



LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

14 DECEMBER 2025

3RD 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
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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



*"Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God."
— Isaiah 35:4*



MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE...

John Merritt, Samantha Anne Elech,
Nicholas Contreras, Giovanni & Ar-
duina Filippi, Federico & Olga Romano.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...

Fr John Pickering, Sr Monica Barlow,
Brian Mattock, Edward McNamarra,
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.



*Our Sacraments
& Helpful Links*

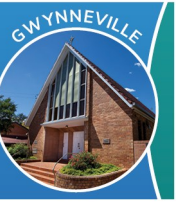
SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEB PORTAL

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.**



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

**WELCOME TO
LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH**

PARISH CALENDAR

- 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
- Sun, 21 Dec: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Wed, 24 Dec: Christmas Vigil Masses
- Thu, 25 Dec: Christmas Day Masses
- Sun, 28 Dec: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Sun, 28 Dec: Jubilee Year Ends 2025
- Thu, 01 Jan: Mary Mother of God, Mass SFX 9am

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) & 7pm (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.



NEWS IN BRIEF

FAREWELL TOLOA MATAELE

On behalf of the parish community of Lumen Christi and the Diocese of Wollongong, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to **Toloa Mataele** for more than three decades of faithful service, leadership, and music ministry among us.



Toloa has been a tremendous blessing to our parish and our diocese. His dedication, the beauty of his music, and the strength of his faith have lifted the hearts of countless parishioners in prayer and worship. He has been a guiding light for the Tongan community and a cherished member of our parish family.

We thank Toloa for the joy, passion, and generosity with which he has served. We carry with us many treasured memories and the lasting legacy he leaves in our liturgies, our community, and in the lives of the people he has touched.

We pray that God will bless Toloa, Lineti and his family abundantly in this new chapter of their lives. May the Lord protect and guide them in all that lies ahead. And we hold onto the hope that, in God's good time, they may return to us again.

Fr Bernard

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be available at **St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow** this 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 next **Friday 19th December 2025, 7pm to 8.30pm.**

All are warmly invited to this special parish celebration.

CWL RAFFLE

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.

even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

CATHEDRAL EXTERIOR—PROJECT CONTROL GROUP 2026

Recently, we announced the Chair of the Cathedral Exterior Project Control Group, and I now wish to share with parishioners the full list of appointments made jointly by the Parish and the Diocese for this significant undertaking. The Cathedral Exterior Project Control Group (PCG) comprises Kathy Uroda (Chair of PCG), Fr Bernard Gordon (Parish Priest), Kevin Galea (Lumen Christi General Manager), Nick Dyball (Diocesan Financial Controller), Biliiana Jones (Diocesan Property Officer), Lisa de Paiva (Parish Project Liaison Officer), Debbie Gates (Director of Development & Community Engagement), Jenny Bell (Secretary), and Beau Cropper (Project Manager). This committee brings together a strong blend of pastoral leadership, financial oversight, heritage management, project coordination, and community engagement. Their role is to guide the planning, decision-making, and execution of the Cathedral exterior renewal, a project of great importance due to the historical, architectural, and cultural significance of St Francis Xavier Cathedral. The work ahead will require careful discernment, detailed review, and collaboration to ensure that any repairs, restoration, and enhancements are carried out to the highest standard in accordance with heritage requirements. I am deeply grateful to each member of the PCG for their willingness to contribute their expertise and time to this vital initiative, and I look forward to the positive outcomes that will support the long-term stewardship and beauty of our Cathedral.

Fr Bernard

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the Giving Tree and the Christmas Appeal. Your very generous contributions will allow the SVdP to provide ongoing help for those struggling on the edge of society. Thank you for your support!

Wollongong Conference	\$ 11,682.00
Gwynneville Conference	\$ 3,282.50
Fairy Meadow Conference	\$ 5,615.00
Total raised:	\$ 20,579.50

THIS WEEK'S READINGS & COMMENTARY

Entrance Antiphon

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Right Question

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him,

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