



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 03 Year A | 25 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

*O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 8:23-9:3
The Lord brings light to the darkness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 26
The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the
differences between you.*

Mass Today

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
**Jesus preached the Good News of the
kingdom and healed all who were sick.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23
*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of
Isaiah be fulfilled.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.*

This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 26 Jan - Australia Day

9:30am Mass - Tues 27 Jan

9:30am Mass - Wed 28 Jan - **St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor [Memorial]**

9:30am Mass - Thur 29 Jan

9:30am Mass - Fri 30 Jan

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Fourth Sunday in the Year (A)
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

History Redeemed

Isaiah's prophecy in today's First Reading is quoted by Matthew in today's Gospel. Both intend to recall the apparent fall of the everlasting kingdom promised to David.

Eight centuries before Christ, that part of the kingdom where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali lived was attacked by the Assyrians, and the tribes were hauled off into captivity.

It marked the beginning of the kingdom's end. The Davidic empire finally crumbled in the sixth century BC, when Jerusalem was seized by Babylon and the remaining tribes were driven into exile.

Isaiah prophesied that Zebulun and Naphtali, the lands first to be degraded, would be the first to see the light of God's salvation. Jesus today fulfills that prophecy—announcing the restoration of David's kingdom at precisely the spot where the kingdom began to fall.

His gospel of the Kingdom includes not only the twelve tribes of Israel but all the nations—symbolized by the "Galilee of the Nations." Calling His first disciples, two fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, He appoints them to be "fishers of men," gathering people from the ends of the earth.

They are to preach the gospel, Paul says in today's Epistle, to unite all peoples in the same mind and in the same purpose—in a worldwide kingdom of God.

By their preaching, Isaiah's promise has been delivered. A world in darkness has seen the light. The yoke of slavery and sin, borne by humanity since time began, has been smashed.

And we are able now, as we sing in today's Psalm, to dwell in the house of the Lord, to worship Him in the land of the living.

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

A Change of Heart

How would you describe your life? Our lives are usually a mix of good and wonderful elements along with areas of darkness and struggle. It's often easy to focus simply on the good parts, or at times fall into despair thinking that the struggles and darkness will never be resolved.

In today's gospel Jesus is revealed as the one who brings light into the darkness. Jesus comes curing disease and illness, calling people to follow him, responding to his invitation to 'repent, for the kingdom of God is close at hand'.

This call to repentance is primarily a 'change of heart or mind'. He is inviting us to change our minds—to recognise that indeed, he has the power to relieve us from our darkness, shed the light of truth, hope, freedom and peace into the troubled and darkened areas of our lives.

Would you like him to do this for you? If so, here is a prayer of surrender you might pray as you prepare to celebrate the Eucharist and partake in his body and blood.

Dear Jesus, you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. I forgive all those who have hurt me. I offer you my sinful behaviour of _____. I give you permission to take my sin away from me, along with all the behaviours that are associated with it. As I receive your very body and blood in the Eucharist I surrender and unite myself with you and ask for healing through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Baby Jack Wheeler, Roslin, Patrick Thompson, Gina Marie Bellon, John Moore, David Jones, Nathan Taylor, Cathy Hurst, John Wagner, Alan Johnson, Allan Marquinez, Carmela Labrador, Karen Milenkovic, Josefino Pangilinan.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Frank Byron, Warren Kenny, Maureen Burgess, Elsie Copeland, Stephen O'Connor, Francisco Nascimento, Lidija Faaiu Faamau, Lourdes Liwanag, Armando Sapitan, Glennis Hawthorn.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Jamie Sutton, Gary Collins, Bernard Vaughan, Susan Heard, Andrew Hrsto (Snr), Andrew Hrsto (Jnr), Stephen Shaw, Wayne Campbell, Edmund Pew, Joseph Wallace, Krishna Sharma.

Where Does Light Shine First?

