



**LUMEN CHRISTI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH



# SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

21 DECEMBER 2025

4TH 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
Sunday	Mass: 8.30am, 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



*"The virgin shall **conceive** and bear a **son**, and they shall name him **Emmanuel**."  
— Isaiah 7:14*

### MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE...

Angela Moroni, William Small, Dianne O'Dwyer, Secondo Mancini.

### 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.



*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.

WOLLONGONG

FAIRY MEADOW

BALGOWNIE

GWYNNEVILLE

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

# WELCOME TO LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH

## PARISH CALENDAR

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
Thu, 01 Jan:	Anniversary of Lumen Christi (2022)
Sun, 04 Jan:	The Epiphany of the Lord
Sun, 11 Jan:	The Baptism of the Lord
Fri, 16 Jan:	Anniversary of Dedication of St Brigid's Church
Sat, 17 Jan:	Death Anniversary of Archbishop Philip Wilson

## *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.**



## 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

## FAREWELL FR ANGELO BUFFOLO AND GRATITUDE TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO CS

We give thanks to Fr Angelo Buffolo CS for his many years of generous ministry and priestly service within our diocese. For decades, Fr Angelo has faithfully offered Masses, supported our parish communities, and provided spiritual care, especially to the Italian community who have been richly blessed by his presence, his pastoral heart, and his dedication.



Fr Angelo has recently shared that he will be returning to Italy at the end of 2025. As part of this transition, the Italian Mass at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral—celebrated on Thursdays at 9:30am and Sundays at 10:00am—will conclude at the end of this year.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Italian community for their support, their involvement in the life of the parish, and their ongoing commitment to fostering faith and culture within our liturgical celebrations.

Thank you to The Congregation of the Missionaries of Saint Charles Borromeo who have served in our diocese. We hold the clergy in our prayers, thanking God for their faithful ministry among us.

Fr Bernard

## THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – A YEAR OF GRACE DRAWING TO A CLOSE

The Jubilee Year 2025 is drawing to a close after a wonderful year of prayer, pilgrimage, and renewed hope across our Diocese. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to be **Pilgrims of Hope**, our parish has welcomed many visitors, parishioners, pilgrims, and school groups to the Cathedral. Highlights included our Jubilee Dinner of Hope and the many pilgrims who arrived with their Jubilee Passports to receive a special memento.

We will mark the Closing of the Jubilee Year on **Sunday, 28 December 2025, at the 10:30am Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral**. All are warmly invited as we give thanks for this year of Hope.



## THANK YOU

As we come to the close of the school year, I extend my thanks to all our parish school principals, teachers, staff, and our dedicated catechists for the precious gift of knowledge you share so generously with our young people. Your commitment forms the heart of our parish community, and we are truly blessed by your service.

I offer special thanks to Kathy Uroda as she concludes her principalship at St Brigid's, Gwynneville over the past ten years. We are deeply grateful for her leadership, compassion, and the many ways she has enriched the life of the school and parish. At the same time, I warmly welcome Amy Sammut, who will begin as Principal in the new year. We look forward to supporting her in the mission of Catholic education.

I also thank Pauline Chrostowski for a wonderful start to 2025 in her role as Principal of Good Samaritan Catholic School. The school will be receiving significant upgrades over the coming year, and we invite our parish community to look forward to a fresh new appearance in 2026. We are grateful to Pauline for her leadership and guidance in overseeing this major project.

We were privileged to celebrate the end of the school year at two beautiful Masses last week—moments that reflected the faith, unity, and spirit at the centre of our parish family.

Thank you all for your dedication and for the joy you bring to our community.

Fr Bernard

## PARISH CENTRE

Please note that the Parish Office **will close at 12pm on Wednesday, 24 December**.

For urgent hospital visitation calls during this period, please contact our chaplaincy number: **0475 815 506**.

The parish will be undergoing a new financial system upgrade commencing 1 January 2026, and our staff will require dedicated time to complete this important work and prepare for the year ahead.

The Parish Office will reopen with usual hours on **Monday, 5 January 2026, from 8:30am—2pm**.

Thank you for your understanding, and may God bless you abundantly in this Christmas season.

## ST JOHN VIANNEY PARKING

As we enter this busy week of Christmas, please be mindful when entering and exiting the parking bays in Cabbage Lane and McGrath St.

# THIS WEEK'S READINGS & COMMENTARY

## Entrance Antiphon

*Cf Isaiah 45:8*

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10*

*(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

## Second Reading

*Romans 1:1-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*Matthew 1:18-24*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

## Communion Antiphon

*Isaiah 7:14*

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Just Man Dreaming

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

## CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE RESULTS

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to everyone who supported the raffle.

**Wollongong Branch:** 1st Prize: Marion 2nd Prize: Ava

Thank you for your support.

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