



**Sunday 04 Year A | 1 February 2026**

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**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

*Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.*

**FIRST READING** | Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13  
*In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** | Psalm 145  
**Happy the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

**SECOND READING** | 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
*God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Rejoice and be glad;**  
**Your reward will be great in heaven.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** | Matthew 5:1-12  
*Happy are the poor in spirit.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame,  
for I call on you.*

## This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 2 Feb - **The Presentation of the Lord [Feast]**

9:30am Mass - Tues 3 Feb

9:30am Mass - Wed 4 Feb

9:30am Mass - Thur 5 Feb - **St Agatha, virgin, martyr [Memorial]**

9:30am Mass - Fri 6 Feb - **St Paul Miki & companions, martyrs [Memorial]**

## 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

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**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**

## READINGS NEXT WEEK – Fifth Sunday in the Year (A)

*Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16*

## The Blessed Path

He is sent to lead a new exodus that brings Israel out of captivity to the nations and brings all the nations to God.

As Moses led Israel from Egypt through the sea to give them God's law on Mount Sinai, Jesus too has passed through the waters in baptism. Now, in today's Gospel, He goes to the mountain to proclaim a new law—the law of His Kingdom.

The Beatitudes mark the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham—that through his descendants all the nations of the world would receive God's blessings.

Jesus is the son of Abraham. And through the wisdom He speaks today, He bestows the Father's blessings upon "the poor in spirit."

God has chosen to bless the weak and lowly, those foolish and despised in the eyes of the world, Paul says in today's

Epistle. The poor in spirit are those who know that nothing they do can merit God's mercy and grace. These are the humble remnant in today's First Reading, taught to seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

The Beatitudes reveal the divine path and purpose for our lives. All our striving should be for these virtues—to be poor in spirit; meek and clean of heart; merciful and makers of peace; seekers of the righteousness that comes from living by the law of Kingdom.

The path the Lord sets before us today is one of trials and persecution. But He promises comfort in our mourning and a great reward.

The Kingdom we have inherited is no earthly territory but the promised land of heaven. It is Zion where the Lord reigns forever. And, as we sing in today's Psalm, its blessings are for those whose hope is in the Lord.

Scott Hahn - [stpaulcenter.com](http://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**

## Reflecting on the Word of God

When and how do you reflect upon the scriptures, the bible? Perhaps you reflect on the readings each Sunday before coming to mass. Perhaps you might reflect on the daily readings using your missal or one of the many apps that are available.

It is only through reflecting on the Word of God that we can truly come to know, relate with and understand Jesus and his teachings. Indeed, understand St Jerome (347-420 AD) once said “ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” It is through reflection on the scriptures that we can embrace the first part of our parish mission - knowing Jesus.

The following are two simple methods for scripture reflection:

### **Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) Meditation**

**1. Read:** Slowly read the text without rushing, letting the text ‘soak in’ as you do so.

**2. Meditate:** Read the text again slowly and ask ‘What sticks out for me?’ It could be a word, a phrase, an image, one of the characters, one of the actions etc within the text. Sit with that word, phrase, image, emotion, etc., think it through and explore its meaning for you in your life. What might God be saying to you?

**3. Prayer:** Speak with God about what you’ve discovered. You may want to give thanks, ask forgiveness, seek strength or comfort, etc. Whatever you want to say to God which arises from the text itself.

**4. Contemplation:** Simply resting with God in silence, perhaps with the word or phrase that stuck out to you, simply repeating it slowly and quietly in your mind. Listen for God’s response to your prayer.

### **SOAP**

Another form of scripture reflection very similar to Lectio Divina.

**S: Scripture** - The text you are reading.

**O: Observation** - What do you see, hear and feel when you explore the text?

**A: Application** - What is this text asking you to do, what response is called for?

**P: Prayer** - What would you like to talk with God about from your reading?

Fr Darren McDowell

## A Kingdom Charter

The Beatitudes are the charter of Jesus’ kingdom. They begin with a surprise: God’s favour already rests on the poor in spirit, the grieving, the gentle, the justice-hungry, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who cop the cost for doing right.

