



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5pm (7pm Easter)
Sunday 7:30am; 9am;
10:30am & 5pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Wednesday 9:30am
No morning Mass Thurs - Friday

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

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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

Palm / Passion Sunday Year A | 29 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

*Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 50:4-7

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I
will not be ashamed.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 21

**My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?**

SECOND READING | Philippians 2:6-11

*He humbled himself to become like us and God
raised him on high.*

Mass Today

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless
glory! Christ became obedient for us even to
death, dying on the cross. Therefore God
raised him on high and gave him a name
above all other names. Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

GOSPEL | Matthew 26:14-27:66

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my
drinking it, your will be done.*

9:30am Mass—Mon 30 Mar

9:30am Mass—Tues 31 Mar

9:30am Mass—Wed 1 Apr Mar

Thur 2 Apr - **Thursday of the Lord's Supper (7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper)**

Friday 3 Apr - **Friday of the Passion of the Lord (3pm Passion of the Lord)**

Saturday 4 April - 7pm Solemn Easter Vigil

This Week

READINGS NEXT WEEK – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord,
Year A - *Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9*

All Is Fulfilled

“All this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel.

Indeed, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year, the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and promised is to be fulfilled.

By the close of today’s long Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been accomplished: the new covenant will be written in the blood of His broken body hanging on the Cross at the place called the Skull.

In His Passion, Jesus is “counted among the wicked,” as Isaiah had foretold. He is revealed definitively as the Suffering Servant the prophet announced, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of obedience and faith ring out in today’s First Reading and Psalm.

The taunts and torments we hear in these two readings punctuate the Gospel as

Jesus is beaten and mocked, as His hands and feet are pierced, as enemies gamble for His clothes, and as His enemies dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering.

He remains faithful to God’s will to the end. He does not turn back in His trial. He gives Himself freely to His torturers, confident that, as He speaks in today’s First Reading, “The Lord God is My help... I shall not be put to shame.”

Destined to sin and death as children of Adam’s disobedience, we have been set free for holiness and life by Christ’s perfect obedience to the Father’s will.

This is why God greatly exalted Him. This is why we have salvation in His name. Following His example of humble obedience in the trials and crosses of our lives, we know we will never be forsaken. We know, as the centurion realises today, that truly this is the Son of God.

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

Palm Sunday – Walking With Jesus

As we enter Holy Week, the most sacred time in the Church's year, we are invited to do more than simply remember the events of Jesus' Passion—we are called to walk with Him.

Palm Sunday begins with joy. We welcome Jesus as the crowd did, crying out, "Hosanna!" Yet in the same liturgy, we hear the Passion, where that same crowd turns against Him. This reminds us of a truth close to our own hearts: at times we are faithful and full of praise, and at other times we struggle, fall, or turn away.

Holy Week invites us to reflect on where we stand in this story.

On **Holy Thursday**, we are present at the Last Supper, where Jesus gives us the gift of the Eucharist and shows us that true greatness is found in humble service.

On **Good Friday**, we stand at the foot of the Cross and witness the depth of God's love—a love willing to suffer and die for us.

On **Holy Saturday**, we enter into silence and waiting, trusting that even in darkness, God is at work.

This week is an opportunity to slow down, to pray more deeply, and to participate in the liturgies that lead us to Easter. If we truly walk with Jesus through His Passion, our hearts will be renewed, and Easter will become not just a celebration, but a personal experience of hope and new life.

May Mary, who remained faithful at the Cross, walk with us and lead us closer to her Son.

Quick Thought

Like the disciples who fetched the colt, the Lord still asks simple obedience for great purposes. Persevere in listening and you'll discover the path he has prepared.

Easter Blessing and Welcome

Dear Parishioners,

A very warm welcome to all of you as we gather to celebrate the great feast of Easter. Whether you are a regular member of our parish, visiting family, or joining us for the first time, we are truly blessed by your presence.

Easter is the heart of our faith. It is the celebration of hope, new life, and the victory of Christ over sin and death. The empty tomb reminds us that no darkness is final, no burden is too heavy, and no situation is beyond God's love. In the risen Jesus, we are given a new beginning. As we celebrate this joyful season, may our hearts be renewed with faith, our lives filled with hope, and our homes blessed with peace. May the light of the risen Lord shine in our families, guide our decisions, and strengthen us to live as witnesses of His love in our daily lives.

Let us continue to support one another as a parish family, striving to know, follow, and share Jesus with our neighbours. On behalf of our parish community, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter.

Happy Easter!

Fr John & Fr Richard



Preparing for Easter

On Good Friday, there will be a **special collection** to support the care and maintenance of the Holy Places in the Holy Land and to assist the Christian communities who live there. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. After the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, we would be grateful for your help in **moving chairs from the Parish Hall to the School COLA** in preparation for the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. We also appreciate your assistance in **returning the chairs afterwards**.

