



## 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

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# Easter Sunday 5, Year A | 3 May 2026

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## Mass Today

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.*

### FIRST READING | Acts 6:1-7

*They elected seven men filled with the spirit and wisdom.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 32:1-2,4-5, 18-19

**Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

### SECOND READING | 1 Peter 2:4-9

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### GOSPEL | John 14:1-12

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in them, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.*

## This Week

9:30am Mass – Mon 4 May  
 9:30am Mass – Tues 5 May  
 9:30am Mass – Wed 6 May  
 9:30am Mass – Thur 7 May  
 9:30am Mass – Friday 8 May

## READINGS NEXT WEEK – Sixth Sunday of Easter in Year A

*Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21*

## Building His House

By His death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body.

As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth.

Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building. In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices"—all our prayer, work and intentions—to God.

This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises. By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies.

In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word."

The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. So we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father.

His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew.

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.*



[sjec.org.au/news](http://sjec.org.au/news)



StJohnCampbelltown

## Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that are both comforting and challenging: **"Do not let your hearts be troubled."**

Jesus says these words at the Last Supper, just before His suffering and death. The disciples are confused, anxious, and uncertain about the future. They sense that things are changing, and they are afraid of losing Him. Into that fear, Jesus invites them to trust:

**"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."**

Jesus does not simply show us a path to follow. He gives us Himself. Faith is not only about knowing answers or having life completely under control. It is about staying close to Jesus and trusting that He walks with us, even when the road ahead is unclear.

In the second reading, St Peter reminds us that we are **"living stones"** being built into a spiritual house. Christianity is not a journey we make alone. God calls us to support one another, pray for one another, and build a community of faith together. The first reading from Acts shows the early Church facing practical problems and tensions within the community. Instead of ignoring these difficulties, the Apostles respond with wisdom and care. The Church continued to grow because people were willing to serve generously.

These readings remind us that faith must be lived in everyday life:

- by trusting Jesus when our hearts are troubled,
- by remaining connected to our faith community,
- and by serving others with love and compassion.

May we remember this week that Christ is still our Way, our Truth, and our Life, and that He continues to lead us gently towards the Father's house where a place has been prepared for each of us.

## A new beginning

Until the end of the Easter season, we will begin every Mass a minute early with a prayer to gather our hearts and prepare us to encounter the Lord and one another through sharing the Word and Breaking of Bread.

**Opening Prayer** (*we will pray together*):

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

*The following prayer is led by the priest:*

Holy Spirit, gather us now as one body in Christ, draw our hearts together, unite us in mind and purpose, and prepare us, as your church, to be united with Jesus Christ in the offering of this Mass as one body.

Through the intercession of St John the Evangelist, help us to listen, to remain, and to love, so that what we celebrate together may truly shape how we live. Amen.

***We will then begin the gathering song and continue with the Eucharist.***



## Screenings of 'House of David'

Join us in the Parish Hall Meeting Room – **Sunday Nights at 6.30pm from 3 May**

Come along and join your parish community for special screenings of 'House of David'.

The story of David is a cornerstone of our faith journey. As shepherd, king, and poet, David's life speaks to God's love, mercy, and promise. His story helps us explore courage, repentance, and trust in God—values that remain vital for Christians today.

**All are welcome!** Bring your friends and family for an inspiring evening as we reflect on David's legacy and its meaning for our lives.

Tea and bikkies will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## 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

Giuseppe Bulfon, Cynthia Guidice, Helena Charous, Oscar Lopes, Elisas Mhanna.

### ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Mathew Joseph, Elizabeth Thurn, Mary Writer, Joseph Georgy Selvon, Mary Irene McLane, Alosio Olaiga, Sam Smith, Carmen Cuschieri.