These are not a bunch of hurdles to clear; they are nine announcements of grace. At the same time, they sketch the character of a community that looks like Jesus. The Church is called to become a new social world where mercy is normal, truth is spoken in love, and conflict becomes an opportunity for honest peacemaking rather than point-scoring.

Zephaniah points to the remnant—humble people who take refuge in God and practice truth; Paul reminds us that God chose the ordinary so that we boast only in the Lord. In other words, the Beatitudes are for us: **ordinary apprentices and students learning to follow Jesus, here and now.**

This week, choose one Beatitude and practice it intentionally: comfort someone who mourns; resist the urge to dominate; repair a relationship; offer mercy; make peace. Then tell someone why you did it: because you’re learning to know, follow and share Jesus with your neighbours. That’s how the kingdom becomes visible: quietly, steadily, beautifully.



On **Ash Wednesday**, 18 February, there will be 3 Masses:

9:30am

12 noon (with St John’s School)

7pm

## Prayer Intentions

### **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**

George Dawson, Olga Aranda, Frank Byron, Warren Kenny, Maureen Burgess, Elsie Copeland.

### **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.

# Rosters

## Sunday 8 Feb 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, Marie Cassar

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 Zilva, Sean Donovan,

Precious Parcardo

### **Musicians**

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Siervas Musika Choir

## 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.



### **Implementing Cultural**

### **Change – Formation Pathway**

Want to see real change in parish life—not just good intentions? Lasting change doesn’t begin with more programs or better announcements. It begins with culture. Join us for a practical formation evening on Implementing Cultural Change, where we’ll explore: why parish culture forms the way it does, how it shapes what’s possible, and how small, intentional leadership actions can create change that lasts. This is a hands-on, hopeful formation for anyone who cares about the future of parish life.

**CAMPBELLTOWN** Tues 3 Feb, 7–9pm

**ZOOM** Wed 4 Feb, 7–9pm

Register: [dow.sh/fpfeb2026](https://dow.sh/fpfeb2026)





## 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.**



## 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



## Prayer Ministry

**If you would like prayer for any intention, come along on Sunday 8 February at 11:30am in the Church.**

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](mailto:alpha@sjec.org.au) for further details.



Subscribe to our weekly email to receive all the news items that won’t fit in the bulletin each week.  
**[sjec.org.au/news](http://sjec.org.au/news)**

## Catechist Level 1 Course

The Level 1 course is essential for all new volunteers to the catechist ministry and is also helpful as a refresher for experienced SRE Catechists. On the first day of the course, Safeguarding and Classroom Management training will occur, which must be revisited by SRE Catechists every three years to remain active in the ministry.

The course will run from 9.30am till 1:30pm in Rosemeadow on the following dates: Fridays 6–27 Feb and 6 March To register for the 5-week Level 1 course: **[dow.sh/ccdone](http://dow.sh/ccdone)**

Alternatively, register for the Safeguarding and Classroom Management update only: **[dow.sh/ccdsg](http://dow.sh/ccdsg)**

## News from the Diocese

### A vocation view

*Jesus calls the humble and the lowly to follow him. Seek the Lord with an open heart, and your true path will be revealed.*

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)

### Sanctus Rosemeadow

Join us for the first Sanctus Summit for the year at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow on Wed 11 Feb 2026. Sanctus Summit is a monthly adoration night, bringing together youth and young adults from different parts of the Diocese! Eucharistic Adoration from 6.30 – 7.30pm (*Reconciliation will be available*), followed by dinner at Ambarvale Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and connect with other young people from the area!

### Vocaris: Love & Responsibility

Young Adults of the diocese! Come and discover Saint John Paul II’s teaching exploring how to live and love well in every vocation. Drawing on John Paul’s teachings in Love and Responsibility, we’ll explore the single life, dating, marriage, religious vocations, and how chastity is life giving when lived in truth and love! The night will include Eucharistic Adoration, with optional Reconciliation available. Saturday 28 Feb (6pm to 9:30pm) St Mary’s Towers, 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park Register to grab your spot now: **[dow.sh/VocarisLR](http://dow.sh/VocarisLR)**

### 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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