healing and renewal.

Reach out today and let us walk with you: Call (02) 4254 9395 or visit catholiccare.dow.org.au

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

The Magi followed the star with perseverance until they found Christ and worshipped him. Seek the Lord persistently, and he will reveal your path. (Matthew 2:1-12)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, vocations@dow.org.au

STOUTHEARTED Men of Sexual Integrity

Stouthearted is a new Jesus-centred men's program designed to meet a desperate need in men. It's an 8-week program that draws from well-known experts, shares powerful teachings and models real world conversations.

Stouthearted fosters learning, discussion, prayer, reflection, healing and builds essential practical strategies. In addition to the main sessions, there are short daily reflections that include video input, bible study, and self-reflection.

The Stouthearted program will be running in Wollongong in 2026, each Monday from 2 Feb - 30 Mar. Register now: dow.sh/stouthearted

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.





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