

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

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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

Baptism of the Lord | 11 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

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING | Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
The Lord upholds his Servant.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 28
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING | Acts 10:34-38
Peter brings the good news to the Gentiles.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 3:13-17
Jesus is baptised by John.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 12 Jan - Weekdays: Week 1, Year 2

9:30am Mass - Tues 13 Jan - *St Hilary (optional)*

9:30am Mass - Wed 14 Jan

9:30am Mass - Thur 15 Jan

9:30am Mass - Fri 16 Jan

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Second Sunday in the Year (A)

Isaiah 49:3,5-6; I Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Anointed Ones

Jesus presents himself for baptism in today's Gospel not because He is a sinner, but to fulfill the word of God proclaimed by His prophets. He must be baptized to reveal that He is the Christ ("anointed one")—the Spirit-endowed Servant promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

His baptism marks the start of a new world, a new creation. As Isaiah prophesied, the Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove—as the Spirit hovered over the face of the deep in the beginning.

As it was in the beginning, at the Jordan also the majestic voice of the Lord thunders above the waters. The Father opens the heavens and declares Jesus to be His "beloved son." God had long prepared the Israelites for His coming, as Peter preaches in today's Second Reading. Jesus was anticipated in the "beloved son" given to Abraham, and in the calling of Israel as His "first-born son".

Jesus is the divine son begotten by God, the everlasting heir promised to King David. He is "a covenant of the people [Israel]" and "a light to the nations," Isaiah says. By the new covenant made in His blood, God has gathered the lost sheep of Israel together with whoever fears Him in every nation.

Christ has become the source from which God pours out His Spirit on Israelites and Gentiles alike. In Baptism, all are anointed with that same Spirit, made beloved sons and daughters of God. Indeed, we are Christians—literally "anointed ones." We are the "sons of God" in today's Psalm—called to give glory to His name in His temple. Let us pray that we remain faithful to our calling as His children, that our Father might call us what he calls His Son—"my beloved... in whom I am well pleased."

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

Meaning of our Baptism

What does your Baptism mean to you? At one level it may simply mean that we belong to the Church, are washed from original sin and able to receive the sacraments. Yes, all this is true. However, does this capture the full meaning?

Today's readings invite us to recognise that Baptism is a statement about our identity and responsibility in the world. We firstly notice in the gospel that Jesus submits to baptism, even though he had no need of baptism. Just like his crucifixion, he humbles himself, allowing himself to be considered as and united with sinners. He submits totally to the will of his Father.

In the same way, we too are invited to recognise that in and through baptism we are dying to our human nature with its will and passions. We are rising to our new life in Christ, a life which can be powered by the Holy Spirit as we become one with Jesus. Thus we too can hear the father say "This is my son (daughter), my beloved, my favour rests on you."

Isaiah, in our first reading, describes the way in which Christ—and thus ourselves—are meant to live out this identity. We live it out in humble service, following God's will and moving in the power of the Spirit, bringing justice and truth. Like Jesus we do this without fanfare, without force or domination. Rather, we accompany with gentleness and kindness, not breaking those who are crushed, nor quenching those who are struggling with weakness. ***With and in Christ, through his Spirit, we become salt and light for the world.***

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. Continuing Mon & Wed nights in St John's Parish Hall, 6:30pm - 9pm. See flyers for more information.

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Brian Mascord has appointed three newly ordained priests to their first pastoral assignments.

- **Fr Sinh Le** has been appointed Assistant Priest at Oran Park Parish.
- **Fr Joseph Nguyen** has been appointed Assistant Priest at West Wollongong Parish and Unanderra Parish.
- **Fr Darren McDowell** has been appointed Assistant Priest at Nowra Parish, with his appointment taking effect from the weekend of 14–15 February 2026.

We keep these newly ordained priests in our prayers as they begin their priestly ministry among God's people.

Ministries Summit - Our Strategic Plan

Everyone—especially those involved in ministry—are invited to a Ministries Summit on **Saturday 7 February**, 10am–12pm in the Parish Hall. The Parish Leadership Team is inviting you to come and discuss the Strategic Plan for 2026–27, offering your input and suggestions as we begin this new year together.