# Rosters

## Sunday 10 May

### Acolyte

Vigil Jason Thompson

7:30am Brian Thompson

9 Dominic Fonoti

10:30 Raul Ladera, Andrei Valderrama

5 Tom Hunter

### Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Alexandra Wojcik, Marie Cassar

7:30am Mary Ellen Bland, *Volunteer*

9 Diana Hill, Sheila Fonseca

10:30 Falakika Nau, Maria Aliifa'alogo

5 Jean Reid, Sam Nour

### Readers

Vigil Vicky Horgan, Juliet Manalastas

7:30 Jim Mutton, Trevor Williams, Mary John

9 Trish Coffey, Sue Marsden, Cherima Lucilo

10:30 Sinisita Filitoga, Hazel Vargas,

Christina Tatola

5 Sofia De Zilva, Sean Donovan,

Precious Parcardo

### Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Siervas Musika Choir

## Ascend: A night of Worship and Encounter

Join us for an evening of Praise, Worship, Adoration, Reconciliation, and prayer ministry.



## Ascend Worship Night

Join us for an evening of incredible music, singing, prayer and praise,

led by experienced worship leader Louisa Daniels. Adoration, Prayer Ministry and Reconciliation will be part of the night.

Free Entry: a pay-it-forward collection will be taken during the event.

**St John's Hall, 7pm Sat 16 May.**

Register today: [sjec.org.au/ascend](http://sjec.org.au/ascend)

## Holy Communion Program

Workshops begin this weekend (Saturday or Sunday from 3:30pm - 4:45pm) for both candidates and parents, and continue until 22-23 May.

### Prayer Ministry

11:30am Sunday 14 June.

### Anointing Mass

10am Saturday 4 July 2026.

## Alpha @ St John's A Heartfelt Thank You

Our mission at St John's is to **know, follow and share Jesus** with our neighbours. Over the past weeks, we have seen this mission come alive through our parish Alpha, which concluded last Monday evening.

We thank God for all who took part in this journey of faith, friendship, and conversation. A sincere thank you to our **Alpha participants** for your openness, honesty, and willingness to explore and deepen your faith. It has been a joy to journey with you.

Thank you to our dedicated **Alpha Team** for your generosity, commitment, and faithful witness each week. Your warmth and care helped create a welcoming space where people could encounter Jesus and one another. We are especially grateful to our **Hospitality Team** for preparing meals and creating such a welcoming atmosphere each Monday night. Your service was deeply appreciated. We also thank our **parishioners** for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout Alpha. Your quiet support has been an important part of this ministry.

Although Alpha has now finished, we pray that the seeds planted in people's hearts will continue to grow and bear fruit in their lives, families, and our parish community. May the Lord continue to guide us all to know, follow, and share Jesus with our neighbours.  
Fr John

## The Tribunal of the Catholic Church

*In 2015, Pope Francis wrote that "charity and mercy demand that the Church, like a good mother, be near her children who feel themselves estranged from her." The Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney, which has an Office in the Diocese of Wollongong, is a service of the Church to assist with the pastoral care of Catholics and non-Catholics who are civilly divorced, and who are seeking to remarry or who want clarification of their standing in the Church. The Tribunal also assists remarried persons seeking to have their current marriage recognised in the Church, and remarried persons wishing to be baptised or received into the Catholic Church.*

*Any divorced person, or a divorced and remarried person is welcome to contact the Wollongong Office of the Tribunal to obtain further information, or to have their status within the Church clarified.*

*Brochures are available at the back of the church in the notice board area.*

The Wollongong Office of the Tribunal is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to contact the Tribunal on 4222 2409 or [tribunal@dow.org.au](mailto:tribunal@dow.org.au) or visit [www.tribunal.dow.org.au](http://www.tribunal.dow.org.au)

## St John's Winter Blanket Appeal

St John's Campbelltown St Vincent de Paul Conference begins the **Winter Blanket Appeal** this weekend. All donations of blankets, quilts and doonas can be left at the back of the church, in front of the piety stall. Donation envelopes will also be available. Thank you for your generous gifts.

## Mary Help of Christians Walk for Life

Friday 22 May & Saturday 23 May 2026  
We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia for all life issues - the elimination of abortion, euthanasia, suicide, family breakdown, and to pray for Australia's Government. You are warmly welcome to join us on one or both days. B.Y.O Lunch, snacks, water, hat, money for dinner. Support vehicle provided all the way. Shuttle cars return pilgrims to point of departure on both days. Day 1: Start 9:30am Kiama Catholic Church (Holy Mass) Finish 3:30pm Gerringong Catholic Church (Benediction, confession, all night adoration. Option to sleep in tearoom (girls), or Kiama Hall (boys) or own tent on church grounds, or to go home and return). Day 2: Start 7:30am Gerringong Catholic Church (Holy Mass) Lunch: 2pm Shoalhaven Heads (then Shuttle bus Crookhaven Heads) Finish 5:30pm Culburra Church (Holy Mass, optional Club dinner) BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Gregorian Choir. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance. For information contact Sue Hill, 0435 336 195, Gabriella De Battista, 0414 205 404

