

**Mass Today**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

**FIRST READING | 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**

*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 22**

**The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

**SECOND READING | Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL | John 9:1-41**

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,  
I saw and I believed in God.*



**This Week**

9:30am Mass—Mon 16 Mar

9:30am Mass—Tues 17 Mar—**St Patrick, bishop [Solemnity]**

9:30am Mass—Wed 18 Mar

9:30am Mass—Thur 19 Mar—**St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Solemnity]**

9:30am Mass—Friday 20 March

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**Saturday Vigil 5pm**

**Sunday 7:30am; 9am;**

**10:30am & 5pm**

**Weekday Masses**

Monday - Friday 9:30am

**Adoration**

Friday 10am - 11am

**Stations of the Cross 6pm**

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 11am-12pm (with Adoration)

**PARISH CLERGY**

Fr John Ho PP

Fr Richard Healey AP

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& Michelle Quinn (Wed am; Thurs-Fri)

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**READINGS NEXT WEEK – Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A**

*Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45*

**Eyesight to the Blind**

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth, Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay. As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent."

Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will. He is the new source of life-giving water: the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism.

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before

him, David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus.

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord."

"The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light," trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

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.*



## From Darkness to Light

In the ancient world, to be born blind was often viewed as a divine punishment. People assumed you or your parents must have done something terribly wrong to deserve such a fate. But in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus completely flips this script. When he encounters the man born blind, he doesn't see a sinner to be punished; he sees an opportunity for the glory of God to be revealed.

To heal the man, Jesus does something intimately messy: he mixes his saliva with the dust of the earth and rubs it onto the man's eyes. It's a powerful echo of Genesis, where God formed humanity from the dirt. Jesus is bringing about a new creation. But the physical healing is just the beginning of this man's journey. As he faces intense interrogation from the religious leaders, his spiritual vision grows clearer and sharper, culminating in his beautiful declaration: "Lord, I believe." Ironically, it is the Pharisees—the religious experts who claim they can see everything clearly—who end up totally blind to the truth because of their stubbornness and pride.

As we cross the halfway point of Lent on this *Laetare (Rejoicing) Sunday*, the Church invites us to examine our own vision. How often do we act like Samuel in the first reading, judging people entirely by their outward appearances? How often are we like the Pharisees, so certain of our own rightness that we become blind to God's grace working in unexpected ways? Let us ask the Lord to wash our eyes in the waters of Siloam, to heal our blind spots, and to help us live truly as "children of the light."



## Prayer Ministry

If you would like prayer for any intention, come along on Sunday 12 April at 11:30am in the Church.

## Sacramental Program – Growing Faith as a Family

In many parishes we focus a great deal on preparing children for the sacraments, but often very little formation is offered for parents. Yet the Church teaches that parents are the first teachers of faith for their children. At Baptism, they promise before God and the Church to raise their children in the practice of the faith. Children may spend only a few hours with us during sacramental preparation, but they spend their whole lives with their parents. When parents grow in faith, their children are more likely to grow in faith as well.

For this reason, our Sacramental Program this year will include formation sessions not only for the children but also for parents. These sessions will help parents understand the meaning of the sacraments, reflect on their own faith journey, and learn how to guide their children spiritually at home.

Our hope is that the sacraments will become more than a one-day celebration, but an opportunity for the whole family to grow closer to Christ and to the parish community.



## Sacramental Program 2026

Our parish will celebrate the following Sacraments for children in 2026:

### First Holy Communion

Parent Information Evening:  
7pm Wed 22 April in St John's Church.  
6–7 June (Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ)

### Confirmation

Parent Evening 7pm Wed 29 July  
Tues 8 Sept and Wed 9 Sept at 7pm.

### First Reconciliation

Parent Evening 7pm Wed 14 Oct  
Thur 19 Nov at 5pm or 7pm.

# Rosters

Sunday 22 March 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

## St John's Easter 2026

**Holy Thursday** 7pm

**Good Friday**

*Stations of the Cross* 10am

*Passion of the Lord* 3pm

**Easter Vigil** 7pm

**Easter Sunday**

7.30am; 9am; 10.30am & 5pm

**Reconciliation**

**Saturday 21 March** 11am-12.30am

(2 priests)

**Wednesday 25 March** 7pm-8pm

**Adoration and Reconciliation**

*After Stations of the Cross  
and Passion of the Lord on Good Friday.*

## Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to Bienvenida and the Diezmos family on the passing of Sofio Diezmos. Sofio's funeral will be celebrated at **11:00am on Wednesday at St John the Evangelist Church, Campbelltown.**

Please keep **Sofio** in your prayers, that the Lord may grant him eternal rest, and remember **Bienvenida and the Diezmos family** during this time of loss and grief. May God's comfort and peace be with them.