Important Notice to Parishioners

We have been made aware that an email was sent to some parishioners pretending to be me, and asking for gift cards to be purchased. Please note that this message **did not come from me**

(john.ho@dow.org.au) or from the parish (campbelltown@dow.org.au).

If you receive any suspicious emails or messages claiming to be from me or the parish, please **do not respond, click on any links, or provide personal information.**

If you are unsure about any emails or communication, please contact the parish office directly to verify.

Thank you for your understanding and continued vigilance.

Fr John

Rosters

Sunday 18 Jan 2026

Acolyte

Vigil Michael Norris
7:30 Tom Hunter
9 Pauloleono Aukusitino
10:30 Joy Kuriakose, Andrei Valderrama
5 Dominic Fonoti

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Vicky Horgan, Sam Nour
7:30 Shirley Moretti, Ian Star
9 Hazel Vargas, Falakika Nau
10:30 Ioana Brunt, Faalu Faamau
5 Abilene Barnes, Rowena Cooke

Readers

Vigil Jolene Gonzales, Elizabeth Javin
7:30 Lucas Alcantara, John Lloyd,
Mary-Ellen Bland
9 Michael Willis, Reiltin Bullock,
Nathan Cox
10:30 Ancy Mathews, Kate Delmo,
Roslyn Williams
5 Kerrie McDonald, Kimberly Sumang

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George
9 Glynn Family
10:30 Joe Talamaiavao
5 Siervas Musika Choir

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry will be available at 11:30am (after the 10:30am Mass) **this 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.

Jokes Corner

Q: What did the Jordan River say to Jesus at his baptism?

A: "Water you doing here? You're supposed to be perfect!"

(Jesus replied: "I'm fulfilling all righteousness—and making a splash doing it!" The Spirit descended, the Father approved, and the rest is salvation history.)

A little girl was sitting and watching the baptismal font during Mass. She turned to her mother and whispered, "Mum, why is the priest brainwashing that baby?"

The mother smiled and whispered back, "He's not brainwashing him, dear. He's just baptising him."

The little girl looked thoughtful for a moment and said, "Oh. Well, I guess it's okay then. But he's going to need a towel for his brain."

Prayer Intentions

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Lidija Faaiu Faamau, Roslin, Patrick Thompson, 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

Lourdes Liwanag, Armando Sapitan, Glennis Hawthorn, Lucila Montano, Maria Soa Nguyen, Arthur Sarhadian.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Stephen Shaw, Wayne Campbell, Edmund Pew, Joseph Wallace, Krishna Sharma, Kathleen McAuliffe, James & Alice McMinn, Ron McDonald, Alejandro Aguilan, David & Nancy Flaherty.



Celebrating the Baptism of the Lord at Home

A simple prayer for parish families

1. Prepare a Prayer Space

On a small table place:

- a candle
- a cross
- a bowl of water (*holy water if possible*)
- a Bible

2. Opening Prayer

Light the candle.

Loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of baptism.
As Jesus was baptised in the Jordan,
renew in us your love and grace.
May our home always belong to you.
Amen.

3. Remember Our Baptism

Each person dips a finger into the water and makes the Sign of the Cross, saying:
I am baptised. I belong to Christ.
Parents may trace the cross on their children's forehead.

4. Renew Our Baptismal Promises

Together say:

- Do you renounce sin and all that separates you from God? **I do.**
- Do you believe in God who loves and saves us? **I do.**
- Do you choose to follow Jesus each day? **I do.**

5. Short Family Prayer

Offer simple prayers for:

- our family
- our parish and community
- the sick, the elderly, and those in need

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. Closing Blessing

May the Father bless us,
may Jesus walk with us,
and may the Holy Spirit guide us.
Amen.

Leave it like this

There is comfort to be found in the words Jesus spoke to John, 'Leave it like this for the time being.' We can sometimes be frustrated by the slow pace of change in the world and in our own lives—we often want things to happen immediately, if not yesterday! But Jesus' words convey a sense that there is an order to things a right time for them to come about. 'Leave it like this for the time being' says, let things unfold in their own time without being anxious; work for change, but there is a proper time for things.

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

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 has begun 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

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Jesus submitted to the Father's will at his baptism, receiving the Spirit's anointing for mission. Listen for God's call to serve, trusting that the Spirit will empower you for whatever he asks. (Matthew 3:13-17)

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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