## Formation Pathway Principles: Meaningful Community

Many people come to church... but still feel unknown. This session explores how we move from simply attending to truly belonging—where people are known, supported, and grow as disciples together. *If we want renewal, we need more than programs. We need real community. Join us to discover how to begin.*

Campbelltown: Tues 5 May, 7-9pm  
Wollongong/Zoom: Wed 6 May, 7-9pm  
**REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL**  
[dow.sh/fpmay2026](http://dow.sh/fpmay2026)

## News from the Diocese

### A vocation view

*Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Every Christian vocation — married, single, ordained, or consecrated — begins with following this Way. Where is Christ inviting you to walk today? (John 14:1-12)*

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)

### Ephphatha: Be Opened!

#### Calling young men (18-35 years old)

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is always calling us to life, and life to the full—the challenge for us is to be open to listening for his quiet voice in our lives. How can we become more open to the voice of the Good Shepherd in the big and small decisions of life? How do we know if we are called to marriage, priesthood or religious life, and how do you live your baptismal vocation more fully as a single young man?

We take this opportunity to invite all unmarried young men aged 18-35 who are open to discerning God's call in their lives to join Bishop Brian Mascord, the priests of the Vocations Team and our Seminarians for lunch, formation, Q&R, one-to-one chats and Adoration.

#### Register NOW!

St Therese Parish, 2 Powell Street, West Wollongong  
Saturday 13 June, 12:30pm for 1pm lunch  
**Cost:** Free, but registration is essential – [dow.sh/Ephphatha](http://dow.sh/Ephphatha)

## 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](http://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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# Journeying together

IN FAITH & MISSION



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
WOLLONGONG

News and events from the Diocese of Wollongong

VOL. 1 NO. 1 • MAY 2026

## Let hope lead you

Dear Brothers and Sisters

This Easter, more adults joined the Catholic faith in our diocese than ever before. I feel great joy and hope because of this. The Holy Spirit still moves in people's hearts, drawing them to Christ and welcoming them home.

When we welcome others into the Church, we share in what Pope Leo XIV called: "[The] sweet and comforting joy of evangelising."

But we also know that joy can fade quickly. The signs of Easter are already gone from our shops, and sometimes we move on too fast in our own lives. In our daily routines and struggles, it is easy to feel far from God. Pope Leo reminds us, "There is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognising Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering."

If we think this way, we might miss Christ in the very places he promised to be. The Christian path is not about avoiding suffering, but about finding Christ within it.



The Church, in her wisdom, gives us an Easter season that lasts longer than Lent. This shows us that hope has the final word. Hope is not just a feeling that changes—it is a choice. Even in dark times, we trust that Christ is with us and working in our lives. As Pope Leo teaches, Christian hope is not about avoiding reality, but about making a choice. So we hold on to the promise: "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

When I shared *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes* with you, it came from this belief. Hope is stronger than fear. God is still working in and through us.

Because of this belief, I am looking forward to the *Renewed and Sent: Parish Renewal Summit* that we will be hosting in our diocese on 1–3 October 2026 at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. Many others from across the world will join us. It will be a time to renew our spirits, encourage each other, learn, listen, and prepare for the mission ahead.

You will hear more in the coming months. For now, stay open, hopeful, and bold. Let us not be overwhelmed by fear, but guided by hope.

Yours in Christ

*Brian Mascord*

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord**  
Bishop of Wollongong



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# Eucharist28: this is my Body, given for you LK 22:19

The Australian Church has set out on its journey towards the *54th International Eucharistic Congress*, to be held in Sydney, 2028.

*Eucharist28* has been strongly endorsed by the Australian bishops and excitement is rightly growing, as this opportunity has the capacity to spark curiosity, build faith and nurture discipleship.

