



## WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturday Vigil 5pm**

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

## Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 9:30am

## Adoration

Friday 10am - 11am

## 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](http://sjec.org.au/hello)**

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[campbelltown@dow.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:info@sjctdow.catholic.edu.au)

## Epiphany Sunday | 4 January 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

*Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

### FIRST READING | Isaiah 60:1-6

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you..*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 71

**Lord, every nation on earth  
will adore you.**

### SECOND READING | Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### GOSPEL | Matthew 2:1-12

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

## This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 5 Jan - Weekdays after Epiphany

9:30am Mass - Tues 6 Jan

9:30am Mass - Wed 7 Jan

9:30am Mass - Thur 8 Jan

9:30am Mass - Fri 9 Jan

## READINGS NEXT WEEK – The Baptism of the Lord (A)

*Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17*

## The Light of the Nations

For centuries, Israel waited for the prophecy of Isaiah to be fulfilled. They looked for the day when the thick darkness covering the earth would lift, and the glory of the Lord would rise upon Jerusalem. They anticipated the caravans of camels and the dromedaries of Midian, bringing gold and frankincense to praise the Lord.

In today's Gospel, that waiting ends, but the fulfillment is far greater than a political victory. The light does not shine on a palace in earthly Jerusalem, but upon a child in a humble house. The Magi, the first fruits of the Gentile nations, follow the star to the true Light of the World.

This is the "mystery" St Paul speaks of in his letter to the Ephesians. The Epiphany reveals that the Gentiles are no longer strangers or sojourners. They are co-heirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise. The covenant family of God has burst the boundaries of one nation to embrace the whole world.

We are the successors of those wise men. We, too, are called to journey from the shadow of the world into the radiant light of His presence. Like them, we must not appear before the Lord empty-handed. We offer Him the gold of our charity, the frankincense of our prayer, and the myrrh of our daily sacrifices. We find Him not in a manger, but on the altar, where the glory of the Lord has truly risen upon us.

*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](http://sjec.org.au/news)**



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## Sharing Christ's Light

What is the one thing we are all searching for? Ultimately, we are searching for God, complete fulfillment, happiness, truth, goodness, peace, love, relationship and security. Sometimes though, we look for these things in the wrong places, expecting other people or elements of creation to supply this longing and desire for ultimate fulfillment.

Today's feast, Epiphany, is a bookend to our celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, both are intimately connected. At Christmas we celebrate God becoming human in Jesus, today we celebrate the true divinity of that human person - Jesus, the Christ, the Saviour. Both are two sides of the same coin.

Today's readings lead us to recognise that Jesus, born in Bethlehem and revered by the Magi, is indeed God, the one for whom we have been searching. Countless people through the centuries, through coming to believe in him, have found the peace, joy, fulfilment and life for which they have been searching. Even our own community continues to grow as people come to us, looking for the love of Jesus in their lives.

As Church, we are Christ's body - his visible and physical presence in the world today. God continues to reveal himself through the body of his Son - us, the Church. Our invitation therefore, is to consider how we, individually and as a community, can be that attractive light for others, drawing all people together into his body. As in our vision and mission - coming to know, follow and share Jesus so that our neighbourhoods will be transformed by his love and power through the Holy Spirit.

*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.*



## Thoughts from Pope Leo

Reflecting on Church teaching, Pope Leo reminds us 'that the Church is the visible sign of the union between God and humanity, where God intends to bring us all together into one family of brothers and sisters and make us his people.'

Such 'mystery of ecclesial communion,' he says, helps us to understand the need to become a more synodal Church, 'recognising that truth is not possessed, but sought together.'

As the Pope points out, the Church is called to be a place 'where relationships do not respond to the logic of power but to that of love.' Ours is a Church where a child in a humble manger shows up the absurd claims of the earth's most powerful rulers.

Indeed, as the Pope stresses, 'the spiritual life... reveals to us that we are all children of God, brothers and sisters, called to serve one another.' 'The supreme rule in the Church is love,' the Pope emphasises. 'No one is called to dominate; all are called to serve. No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate. No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together.'



## Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry will be available at 11:30am (after the 10:30am Mass) next Sunday 11 Jan. If you need prayer to experience God in your life, for healing, or another intention, come along and receive prayer by others.

## Prayer Intentions

### 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

Rolan Fredericks, Valerie Chalker, Ruby Rodriguez Vargas, Paul O'Loughlan, Wal Glynn.

### ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Joseph Wallace, Krishna Sharma, Kathleen McAuliffe, James & Alice McMin, Ron McDonald, Alejandro Aguilan, David & Nancy Flaherty, Kenneth Henry Hair, Michael Syniuta.

# Rosters

**Sunday 11 Jan 2026**

## Acolyte

Vigil Jason Thompson

7:30am Brian Thompson

9 Dominic Fonoti

10:30 Raul Ladera, Andrei Valderrama

5 Tom Hunter

## Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Alexandra Wojcik, Vicky Horgan

7:30am Mary Ellen Bland, Volunteer

9 Erin Jones, Sheila Fonseca

10:30 Falakika Nau, Patrick Cooke

5 Jean Reid, Sam Nour

## Readers

Vigil Vicky Horgan, Juliet Manalastas

7:30 Jim Mutton, Trevor Williams,

Mary John

9 Trish Coffey, Sue Marsden,

Cherima Lucilo

10:30 Sinisita Filitoga, Hazel Vargas,

Christina Tatola

5 Sofia De Silva, Sean Donovan,

Precious Parcardo

## Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Siervas Musika Choir

## Jokes Corner

If it had been **Three Wise Women** instead of men, ask yourself: what would have happened?

1. They would have asked for directions.
2. They would have arrived on time.
3. They would have helped deliver the baby.
4. And there is no way they would have brought Myrrh... they would have brought a casserole, nappies, and plenty of wine!

*(Actually, the Magi's expensive gifts funded the Holy Family's escape to Egypt —proving God provides for his people in the most practical ways!)*





# The gifts of the Magi

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star. Have you ever 'followed a star'? Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in? Are you still going after it? What gives you the energy to keep going? How do you know it is worth it? The gifts brought by the Magi have significance.

**Gold** is a symbol of wealth and fidelity. **Frankincense** is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, indigenous people in many countries have burned smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God. **Myrrh** is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing (who doesn't enjoy a rubdown?) but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus? What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far? *Explain the symbolism.*

*Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart*

*Thank you to the participants, parents and support for our Christmas Pageant. Your help was very much appreciated.*

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

The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary celebrate their 100th anniversary this year (1 Oct 2025 – 4 Nov 2026). In honour of this milestone, a jubilee indulgence has been granted for all churches, chapels, and Schoenstatt shrines under the Sisters' care—including 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](http://www.s-ms.org/en) | [www.schoenstatt.org.au](http://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](http://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 0419 350 763 or [villarea.gilberta@gmail.com](mailto:villarea.gilberta@gmail.com)

### Missal found in the church

If you lost a well-loved Glenstal Bible Missal in the church, please collect it from the parish office.

### CatholicCare Building Works

Work will begin this week at 23 Cordeaux St (35A) to remove the garages and sheds behind the property, next to the Parish House. This means that the presbytery garages will be unavailable, so the parking area in front of the Parish Office will be used by parish staff for parking. Only the first 5 parking spaces closest to the street will now be available for visitors. Please make sure that you carefully park between the lines to maximise the spaces.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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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