



LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH



SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

1 FEBRUARY 2026

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 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



"Blessed are the humble, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE...

Carmel Mowbray, Martin Hubbard,
Aldo Dellapina, Antonio Dellapina.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...

Fr John Pickering, Duc Trong Nguyen,
Angela Mosley, Brian Mattock, Jim Lyon,
Teresa George, Chiara Sirianni, Joyce Milan,
Noel Meddows, Dianne Hukins, Matthew Johnson,
Pat Carr, John Gauci, Joseph Scalia.



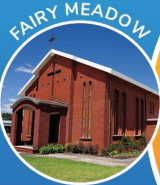
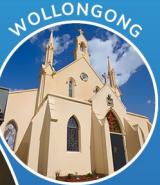
Our Sacraments & Helpful Links

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.**



WELCOME TO LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH

PARISH CALENDAR

- Mon, 02 Feb: Presentation of the Lord
- Thu, 05 Feb: Parish Lunch, Builders Club, Wollongong 12pm
- Wed, 11 Feb: Mass of Anointing, SFX 12.10pm
- Wed, 11 Feb: Our Lady of Lourdes
- Sun, 15 Feb: Caritas launch in our parish (Project Compassion 2026)
- Tue, 17 Feb: GSFM Start of Year Mass, SJV 9.30am
- Wed, 18 Feb: Ash Wednesday Masses,
- Fri, 20 Feb: Stations of the Cross, SFX 6.30pm
- Sun, 22 Feb: Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Bishop Brian
- Sun, 22 Feb: First Sunday of Lent

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Bishop Mascord has announced that three men of our Diocese have been called to Holy Orders for the Permanent Diaconate:

- **John Mortimer (Albion Park Parish)**
- **Ryan Suares (Rosemeadow Parish)**
- **Stuart Lake (Varroville Parish)**

They will be ordained as Permanent Deacons on **Saturday, 28 February 2026 at 10am at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow.**

I warmly encourage parishioners to keep these men and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this significant step of service to Christ and His Church.



What is the Permanent Diaconate?

A Permanent Deacon is an ordained minister called to serve in a ministry of Word, Liturgy, and Charity, assisting the bishop and priests in the life and mission of the Church. Permanent deacons are ordained to this ministry for life (distinct from transitional deacons who are preparing for priesthood).

Permanent deacons may:

- Proclaim the Gospel and preach
- Assist at the altar during Mass
- Celebrate baptisms
- Witness marriages
- Preside at funerals and other liturgies of prayer
- Lead and coordinate works of charity and pastoral care, especially among those most in need

May the Lord bless John, Ryan, and Stuart abundantly as they prepare for ordination, and may their ministry strengthen the Church's mission of faith and service across our Diocese.

Fr Bernard

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

PARISH COUNCILS

Kathy Uroda,
Chair of the Pastoral Council

Vicky Davidson,
Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Amy Sammut, 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: LC Parish

PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT: FOR THE CLERGY

BSB: 066 711 Account: 002286
Account Name: LC Presbytery

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Wollongong Hospital:

Emergency Calls
Phone Calls Only: **0475 815 506**

NEWS IN BRIEF

ASH WEDNESDAY—18 FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Church's forty-day journey of renewal and preparation for Easter. It is a day that invites us to pause, be honest about what needs to change, and begin again with God.

At Mass, ashes—made from the blessed palms of last year's Palm Sunday—are placed on the forehead (or sprinkled on the head) in the shape of a cross. As we receive the ashes, we hear words that go straight to the heart: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel," or "**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**" These words are not meant to discourage us, but to call us back to what matters most: God's mercy, the gift of grace, and the hope of a life renewed in Christ.

Ash Wednesday also sets the tone for Lent through the three traditional practices of **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. Prayer deepens our friendship with the Lord. Fasting helps us break unhealthy patterns and re-order our hearts. Almsgiving expands our love, moving us outward in compassion and practical care for others. Lent is not simply about "giving something up," but about making room for God and allowing Him to restore what is tired, distracted, or wounded.

The ashes we receive are an outward sign of an inward decision: to return to the Lord with sincerity. It is a humble beginning—but a hopeful one—because every step of Lent is taken with Christ, who leads us from repentance to renewal, from the Cross to the joy of the Resurrection.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES:

Wollongong: 7am, 12:10pm & 6:00pm

Fairy Meadow: 9:30am (incl School), Vietnamese: 7pm

Gwynneville: 10:30am (incl School)

All are warmly welcome to join us as we begin Lent together.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Last year, many were astonished when one of the world's richest people claimed that "empathy" is a weakness. The Gospel teaches the opposite: compassion is the calling card of Christians. In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29–37), compassion is not a feeling—it is action. The Samaritan stops, tends the man's wounds, brings him to safety, and pays for his care.

As we begin Lent, we also renew our commitment to Project Compassion (Caritas Australia). This year's theme is "**Unite Against Poverty.**"

Project Compassion envelopes and boxes will be available on **Sunday 15 February**.

Please support Caritas this Lent.

on the new community he is establishing under the reign of God: what he calls 'the Kingdom of God'.

Those in such wretched circumstances *will* have things set right, but only if followers of Jesus do everything possible to lift the poor out of the poverty which crushes their spirit, do everything possible to comfort those who mourn, do everything possible to make sure the gentle share the earth's resources, do everything possible to satisfy the craving for justice.

We could pause for a moment to pray the 'Our Father' pledging ourselves to help construct this new society where the Beatitudes can come true:

'Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

WOLLONGONG—CWL

Wollongong Catholic Women's League will hold the first meeting for 2026 on **Friday, 13 February at 10:00am in the Xavier Centre**. All are welcome. Please note the change of day for February only.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES – MASS OF THE ANOINTING

On the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Mass of the Anointing will be celebrated at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral during the 12:10pm Mass on Wednesday 11 February**. Bishop Mascord will offer this Mass, and all are warmly welcome to attend and pray for the sick and those in need of God's healing.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENTS

Parents and caregivers of children in Year 6 are now invited to enrol their child into the 2026 programme for Confirmation. Parents and caregivers will need to attend a compulsory information session with the Parish Priest. Please refer to the parish website for details.

To enrol your child in the Sacramental program visit the parish website: lumenchristi.org.ausacramental

N.B. Enrolments close 27 March 2026.

PARISH SCHOOLS

This past week, I was honoured to celebrate our combined Schools Staff Mass at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow. I extend my sincere thanks to our Parish Principals, Mrs Pauline Chrostowski and Mrs Amy Sammut and to all our teachers and administrative staffs for their dedicated work in our parish schools. Their commitment to Catholic education and the life of our parish community is deeply appreciated.

As the new school year begins, I wish our teachers every blessing. May God grant them light, encouragement and enthusiasm in their essential mission of Catholic education.

Fr Bernard

THIS WEEK'S READINGS & COMMENTARY

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the
Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
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

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak

by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Beatitudes ... A Call to Action

Jesus doesn't start in a fantasy dream world of perfection. Jesus looks at the world as it often is for many people, perhaps for most people around the world: 'the poor in spirit', 'those who mourn', 'those who are gentle', 'those who hunger and thirst for justice'. Jesus astonishes the crowd by saying that such people are 'Blessed'. How can this be? The answer lies in our Lord's emphasis

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