



Lazarus

Come forth!

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

CONTACT US

sjec.org.au/hello

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9am to 3:30pm (Tuesday to Friday)

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& Michelle Quinn (Wed am; Thurs-Fri)

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Lent Sunday 5 Year A | 22 March 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

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is
faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue
me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING | Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of
redemption.

SECOND READING | Romans 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead
is living in you, then he will give life to your own
mortal bodies.

Mass Today

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the
Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for
ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ!

GOSPEL | John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die
for ever, says the Lord.

This Week

9:30am Mass—Mon 23 Mar

9:30am Mass—Tues 24 Mar

9:30am Mass—Wed 25 Mar - **The Annunciation of the Lord [Solemnity]**

9:30am Mass—Thur 26 Mar

9:30am Mass—Friday 27 March

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A
Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

At Lazarus's Tomb

As we draw near to the end of Lent,
today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion
and death in view.

That's why John gives us the detail about
Lazarus' sister, Mary—that she is the one
who anointed the Lord for burial. His
disciples warn against returning to
Judea; Thomas even predicts they will
“die with Him” if they go back.

When Lazarus is raised, John notices the
tombstone being taken away, as well as
Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering
—all details he later notices with Jesus'
empty tomb.

Like the blind man in last week's
readings, Lazarus represents all
humanity. He stands for “dead men”—
for all those Jesus loves and wants to
liberate from the bands of sin and death.

John even recalls the blind man in his
account today. Like the man's birth in
blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus
to reveal “the glory of God”. And again

like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give
sight to those who believe.

If we believe, we will see—that Jesus loves
each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He
calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled
Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading.
He has opened the graves that we may rise,
put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is
the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's
Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus
from the dead will give life to we who were
once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha
does in today's Gospel—that Jesus is the
resurrection and the life—even if we die,
we will live.

“I have promised and I will do it,” the
Father assures us in the First Reading. We
must trust in His word, as we sing in
today's Psalm—that with Him is
forgiveness and salvation.

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

Unbind Him, and Let Him Go

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday of Lent (John 11:1–45) presents one of the most powerful signs of Jesus: the raising of Lazarus. It is a story that speaks not only about death, but about hope, faith, and new life.

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, Lazarus has already been dead for four days. Martha expresses both faith and disappointment: **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”** Many of us can relate to her words. At times, we too struggle to understand why suffering and loss happen in our lives.

In response, Jesus reveals something extraordinary: **“I am the resurrection and the life.”** He does not simply promise life in the future, but offers a living relationship with him here and now.

Before calling Lazarus from the tomb, **Jesus weeps.** This reminds us that God is not distant from our pain. He shares in our grief and walks with us in our darkest moments.

Then Jesus calls out: **“Lazarus, come out!”** The dead man emerges, still bound in burial cloths. Jesus then says, **“Unbind him, and let him go.”**

This detail speaks deeply to our own lives. At times, we may feel trapped by fear, sin, or discouragement. Christ calls us to new life, but we may still need help to become fully free. As a community, we are called to support one another — to forgive, encourage, and walk together in faith.

As we approach Holy Week, this Gospel invites us to trust that no situation is beyond God’s power. In Christ, even the darkest tomb can become a place of new life.

Understanding the Second Rite of Reconciliation

In the parishes I have served, the Second Rite of Reconciliation has always been celebrated during Advent and Lent. When I first came to St John’s, we tried a few times, but it was not as successful, as many are familiar and comfortable with the First Rite. This year, with the encouragement of a number of parishioners, we will try again.

You are warmly invited to join us for **the Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 7pm.**

The Second Rite, also called a Communal Celebration with Individual Confession and Absolution, brings us together as a community to pray, listen to God’s Word, and reflect on His mercy. It reminds us that while sin is personal, it also affects our relationship with others.

After brief communal prayer, each person may go one of several priests for individual confession and absolution, making it a personal encounter with Christ’s forgiveness. **We conclude together at 7:50pm as a community.**

This beautiful celebration helps us prepare our hearts during Lent and experience more deeply the healing mercy of God. We encourage all parishioners to come and celebrate this sacrament together.



Palms for Palm Sunday

If you have palm trees in your garden, we would greatly appreciate donations of palm branches for our **Palm Sunday celebration and decoration.**

If you are able to help, please bring them to the church by next Friday. Thank you for your generosity.

Prayer Intentions

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Maria Noida Carmona, Helen Barnes, Ronald Elliott, Baby Jack Wheeler, Roslin, 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

Joseph Mascarenhas, Thelma May Writer, Jose Manuel Lim, Jeanne Fernandes, Robert Sutton, Reg McPherson, Stan Young, Fr Maurice Crocker, Josephine George, Marlene Salisbury, Ernest Lopez.

Rosters

Sunday 29 March 2026

Acolyte

Vigil Michael Norris / Brian Thompson
7:30 Tom Hunter
9 Pauloleono Aukusitino
10:30 Gavan Hill, Andrei Valderrama
5 Dominic Fonoti

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Alexandra Wojcik, Marie Cassar
7:30 Florence Mascarenhas
9 John Hill, Amelia Jimenez
10:30 Maria Aliifa’alogo, Imelda Landrigan
5 Jismin Jio, Volunteer

Readers

Vigil Angel Estepa, Jolene Gonzales
7:30 Mary Ellen Bland, John Lloyd
9 Diana Hill, Flor Artus
10:30 Ioana Brunt, Broone Periera
5 Sofia De Zilva, Sean Donovan

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 (with Adoration)

Wednesday 25 March 7pm-8pm

Saturday 28 March 11am-12:30pm

On Good Friday at 11am & 5pm -

*after Stations of the Cross
and the Passion of the Lord.*

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.



Children in Years 5-8 are warmly invited to participate in the 10:30am Mass this 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.



Is there more to life than this

Alpha

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

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

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

Understanding the Billings Ovulation Method

The Billings Ovulation Method helps couples understand the natural signs of fertility and infertility. Through this knowledge, couples can plan their families in a way that is fully consistent with Catholic teaching—whether to achieve or to postpone pregnancy. This natural method encourages deeper communication and mutual respect within marriage, while supporting reproductive health through a simple, science-based approach that honours God's design. For more information or to connect with a trained teacher, please contact: Liz Gandy 0457 298 823 or visit lizgandy-naturopathy.au

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

"Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ!" With this belief, Jesus is able to work marvels through those who trust in Him, even to raising the dead to new life. (John 11:27) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, vocations@dow.org.au

Life in the Spirit Seminar

A 9-week series will commence on Monday 13 April as part of the Bible Study & reflection group, which meets Mondays at 10am.

Come and join us.

OLMC Parish, 193 St Andrews Rd, Varroville. (02) 9603 7373

Urgent Need for Foster Carers

Could you open your heart and home to a child in need? There is an urgent need for foster carers in our community. For over 30 years, CatholicCare has supported carers to provide vulnerable children with a loving, safe home and a brighter future. Foster carers receive comprehensive training, regular case worker support, and a carer allowance for the child's day-to-day needs. If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time. Call: 1800 967 894 Email: fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au We will support you every step of the way.

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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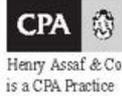
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