## Prayer Intentions

### SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Helen Barnes, Ronald Elliott, 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

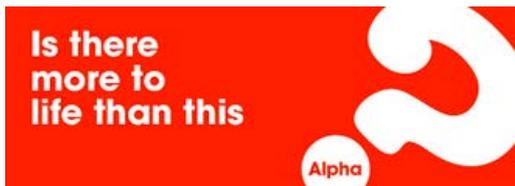
Sofio Diezmos, Patricia Spackman, Maureen Crosland, Peter Chittendon, Lee Casuscelli.

### ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Robert Sutton, Reg McPherson, Stan Young, Fr Maurice Crocker, Josephine George, Marlene Salisbury, Ernest Lopez, Francisco Carmona, Herbert G Norris, Igmidio & Florentina Reyes.



Children in Years 5-8 are warmly invited to participate in the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 22 March. You can be part of the Welcome, Altar Serving, Prayer of the Faithful, Presentation of the Gifts. There will be a short gathering in the Parish Hall after Mass with food.



### Alpha @ St John's

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

Alpha is a welcoming space where people can explore questions about life and faith, reconnect with the Church, or encounter Jesus for the first time.

Our parish Alpha has been running for three weeks and this year we have five guests. We invite you to support this ministry by praying for our guests and the Alpha team.

We also need help with providing meals for about 15 people. If you are able to assist with cooking, please contact Pat Webb – 0422 538 244.

Thank you for supporting this important parish ministry.

### Diocesan Choir

Sending out an invitation to all those people who are interested in joining the **Wollongong Diocesan Choir**. The choir prepares music for special Diocesan Masses where all parishes are invited to attend.

Rehearsals are on a Monday night in the lead up to a celebration, between 7pm-8.30pm. Rehearsals are usually held in the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

If you are interested in being involved, email the Diocesan Choir Director, Angela Quinn, with details of your name, email and parish that you attend.

[quinnao1@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:quinnao1@dow.catholic.edu.au)

### Catholic Chaplaincy at University of Wollongong

UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for **Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays** during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room.

See [@uowcathsoc](https://www.uowcathsoc.com.au) on social media to find out more.

### Catechist Retreat in March

All Catechists and supporters of the Catechist Ministry are welcome to join us on a special day of retreat either in **Wollongong on Monday 23 March** or in **Rosemeadow on Friday 27 March**. Being the season of Lent, the theme for the retreat is **“Gospel Conversion: Turning to the God of Jesus.”** Retreat facilitator, **Fr Aloysius Rego OCD**, will lead us into a greater understanding of the God of Jesus, as revealed to us in Scripture.

There will be times for prayer, learning and discussion. Mass is planned before lunch. Please BYO lunch. Morning Tea provided. Donations are welcome however there is no cost for the retreat.

Register now:  
[dow.sh/CCDRETREAT26](https://dow.sh/CCDRETREAT26)

### ASIST Workshop

**Monday 20 April - Tuesday 21 April**  
**8.30am - 4.30pm both days**

**Location: 36 Harbour Street**  
**Wollongong, NSW 2500**

CatholicCare is an accredited provider of LivingWorks Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). It is two-day in-person workshop where you'll learn how to recognise when someone may be thinking about suicide, and how to provide a skilled intervention and develop a safety plan with the person to connect them to further support.

To book call Rita Maher on **0458 472 983** or [ritam@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:ritam@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

### Social Justice Statement 2026 – Cost of Our Living

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released the first **Social Justice Statements** for 2026 entitled **The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good**. Clergy and staff are encouraged to read and reflect on the statement, making copies available in their parish.

## News from the Diocese

### A vocation view

*The blind man bravely declared his faith in Jesus despite fierce opposition. Will you boldly testify to the Light of the World in your life's calling? (John 9:1-41)*

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)

### Summit Night: an evening with Dr Robert Haddad

**Young adults of the diocese (18+)** are invited to the first Summit Night for 2026 - an inspiring evening of truth, formation, and community featuring Catholic author and apologist Dr Robert Haddad. Join us on Saturday 21 March, 6pm–9pm at the Xavier Conference Centre (next to Wollongong Cathedral) for **The Eucharist—The Medicine of Immortality**.

Using his book, *The Medicine of Immortality: The Eucharist in the pre-Nicene Church Fathers*, our speaker will give us some insights into what the Church Fathers had to say, why the Eucharist is indeed so central in our Church history. The evening includes a wine & cheese reception, Dr Haddad's keynote, Eucharistic Adoration, Q & A and expo of some of our local ministries.

Free event (donations are welcome), but registration is essential. Register here:  
[dow.sh/SummitEucharist](https://dow.sh/SummitEucharist) Follow [@CYMDOW](https://twitter.com/CYMDOW) on socials for more details.

### 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](https://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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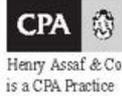
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