Young families are welcome to **bring folding chairs** for the Good Friday liturgy if that is more convenient. Thank you for your support.

Prayer Intentions

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Joan Samuel, Maria Noida Carmona, Helen Barnes, Ronald Elliott, 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

Tony Wakeham, Gloria Juanita Tidmarsh, Charles Withycombe, Mervyn Oriel, Joan Fisher.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Johann Brandstatter, Dololes Bominguez, Stanislaw & Helena Simoni, Veronica Augustine, Michael O'Connor, Paul Smith, Veronica Augustine, Joseph Mascarenhas, Thelma May Writer, Jose Manuel Lim, Jeanne Fernandes, Robert Sutton, Reg McPherson, Stan Young.

Rosters

Easter Weekend (Special)

Acolyte

7pm Vigil Gavan Hill, Raul Ladera
7:30 Tom Hunter
9 Denis Fredericks
10:30 Brian Thompson
5 Michael Norris

Extraordinary Ministers

7pm Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie
7:30 Jean Reid, Ian Star
9 Maria Aliifa'alogo, Falakika Nau
10:30 Hazel Vargas, Imelda Landrigan
5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

7pm Vigil *Nine* Readers as advised
7:30 Tarek Boulos, Atoni Kaufusi,
Mary Johns
9 Flor Artus, Wendy Fawbert
10:30 Norma McNally, Broone Periera,
Tessie Yaghooti Fam
5 Maria Brookes, Melinda Canete

Musicians

7pm Vigil Parish Choir
9 Glynn Family
10:30 Joe Talamaivao
5 Siervas Musika Choir

St John's Easter 2026

Holy Thursday 7pm

Watching with the Lord to 10pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 10am

Passion of the Lord 3pm

Easter Vigil 7pm

Easter Sunday

7.30am; 9am; 10.30am & 5pm

Reconciliation 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.

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.



Easter Eggs at St John's

In Catholic tradition, Easter eggs symbolise the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. The egg's shell is seen as the sealed tomb, and its cracking represents Jesus emerging from the tomb. From ancient times this has been a symbol of new life!

Here at St John's, we are giving away an easter egg to each child under 12 years old who attends Mass on Easter Sunday 9am and 10:30am and the Saturday Vigil 7pm. A chocolate easter egg can be collected in the main Church foyer after Mass.

Please pray: "Father in heaven, let your blessing come upon these eggs. When we break them, we see a sign of your Son rising to new life from the tomb. May we eat them in joyful celebration of his resurrection, for he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen."

A Sunday School teacher was asking her class about the story of Palm Sunday. "Does anyone know why the people waved palm branches when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?" Gus raised his hand and said, "I bet it was to keep the flies off the donkey!"

Project Compassion Boxes

Please bring back your Project Compassion Boxes or Envelopes and leave them in the church's foyer.

Formation Pathway | Leading People Well

Formation Pathway | Leading People Well

The conversation you avoid today becomes the conflict you manage tomorrow. Every leader eventually discovers the same thing. The most difficult part of leadership is not vision, planning, or organisation. It is people. Our next Formation Pathway evening will focus on the practical side of leading people well. The session will explore several areas that often determine whether teams thrive or struggle, including: handling conflict constructively; having honest and respectful conversations; setting clear expectations and responsibilities; supporting the people entrusted to our leadership. If you are involved in any form of leadership or ministry, this evening will offer practical help for one of the most important parts of leadership: caring for and guiding people well. All are welcome. Campbelltown Tues 21 April 7-9pm Wollongong & Zoom Wed 22 April 7-9pm. To register: [Dow.sh/fpapril2026](https://dow.sh/fpapril2026)



Appin Massacre Memorial

This year is the 210th Anniversary of the Appin Massacre which occurred on 17 April 1816. Our annual memorial service will be held on Sunday, 19 April 2026 at Cataract Dam from 11:00am – 3:30pm. We would like to encourage everyone to come to the Appin Massacre Memorial as a sign of respect for the Dharawal people who were killed in the Massacre on the 17 April 1816, and to the descendants of the survivors. It is a family friendly day. The day begins with a free sausage sizzle. We encourage bringing a hat, sunscreen, water bottle, and walking shoes for the short walk down the hill from the picnic ground to the dam wall. Some event buses will be available for those unable to walk. Once there, we hold a short ceremony, including a smoking ceremony, dancing by local Aboriginal dance groups, and didgeridoo playing. It is important that we continue our efforts at truth telling and reconciliation.

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Our Lord identifies with our suffering and offers His for our salvation. When we unite our sufferings with His, we are bound to Him on the Cross for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

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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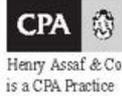
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