



St John the Evangelist

CATHOLIC PARISH CAMPBELLTOWN



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

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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
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Sunday 05 Year A | 8 February 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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for this mercy, his wonders for the children of men for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 9 Feb

9:30am Mass - Tues 10 Feb - **St Scholastica, virgin [Memorial]**

9:30am Mass - Wed 11 Feb

9:30am Mass - Thur 12 Feb

9:30am Mass - Fri 13 Feb

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

Sirach 15:15-20; I Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

Light Breaking Forth

As His disciples, we too are called to be “the light of the world,” He tells us in the Gospel this Sunday (see John 1:4–4, 9; 8:12; 9:5).

All three images that Jesus uses to describe the Church are associated with the identity and vocation of Israel.

God forever aligned His kingdom with the kingdom of David and his sons by a “covenant of salt,” salt being a sign of permanence and purity (see 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8; Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24).

Jerusalem was to be a city set on a hill, high above all others, drawing all nations toward the glorious light streaming from her Temple (see Isaiah 2:2; 60:1–3).

And Israel was given the mission of being a light to the nations, that God’s salvation would reach to the ends of the earth (see Isaiah 42:6; 49:6).

The liturgy shows us this week that the Church, and every Christian, is called to

fulfill Israel’s mission.

By our faith and good works we are to make the light of God’s life break forth in the darkness, as we sing in this week’s Psalm.

This week’s readings remind us that our faith can never be a private affair, something we can hide as if under a basket.

We are to pour ourselves out for the afflicted, as Isaiah tells us in the First Reading. Our light must shine as a ray of God’s mercy for all who are poor, hungry, naked, and enslaved.

There must be a transparent quality to our lives. Our friends and family, our neighbors and fellow citizens, should see reflected in us the light of Christ and through us be attracted to the saving truths of the Gospel.

So let us pray that we, like St. Paul in the Epistle, might proclaim with our whole lives “Christ, and him crucified.”

Scott Hahn - stpaulcenter.com



sjec.org.au/news



StJohnCampbelltown

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.

Salt & Light for the World

Our gospel today invites us to reflect upon our identity and calling in this world. Jesus invites us to realise that, through living the Beatitudes, we are to become a nurturing, healing, guiding and joy filled people for the sake of our neighbours and world - we are to be salt & light.

This weekend is my last weekend here at St John's. I would like to thank you all for being 'salt & light' for me in my journey over the past year or so. In many and varied ways you continue to bring light into my life, showing me the different ways in which God truly plays a part in your lives and in my own life. Providing me with the guidance and support that I have needed in my journey towards priesthood.

So, as I now depart for my new appointment at Nowra, I pray that you will continue to be salt and light for others. Not just for those who are here with us, but for our community at large, our neighbours and those who are desperate to hear the good news of Jesus.

I pray that you will continue to deepen in knowing, following and sharing Jesus, enabling him to transform your lives. Be open to this transformation so that our neighbourhoods may be transformed by his love and power.

God bless and thank you.
You will always be in my prayers.

Fr Darren McDowell

9 Ways to prepare for Lent

1. **Sit in silence** for 10 minutes each day
2. **Take time to pray**
3. **Read scripture** - even a few paragraphs
4. **Be Reconciled** - go to Confession at the start of Lent (don't wait for Holy Week)
5. **Fast Intentionally** - give up one thing that you love, not something trivial
6. **Practice Almsgiving** to the needy
7. Read a great book
8. Pray the Stations of the Cross
9. **Focus on Love**

Salt and Light: A Call to Visibility

There's something uncomfortably clear about today's Gospel. Jesus doesn't whisper suggestions. No, he makes declarations: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." Not try to be. Not might become someday.

You are.

This is both gift and responsibility. Salt that loses its taste is useless. A lamp hidden under a basket serves no one. Our faith, Jesus implies, was never meant to be private. It's inherently visible, active, outward-facing.

But what does this look like in daily life? Isaiah gives us a clue: share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and refuse to turn away from your own flesh and blood.

These aren't extraordinary heroics reserved for saints. They're the ordinary choices of people who take their baptism seriously. In our multicultural community, opportunities abound. The elderly neighbour who needs groceries. The newcomer family navigating an unfamiliar culture. The colleague struggling silently. Each encounter is a chance to shine—not through grand gestures, but through attentive presence and practical kindness.

Paul reminds us we don't need eloquence or impressive credentials. We simply need authenticity and willingness. The power isn't ours anyway; it's God's, working through our weakness.

This week, ask yourself: Where can I be salt? Where can I be light? You might be surprised how even small flames transform the darkness around you.



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

Renate Brown, 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 Milenovic, Josefino Pangilinan.

RECENTLY DECEASED

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

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Bruce Bland, Gwen Sequeira, Maisie D'Cruze, Nicolo Rudisi, Jamie Sutton, Gary Collins, Bernard Vaughan, Susan Heard, Andrew Hrst (Snr), Andrew Hrst (Jnr), Stephen Shaw.

Rosters

Sunday 15 Feb 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

Launch of the International Eucharistic Congress 2028

The Australian Church is setting out on the journey toward the International Eucharistic Congress, Sydney 2028 (Eucharist28), a great time of renewal and transformation centred on encountering the Eucharistic Lord. In preparation, Australian Catholics will enter a Year of Prayer from 1 March 2026, focused on rediscovering Our Lord's love in the Blessed Sacrament. The theme, *This is My Body, Given for You*, calls us to deeper faith, generosity and mission.

Learn more about the way ahead at

eucharist28.org



Joke Corner

A man was walking down a dark street when he spotted another man searching frantically under a streetlight. "What are you looking for?" he asked.

"My car keys," came the reply.

"Where did you drop them?"

"Over there by my car."

"Then why are you looking here?"

"Because the light is better here!"

Sometimes we're like that man—looking for answers in all the wrong places simply because it seems easier.

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.



Breakfast in the Park

Back by popular demand!

Join us for a relaxed and joyful morning outdoors with your parish family!

Where: Koshigaya Park

When: Saturday 28 February 2026

Time: Drop in anytime between 8:00–10:00am

Bring along your own breakfast, drinks, chairs, picnic rugs, plus any games or musical instruments you’d like to share. We’ll be gathering under a shelter—just look for the RED balloons!

Fun for all ages—kids, grandkids, friends and neighbours are all welcome. Wear something **RED** so we can spot our St John’s family together. A perfect way to connect, relax, and enjoy community fellowship in the fresh air.

Everyone is welcome—we can’t wait to see you there!

Prayer Ministry

If you would like prayer for any intention, come along today at 11:30am in the Church.

Is there more to life than this



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.

Following blessings

Today’s gospel passage is one that is quite commonly quoted and relatively well known. When it is taken in isolation, it’s very easy to forget that these words immediately follow the Beatitudes that we heard in last week’s gospel. The imperative for justice in the images of salt and light of the world becomes even clearer when we remember that these words follow the blessings on those who are poor; who mourn; who are merciful and fight for justice. Jesus has blessed all these who are least in the world and then charges the disciples to be salt and light for them.

Children’s Liturgy – 22 Feb

All children from Year 5 to Year 8 are warmly invited to join our Children’s Liturgy on 22 February during 10:30am Mass. After Mass, we will have fun and games in the parish hall, followed by pizza for everyone!

If any children are interested in participating in the Liturgy Ministry, please write your name on the sign-on sheet provided in the church foyer. We look forward to seeing you there!

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

‘I resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.’ In the Cross is our salvation, proclaim that salvation in all you do! (1 Cor 2:2). If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, 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

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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