



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

Sunday 02 Year A | 18 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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

*I will make you the light of the nations so that my
salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 39

**Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

*The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you.*

Mass Today

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The Word of
God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL | John 1:29-34

*This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*You have prepared a table before me, and how
precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 19 Jan

9:30am Mass - Tues 20 Jan

9:30am Mass - Wed 21 Jan - **St Agnes, martyr**

9:30am Mass - Thur 22 Jan

9:30am Mass - Fri 23 Jan

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

Isaiah 8:23-9:3; I Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

Perfect Offering

Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading.

He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant," He said to Me."

Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus—to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46–47).

Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians (see Exodus 12:1–23, 27).

In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19). Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God (see Hebrews 10:3-13).

The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin-offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins (see Hebrews 10:4). They were meant not to save but to teach (see Galatians 3:24). In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will.

Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience and made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass (see Romans 12:1).

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

Jesus the Lamb of God

In today's gospel John exclaims that Jesus is the 'lamb of God.' For us this may seem an odd expression and we may have images of cute and cuddly lambs. Often we portray Jesus in this light—warm, gentle, caring, compassionate, mild and peaceful—just like a lamb. Yes, this is true.

However, the title 'Lamb of God' has a much darker and richer meaning. For John's Jewish audience, lambs were certainly not cute pets, they were meant for sacrifice, sacrifice offered in the temple. A lamb, especially a first born, was often kept pure and spotless so that it could become the perfect passover sacrifice in the temple. Through its sacrifice the sins of the people were taken away.

Thus, in calling Jesus the 'Lamb of God', John is directly connecting Jesus' life with his ultimate purpose of dying as a sacrificial victim for and on behalf of us in order to take away our sins. Unlike the passover lambs, Jesus' sacrifice becomes the final and complete sacrifice after which no further sacrifice is needed. He is the perfect and spotless lamb who dies for our sake.

What might this mean for us. As members of his body we too are called, like Jesus, to offer our lives in a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. Through all our works of service, care and outreach to others, through our penance and commitment to God, we offer this same sacrifice. Coming together to celebrate the mass is the ultimate expression of this reality. At mass we participate in a true and real way Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Today, let us reflect on how we too, throughout our day, can make our lives a pure sacrifice to the Father, bringing people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus.

Fr Darren McDowell



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.

Celebrating the Feast of the Santo Niño

This weekend, our parish rejoices with our Filipino community as you honour the **Santo Niño**, the **Child Jesus**.

Your devotion teaches us to trust God with the simplicity and confidence of a child.

We thank you for sharing your faith, your culture, and your joy with us. Congratulations on this beautiful feast, and may the Santo Niño bless your families abundantly.



Behold the Lamb of God

(John 1:29–34)

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points away from himself and towards Jesus, declaring, **“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”**

This simple yet powerful witness reminds us that faith begins not with our own efforts, but with **recognising who Jesus truly is**.

John testifies that Jesus is the one chosen and sent by God, the one upon whom the Spirit rests. As we continue our journey of faith, we are invited to echo John's words in our own lives—by our prayer, our choices, and our love—so that others too may come to recognise Jesus as the Lamb of God and the source of true hope and peace.



Permanent Diaconate Ordination

Bishop Brian Mascord will ordain three men to the Permanent Diaconate at 10am on Saturday 28 February 2026 at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow:

- John Mortimer (Albion Park Parish)
- Ryan Suares (Rosemeadow Parish)
- Stuart Lake (Varroville Parish)

Please keep these men and their families in your prayers as they enter their final preparations for ordination.

Prayer Intentions

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

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

Lidija Faaiu Faamau, Lourdes Liwanag, Armando Sapitan, Glennis Hawthorn, Lucila Montano.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Stephen Shaw, Wayne Campbell, Edmund Pew, Joseph Wallace, Krishna Sharma, Kathleen McAuliffe, James & Alice McMinn.

Rosters

Sunday 25 Jan 2026

Acolyte

Vigil Jason Thompson

7:30 Brian Thompson

9 Bernard Augustine

10:30 Gavan Hill, Andrei Valderrama

5 Tom Hunter

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie

7:30 Karen Schneider, Volunteer

9 Maria Aliifa'alogo, Erin Jones

10:30 Norma McNally, Diana Hill

5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

Vigil Marie Cassar, Sheila Fonseca

7:30 Jean Reid, Cathy Porter, Ian Star

9 Marie Joseph, Nathan Cox,

Cherima Lucilo

10:30 Martin Shields, Ella Talamaivao,

Susana Ioane-Aukusitino

5 Tess Valesini, Val Alcantara

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Filipino Choir

Jokes Corner

This week I heard someone say, “Father, why does John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God? Why not the **Lion of God?**” I said, “Because if John said, **‘Behold the Lion of God,’** everyone would have run away instead of coming closer!” Jesus comes not to frighten us, but to draw us in—with gentleness, humility, and love.

In our parish we speak many languages—English, Vietnamese, Filipino, Samoan, Italian, and more.

Sometimes people ask me, “Father, what is the most important language in the Church?”

I think the answer is simple: the language of pointing.

John the Baptist didn't need many words—he just pointed and said, “There is the Lamb of God.”

And everyone understood him.

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



COMPASSIO Lenten Program 2026

This Lent, enter into the heart of Compassion—to “suffer with”—a grace-filled invitation to stand with Christ and with one another. This beautifully designed 76-page, full-colour resource will guide you through daily reflections, Sunday Gospel readings and reflections, spiritual direction, prayers, and group discussion questions—all to deepen your experience of God’s mercy.

We have ordered 100 booklets. If you would like a copy for yourself or your family, please write your name on the order sheet in the church foyer.

Prices:

- Booklet: \$5
- 3 CDs: \$8
- Full set (Book + 3 CDs): \$13

If you would like to join or form a small group for Lent, please also place your name on the sheet provided.

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.

Bishop also appointed:

-**Fr James Arblaster** is appointed as Assistant Priest at St Michael’s Parish, Nowra from Monday 12 January 2026.

-**Fr Victor Vincent** is appointed as Assistant Priest at St Paul’s Parish, Camden from Monday 12 January 2026.

Fr Victor will reside at The Oaks presbytery.

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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

Back to School Support

Do you live in the Macarthur region, have kids at school, and could use \$50 to help with those expenses? **Macarthur Social Justice Network** has \$50 per child available to be used toward the purchase of shoes, uniforms, winter coats and gloves, books and materials, subscriptions, or other miscellaneous school expenses. Fill out the details below and then just email a copy of the 2026 dated receipt and a photo of the item(s) purchased to secretary@msjn.org - Available while funds last.



News from the Diocese

A vocation view

John the Baptist's whole purpose was revealing Christ to Israel. When God calls you to serve, remember: it's not about your glory but pointing others to Jesus who saves. (Jn 1:29-34)

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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