As Bishop Brian often reminds me, the fruits of *Eucharist28* could be immense—if embraced with the right disposition. Such is the power of an encounter with the Presence and Love of Jesus. In this respect, the aims of *Eucharist28* align profoundly with the *Vision for Parishes* that Bishop Brian articulates so beautifully in *Come & See, Go & Make*.

As we prepare to join with Pope Leo and Catholics from around the world in October 2028, I encourage you to embrace a journey of formation and rediscovery: that the Eucharist is a mystery to be encountered, celebrated and lived, and so, be drawn into deeper worship and eagerness for mission.

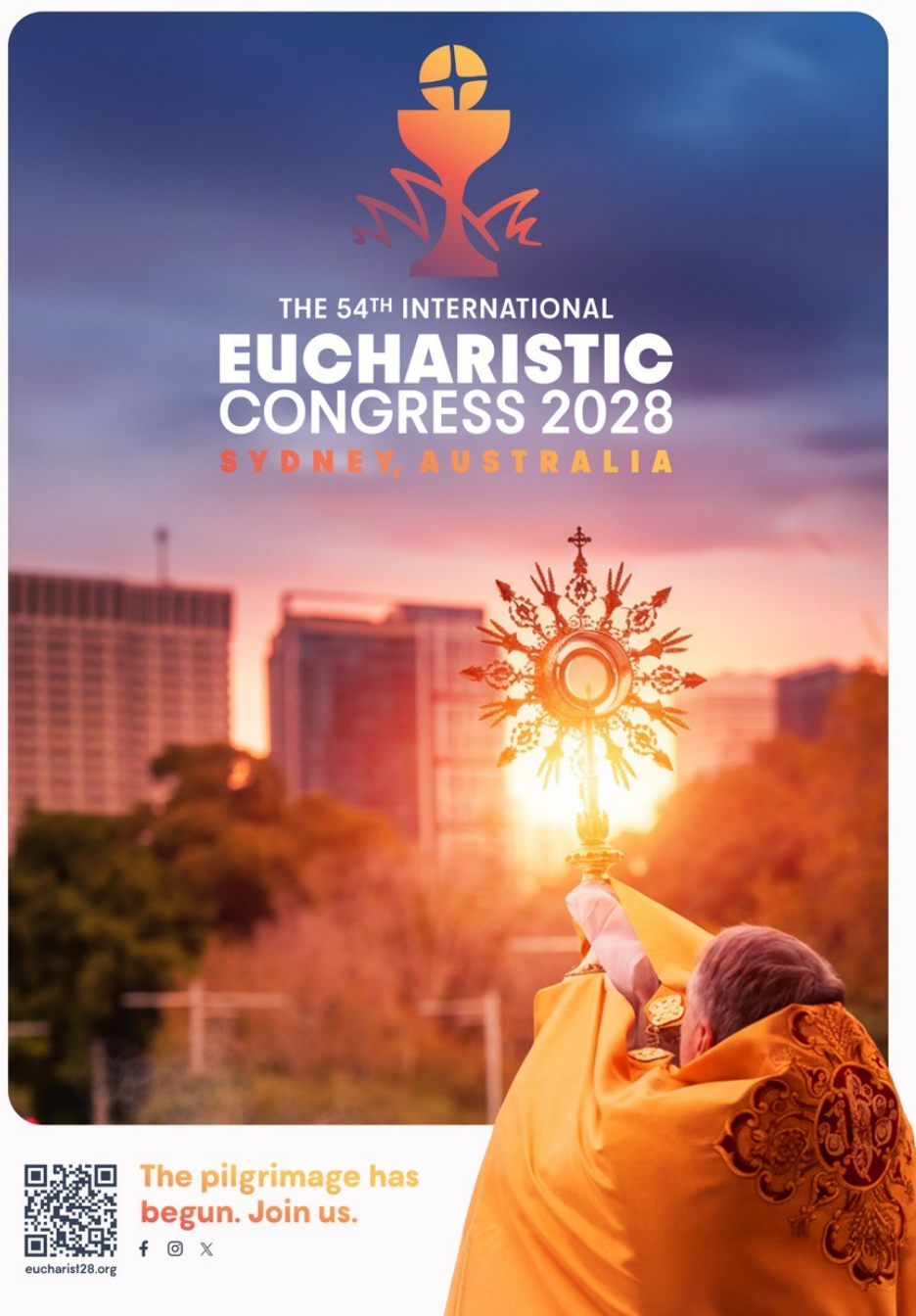
As you hopefully note from many of the events listed in this publication, there will be ongoing opportunities to engage with formation, worship, mission and outreach in our *journeying together* to *Eucharist28* and beyond.

