



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

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 6 Year A | 15 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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.*

FIRST READING | Sirach 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 118

**Happy are they who follow
the law of the Lord!**

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

*God is his wisdom predestined our glory before the
ages began.*

Mass Today

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven
and earth; you have revealed to little
ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

GOSPEL | Matthew 5:17-37

*Such was said to your ancestors
and I say to you...*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*They ate and had their fill, and what they
craved the Lord gave them; they were not
disappointed in what they craved.*

This Week

9:30am Mass - Mon 16 Feb

9:30am Mass - Tues 17 Feb

9:30am, 12pm, 7pm Masses - Wed 18 Feb - Ash Wednesday

9:30am Mass - Thur 19 Feb

9:30am Mass - Fri 20 Feb

READINGS NEXT WEEK – First Sunday of Lent in the Year (A)

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Affair of the Heart

Jesus tells us in the Gospel this week that He has come not to abolish but to "fulfill" the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets.

His Gospel reveals the deeper meaning and purpose of the Ten Commandments and the moral Law of the Old Testament. But His Gospel also transcends the Law. He demands a morality far greater than that accomplished by the most pious of Jews, the scribes and Pharisees.

Outward observance of the Law is not enough. It is not enough that we do not murder, commit adultery, divorce, or lie.

The law of the New Covenant is a law that God writes on the heart. The heart is the seat of our motivations, the place from which our words and actions proceed.

Jesus this week calls us to train our hearts, to master our passions and emotions. And Jesus demands the full obedience of our hearts.

He calls us to love God with all our hearts and to do His will from the heart.

God never demands more than what we are capable of doing. That is the message of this week's First Reading. It is up to us to choose life over death, to choose the waters of eternal life over the fires of ungodliness and sin.

By His life, death, and Resurrection, Jesus has shown us that it is possible to keep His commandments. In Baptism, He has given us His Spirit, that His Law might be fulfilled in us.

The wisdom of the Gospel surpasses all the wisdom of this age that is passing away, St Paul tells us in the Epistle. The revelation of this wisdom fulfills God's plan from before all ages. Let us trust in this wisdom and live by His kingdom law.

As we do in this week's Psalm, let us pray that we grow in being better able to live His Gospel and to seek the Father with all our heart.

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

From Rules to Relationships

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us that faith is more than simply following rules. He deepens the commandments by pointing to the heart. It is not enough to avoid hurting others outwardly—we must also let go of anger within. Not enough to remain faithful in action—we must be faithful in intention. Not enough to speak truth occasionally—our "yes" should always mean yes.

Jesus invites us to live from the inside out. The Christian life is not minimal obedience but inner conversion. God desires changed hearts, not just correct behaviour.

When we forgive, speak honestly, and seek reconciliation, the law is fulfilled in love.

Our families, workplaces and parish communities suffer more from hardened hearts than broken rules. The Gospel invites us to repair relationships early—before distance grows. A conversation, a humble apology, a truthful word can heal more than we imagine.

This week, pause before reacting. Choose patience over irritation, honesty over convenience, and peace over pride. Holiness often begins in small decisions—and grows quietly in everyday relationships.

Fr John Ho

10 Ways to prepare for Lent

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

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

Renate Brown, George Dawson, Olga Aranda, Frank Byron, Warren Kenny, Maureen Burgess.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Matthew Wayne Cockcroft, Ampro Laza, Bruce Bland, Gwen Sequeira, Maisie D'Cruze, Nicolo Rudisi, Jamie Sutton, Gary Collins, Bernard Vaughan, Susan Heard, Andrew Hrst (Sr).

Note of thanks to Fr Darren

Fr Darren will commence his appointment as Assistant Priest at St Michael's Parish, Nowra, this weekend.

We sincerely thank him for his generous service to our parish over the years—as a seminarian, a deacon, and most recently as a newly ordained priest. He has been a blessing to our community.

We assure Fr Darren of our prayers as he begins this new chapter of ministry. May he find joy in his priesthood and may his service bear much fruit in the Nowra Parish community.

Children's Mass—22 Feb

All children from Year 5 to Year 8 are warmly invited to join our Children's Mass 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 these Children's Masses, please write your name on the sign-on sheet provided in the church foyer. We look forward to seeing you there!



Ash Wednesday is this week. It is a day of fasting and abstinence from eating meat. Attending Mass is a beautiful way to begin the holy season of Lent.

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

9:30am

12pm (with St John's School)

7pm

Beginning of Catechesis at Public Schools

Our catechists will begin teaching Scripture and faith lessons to our children in the public schools next week.

Please keep them—and the students they serve—in your prayers as they begin this important ministry.

Prayer Intentions

Rosters

Sunday 22 Feb 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'alo, 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

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

The Speed Limit

A police officer pulls over a priest for speeding. The officer says, "Father, I clocked you doing 93 in a 70 zone." The priest replies, "But officer, I was just trying to get to the church before the hymn started! God moves in mysterious ways, you know." The officer writes the ticket and hands it to him, saying, "Well Father, today God moved in a mysterious way; but you moved in a Toyota, so that will be \$592 and 4 demerit points."

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.

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!

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.



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 Sunday 8 March at 11:30am in the Church.

Alpha Team Gathering

If you have ever been involved in any way with Alpha at St John's over the past 8 years, please come along to a meeting in the Parish Hall on Thursday 26 February from 7pm-8:30pm. We want to hear your experiences, learn from your wisdom, and thank you for your involvement.

We want your wisdom as we reboot Alpha in our parish...

Dare to love as Jesus loved

Sr Magdalen Mather osb and Sr Julian Grigor. Join us on Sat 21 Feb 2026.

You are welcome to Mass at 9am in the Abbey Church or begin the day with the first session at 10.15am. We will pray Lent in with the love of Jesus, embracing the compassion that calls us beyond ourselves.

May it be a threshold into a Lent lived with intention, tenderness, and courage. The day concludes at 3.30pm. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch.

For more information and to register: jamberooabbey.org.au/events/2026. Cost \$60 (pensioner discount available).

Funeral of Renate Brown

The Funeral Mass for the dear late Renate Brown will be held at St John's on Tuesday 17 Feb at 11am. Burial will follow at Forest Lawn. Please pray for Wayne and the rest of the family during this sad time.

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

God's wisdom calls beyond comfort to courageous love. Listen for the Spirit's whisper; choose the path of service, reconciliation, and truth. He'll steady your steps. (1 Cor 2:6–10) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, vocations@dow.org.au

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Friday 13 March 2026 | 6:30am-8am
Tom Kadmon - “Reading Scripture is central to our relationship with Jesus. Xavier Conference Room, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong. Enjoy a breakfast buffet, prayer and inspiring guest speaker input. Be supported and inspired by other men, seeking to be authentic disciples on mission. Cost only \$20. Book dow.sh/MPB26 by Tues 10 March

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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