When Jesus began his public ministry, he didn't set up headquarters in Jerusalem among the religious elite. He went to Galilee—the region everyone looked down on. "Galilee of the Gentiles," they called it dismissively. It was mixed, marginalised, the first to fall when enemies invaded. Not the place you'd expect God's light to shine.

But that's exactly the point. Isaiah prophesied it: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." The darkest place. The most despised region. That's where God's light dawned first.

Jesus called his first disciples there—not scholars or priests, but fishermen. Working-class guys pulling nets from the lake. "Follow me," he said. And immediately, they left everything and followed.

Our readings today challenge two assumptions we often make:

First, we assume God works through the **right** people in the **right** places. But God consistently chooses the unlikely, the overlooked, the ordinary. If you think you're too broken or too ordinary to be used by God, you're exactly who Jesus is looking for.

Second, we assume Christian unity is about agreeing on everything. But Paul tells the divided Corinthians: your unity isn't based on following the same human leader or preferring the same style. It's based on Christ. Just Jesus. "Is Christ divided?" he asks. If not, why are we?

This week, ask yourself: Where are the **Galilees** in my world—the places and people everyone else has written off? That's where Jesus would be. Go there. Bring light there. Because God's light always shines first in the darkest places.



A vocation view

Jesus began his mission in the marketplace, not the temple. He calls us from our daily work. Are you willing to drop your nets and trade your current path for the adventure of priesthood or consecrated life?

Prayer Intentions

Rosters

Sunday 1 Feb 2026

Acolyte

Vigil Michael Norris

7:30 Tom Hunter

9 Joy Kuriakose

10:30 John Hill, Andrei Valderrama

5 Raul Ladera

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie

7:30 Jean Reid, Ian Star

9 Hazel Vargas, Falakika Nau

10:30 Abilene Barnes, Imelda Landrigan

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 Yaghooti Fam

5 Maria Brookes, Melinda Canete

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaiavao

5 Siervas Musika Choir

**Is there
more to
life than this**

Alpha

Alpha returns for 2026

Alpha returns to St John's on 16 Feb!

**Our mission at St John's is to know,
follow and share Jesus with our
neighbours!**

Many people have not met Jesus, or wish to reconnect to the Church, while others have feelings of doubt about their faith. These people need Alpha! What better way to spread the good news of Jesus than inviting people to Alpha! Please spread the news to family, friends, work colleges and neighbours to come and explore Alpha and ask the big questions of life. Alpha is a safe place where you can ask questions about life, faith and meaning.

*Most importantly we ask for your help by
praying for our Alpha guests and Alpha
team. We rely on the Holy Spirit to power
everything we do and we need your prayers!*

Contact Philip Dean alpha@sjec.org.au
for further details.



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.

The first called

What must it have been like for those first four disciples Jesus called? The fact that they were fishing means that they had not been chosen to continue studying the Torah beyond childhood and had not been chosen by a rabbi to be his followers. Even as young men, these four were has-beens and had no hope of a rabbi asking them to be his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus appears and calls them to follow him. A life that had passed them by suddenly opened up before them! Of course they dropped everything and followed. [Greg Sunter]

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, coats and gloves, books and materials, subscriptions, or other miscellaneous school expenses. Email a copy of the 2026 dated receipt and a photo of the item(s) purchased to secretary@msjn.org Only while funds last.

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

Diaconate Ordinations

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.



New Catechists Needed

Our Parish needs new volunteer catechists to teach Special Religious Education (SRE) to roughly 400 Catholic children who attend 5 Government State Primary Schools in our Parish.

What’s involved:

1. Attendance at the Catechist Level 1 course starting 6 February; a 5 week free course held at Rosemeadow.
2. Completion of a working with children check with Service NSW (free for volunteers)

The classes are once weekly for 30 to 45 minutes. New catechists will start as helpers with experienced teachers and won’t be pushed to teach by themselves until they feel confident.

Contact **Diana Hill** on 0421 604 421 for more information or to volunteer

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Like the fishermen, be ready to leave the familiar. Follow the Lord’s call today; he’ll teach you to draw others into his healing light. (Matthew 4:18–22)

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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