I am excited that the of Relics of St Carlo Acutis, will travel around our Diocese from 14–21 September, giving us the chance to learn from his deep love for the mass, to hear about the eucharistic miracles he used to evangelise others, and to simply come together to pray in the presence of Jesus.


## Mr Jude Hennessy

Director—Office of Renewal  
and Evangelisation

For more info: [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)



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**Bishop Brian's  
prayer intentions**

**Please remember these  
intentions in your prayer:**

- For peace in our world.
- For our journey to the *Eucharistic Congress 2028*.
- For our new Catholics.
- For Christian unity.
- For grandparents and the elderly.
- For vibrant marriages that witness to God's love.



## Youth & young adults update

There is much to be grateful for as we witness growing momentum among young people across the diocese.

Following a fruitful 2025 where new young adult initiatives were established, we are now seeing a steady rise in parish-based youth groups. Communities are actively gathering in West Wollongong, Helensburgh, Rosemeadow, Eagle Vale, Varroville, Oran Park, Ingleburn, and Warrawong/Berkeley—creating spaces of belonging, faith and authentic connection.

In 2026, we have also reintroduced *Twilight Sessions* in our Catholic high schools, offering students meaningful conversations around life and faith, while connecting them with parish youth groups and ongoing opportunities beyond school.

Young adult groups continue to grow in West Wollongong, Lake Heights (Maronite), Corrimal, Campbelltown, Oran Park, and Ingleburn. Alongside this, diocesan initiatives such as *Sanctus* (Adoration nights), *Summit Nights*, and *Vocaris* are drawing many into deeper prayer, formation and community.

Please continue to pray for our young people and leaders. There is great hope in what is unfolding. For more information, follow the links to upcoming events listed on this page or check out the diocesan website at [dow.org.au/cymw](http://dow.org.au/cymw)

**Arnie Hurdoyal**

Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Coordinator

## Around the diocese

Date	Event	Location / Notes
May	● National Mass Attendance Count	Parishes
May	● Catechist Level 2 Training	Wollongong / Rosemeadow
5 & 6 May	● Formation Pathway: Leading People Well	Campbelltown / Wollongong
15–17 May	● Compass: Catholic Family Camping Weekend	Wooglemai / Oakdale
16 May	● Vocaris: Young Adult Night (18+) Building a Prayer Life	Wilton
20 May	● Sanctus Summit: Young Adults Holy Hour and Meal	Unanderra
22 May	● Men's Prayer Breakfast: Ben Galea on Eucharistic Congress	Wollongong
22–23 May	● Walk for Life: Prayer Pilgrimage	Kiama to Culburra
24 May	● WYD Korea: Diocesan Launch Event	Online launch
26 May, 2, 9, 16 June	● Rediscover the Real Presence: Zoom Series on the Mass	Online
2 & 3 June	● Formation Pathway: Meaningful Community	Campbelltown / Wollongong
5–6 June	● Young Adults Mission Mindset Retreat	Douglas Park
17 June	● Sanctus Summit: Young Adults Holy Hour and Meal	Rosemeadow
27 June	● Summit Night: Who is the Man on the Shroud of Turin? (Francine Pirola)	Wollongong
9–12 July	● Ignite: Youth and Young Adult Conference	Sydney
15 July	● Sanctus Summit: Young Adults Holy Hour and Meal	Unanderra
1–3 October	● Renewed and Sent: Parish Renewal Summit:	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

### KEY

- Parish Renewal
- Sacramental / Liturgical
- Formation
- Major Diocesan Events
- Prayer / Spiritual Life
- Online Events
- Youth & Young Adults
- Family
- Men's Ministry
- Retreats
- Parish Life
- Catechists
- Community

[dow.org.au/events](http://dow.org.au/events)

**MORE INFO**

[helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

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