



LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH



SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

7 DECEMBER 2025

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, A

MASS TIME TABLE

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, WOLLONGONG

Monday	Mass: 7am
Tuesday	Mass: 7am
Wednesday	Mass: 7am
	Confessions: 11:30am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Thursday	Mass: 7am
Friday	Mass: 7am
	Adoration: 11:30am
	Confessions: 11:30am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Saturday	Confessions: 11am—12pm
Sunday	Mass: 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

ST JOHN VIANNEY CO-CATHEDRAL, FAIRY MEADOW

Tuesday	Mass: 9.30am
Thursday	Mass: 9.30am (Italian)
Sunday	Mass: 8.30am, 10am (Italian), 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

MATER DOLOROSA, BALGOWNIE

Sunday	Mass: 10am
--------	------------

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, GWYNNEVILLE

Thursday	Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	Vigil Mass: 5.30pm
Sunday	Mass: 9am



SUPPORT
OUR PARISH



PARISH CENTRE

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 8.30am — 2.00pm
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)
36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

CONTACT US

Phone: 02 4211 0500

wollongong@dow.org.au

lumenchristi.org.au

linktr.ee/lumenchristiparish



MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE..

Joan Slater, Patricia Liddiard, Damiano Sorace, Edvard Pirs.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...

Fr John Pickering, Sr Monica Barlow, Duc Trong Nguyen, Teresa Salilin, George, Lorraine Cook, Chiara Sirianni, Angela Mosley, Joyce Milan, Noel Meddows, Dianne Hukins, Matthew Johnson, Pat Carr, John Gauci, Joseph Scalia.

"A voice cries out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"
— Matthew 3:3

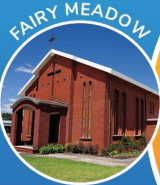
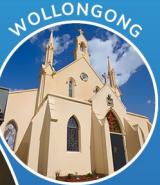


Our Sacraments & Helpful Links

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEB PORTAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country, Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



**WE ARE CALLED
TO REVEAL THE
LIGHT OF CHRIST
TO THE WORLD.**



WELCOME TO LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH

PARISH CALENDAR

- Tue, 09 Dec: GSFM, End of School Year Mass, SJV 9.30am
- Thu, 11 Dec: SBG, End of School Year Mass, SBG 9.30am
- Fri, 12 Dec: Advent Reconciliation, SFX 11am
- Sat, 13 Dec: Advent Reconciliation SBG, 4.45pm
- Sun, 14 Dec: Third Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday)
- Sun, 14 Dec: Advent Reconciliation MDB, after 10am Mass
- Tue, 16 Dec: Advent Reconciliation after SJV, 9.30am Mass
- Wed, 17 Dec: Finance Council Meeting
- Fri, 19 Dec: Term 4 concludes
- Fri, 19 Dec: Lighting of the Christmas Tree, SFX 7pm

Christmas Timetable 2025

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

- Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm
- Fairy Meadow: Mass 6pm & 8.15pm (Vietnamese)
- Wollongong: Mass 7pm, Carols 11pm & Mass Midnight

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

- Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am & 5pm
- Gwynneville: Mass 9am
- Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am, 10am (Italian) & 4.30pm (Vietnamese)
- Balgownie: Mass 10am

Friday 26th December, St Stephen

- Wollongong: Mass 8am

Saturday 27th December, Holy Family

- Wollongong: Reconciliation 11am
- Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

Sunday 28th December, Holy Family (Jubilee Closing)

- Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am & 5pm
- Gwynneville: Mass 9am
- Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am
- Balgownie: Mass 10am

Monday 29th December

- Wollongong: Mass 7am

Tuesday 30th December

- Wollongong: Mass 7am

Wednesday 31st December

- Wollongong: Mass 7am, Reconciliation 11.30, Mass 12.10pm

Thursday 1st January

- Wollongong: Mass 9am

Masses resume as per normal schedule from Friday 2nd January 2026.



BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,
Diocesan Bishop

PARISH STAFF

Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,
Vicar General, Dean of the Cathedral
& Parish Priest

Reverend Cang Tran,

Assistant Priest

Kevin Galea,

General Manager

Leanne Burlin,

Parish Secretary

Patricia Di Leva,

Administration Assistant

WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL

Emergency Calls: 0475 815 506

PASTORAL

& FINANCE COUNCILS

Lisa de Paiva,

Chair of the Pastoral Council

Vicky Davidson,

Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Kathy Uroda,

Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville

Pauline Chrostowski,

Principal, Good Samaritan

Fairy Meadow

PARISH EFT BANK

ACCOUNT DETAILS

CHURCH ACCOUNT:

DONATIONS & PLANNED GIVING

BSB: 066 711 Account: 008056

Account Name:

Lumen Christi Parish

PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT:

FOR THE CLERGY

BSB: 066 711 Account: 002286

Account Name:

Lumen Christi Parish Presbytery

NEWS IN BRIEF

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE

Advent, a time of preparation for the joy of Christmas, invites us to renew our hearts and deepen our relationship with God. It is a season of hope, reflection, and conversion—a time to prepare not only our homes but our spirits for the coming of Christ.

St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

Friday 12th December 2025, 11am to 12pm

St Brigid's Church, Gwynneville

Saturday 13th December 2025, 4.45pm

Mater Dolorosa Church, Balgownie

Sunday 14th December 2025, after 10am Mass

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow

Tuesday 16th December 2025, after 9.30am Mass

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE & PARISH CAROLS 2025

Join us as we celebrate the Lighting of the Christmas Tree and Parish Carols at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on **Friday 19th December 2025, 7pm to 8.30pm.**

All are warmly invited to this special parish celebration.

CWL RAFFLES

The Wollongong & Fairy Meadow CWL Branches will be holding their Christmas Raffle on the weekends of 6th/7th December and 13th/14th December.

Tickets are 3 for \$5 and will be available at all 4 churches.

Wonderful prizes are ready to be delivered to the lucky winners! Thank you for your support.

COMMUNION TO THE INBOUND

Our parish is blessed to care for those who are sick, elderly, or unable to join us at Mass by bringing them the gift of Holy Communion. Please note that **only commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** may request to take Holy Communion to the sick or homebound. If you are not an active minister, please contact the Parish Office beforehand.

If someone is seriously ill or requires a priest for the Anointing of the Sick or Reconciliation, please notify us as soon as possible, or contact our Hospital Chaplain, Fr Joseph Pothenparampil, on 0475 815 506.

Thank you for helping us care for those in need.

CATHEDRAL—13 DECEMBER

Due to the Ordinations being held at All Saints Parish, Shellharbour, on **Saturday 13 December**, St Francis Xavier Cathedral will be closed for the day. As a result, Reconciliation will **not be available** on this date. Please keep our ordinands in your prayers.

stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon

Baruch 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the coming towards us ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Lisa de Paiva's term on the Pastoral Council will conclude on 31 December 2025. I would like to thank Lisa for her dedication and service throughout her time as Chair. We deeply appreciate her commitment to the mission and life of our parish. In 2026, Lisa will continue to support our community through her work on the Parish Finance Council, the Cathedral Exterior Project, the growing RCIA program, and the vital parish sacramental program.

I am pleased to announce that **Kathy Uroda** will be appointed as the new **Chair of the Pastoral Council**, effective 1 January 2026. Kathy will also chair the **Project Control Group for the Cathedral Exterior Project** in 2026. She will continue as a committed parishioner and remain actively involved in the many ministries she supports so faithfully.

I thank both Lisa and Kathy for their contribution to the life of our parish.

Fr Bernard

THIS WEEK'S READINGS & COMMENTARY

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *(R.)*
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. *(R.)*

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *(R.)*
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.
The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.