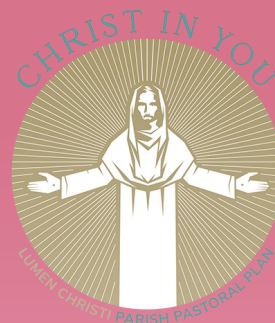


3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, B

17 DECEMBER 2023

GAUDETE SUNDAY

It is by God's gift that we rejoice



MASS TIMETABLE

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 Brigid's, Gwynneville

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

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow

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

Mater Dolorosa, Balgownie

Sunday	Mass: 10am
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LUMEN CHRISTI

CATHOLIC PARISH

MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE ...

Peggy Hiscox, John Merritt, Margaret Gray, Paul Gray.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...

Bishop Peter Ingham, Fr David Catterall, Terry Barratt, Nelson Salinas, Joan O'Dowd, Alan Curtis, Matthew Johnson, Suzy May Gellel, Pat Carr, John Parkinson, Joseph Scalia, Bill Sharpe, Therese & Noel Rouse, Mario Saverimuttu, Ron Cooper.

PARISH CENTRE

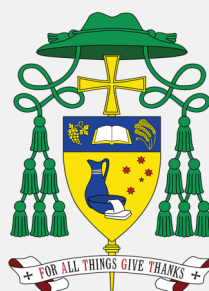
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am — 2.00pm
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)
36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

CONTACT US

Phone: 02 4211 0500
wollongong@dow.org.au
lumenchristi.org.au

PARISH STAFF

Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,
Diocesan Bishop & Parish Priest
Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,
Vicar General & Administrator
Reverend James Arblaster,
Assistant Priest & UoW Chaplain
Kevin Galea,
General Manager
Leanne Burlin,
Parish Secretary
Patricia Di Leva,
Administration Assistant



HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Wollongong Hospital: 0475 815 506

PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCILS

Lisa de Paiva, Chair of the Pastoral Council
Vacant, Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Kathy Uroda, Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville
Toni Sillis, Principal, Good Samaritan Fairy Meadow

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.

In our parish & around the diocese

PARISH CALENDAR: DEC 2023—FEB 2024

Sun, 24 Dec: Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year B
Sun, 24 Dec: Christmas Eve Masses (see schedule)
Mon, 25 Dec: Christmas Day Masses (see schedule)
Tue, 26 Dec: St Stephen (see schedule)
Sun, 31 Dec: SFX 5pm Mass relocated to SBG 5pm
Mon, 1 Jan: Mary Mother of God, SFX 9am
Mon, 1 Jan: Lumen Christi Parish Anniversary (2022)
Sun, 7 Jan: Epiphany & Blessing of the Chalk
Mon, 8 Jan: The Baptism of the Lord
Sun, 14 Jan: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
Tue, 16 Jan: Anniversary of Dedication of St Brigid's Church
Wed, 17 Jan: Baptism Class, SFX 7pm
Thu, 25 Jan: The Conversion of Saint Paul
Thu, 25 Jan: Catechists Meeting, Rigney Room 10.30am
Fri, 26 Jan: Australia Day Mass, SFX 8am
Thu, 1 Feb: Feast of St Brigid, Patroness of Gwynneville
Fri, 2 Feb: Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, SFX 7am & 12.10pm

SACRAMENTS

- ♦ **Baptisms:** By appointment only. Baptism preparation session must be completed. Contact the parish office or book online lumenchristi.org.au/baptism
- ♦ **Marriages:** A preliminary appointment needs to be made at least 6 months prior to Wedding Date (**No Sunday weddings in our parish**)
- ♦ For Pastoral and Sacramental needs, please contact the parish office during office hours

HELPFUL LINKS

- ♦ **Mass for you at Home:** youtube.com/massforyouathome
- ♦ **Mass/Prayer Intentions:** lumenchristi.org.au/intentions
- ♦ **Light a Votive Candle:** lumenchristi.org.au/votive
- ♦ **Census Form:** lumenchristi.org.au/census
- ♦ **Online Donations:** lumenchristi.org.au/donate
- ♦ **Join Planned Giving:** lumenchristi.org.au/support
- ♦ **Columbarium:** lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium
- ♦ **Sacramental Programme:** lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental
- ♦ **Privacy Policy:** privacy.lumenchristi.org.au
- ♦ **St Brigid's School:** sbgdow.catholic.edu.au
- ♦ **Good Samaritan School:** gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au

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



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

Fairy Meadow: Mass 6pm

Wollongong: Mass 7pm & Midnight

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

Gwynneville: Mass 9am

Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

Tuesday 26th December, St Stephen

Wollongong: Mass 8am

Wednesday 27th December

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

Thursday 28th December

Wollongong: 7am

Friday 29th December

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

Saturday 30th December, Holy Family

Wollongong: Reconciliation 11am–12pm

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

Sunday 31st December, Holy Family

Wollongong: Mass 7am & 10.30am

Gwynneville: Mass 9am & 5pm (relocated due to New Year's Eve Celebrations on the Harbour)

Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

Monday 1st January 2024, Mary Mother of God

Wollongong: Mass 9am

Normal Mass times resumes Tuesday 2nd January 2023

The parish office will remain open and closed public holidays.

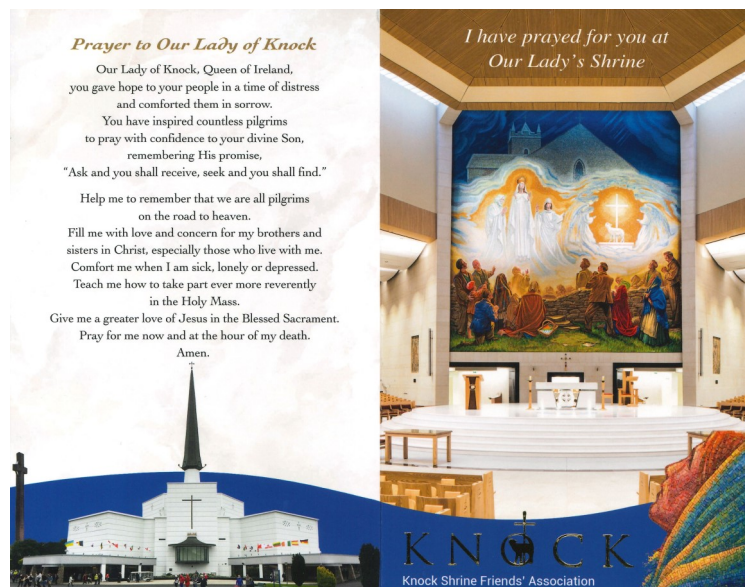
THANK YOU GABI AND EVERY BEST WISH

Gabi Tobin has diligently served as the Chair of the Lumen Christi Finance Council for the past four years. Gabi now leaves our parish for a new stage of her life and work as a dedicated teacher. I wish Gabi every joy and success for the future and on behalf of our parish thank her for her dedicated service. The new Chair for the Finance Council will be announced in the coming weeks.



For more information on bequests please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/bequest

In our parish & around the diocese



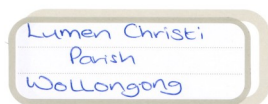
THE STORY OF KNOCK

At about 8 o'clock on the Thursday evening of the 21st of August, 1879, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the South gable of the Church at Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. Beside them and a little to the right was an altar with a cross and the figure of a lamb, around which angels hovered.

There were fifteen official witnesses to the apparition – young and old – who watched it for two hours in pouring rain and recited the Rosary. Two Commissions of Enquiry accepted their testimony as trust-worthy and satisfactory, in 1879 and 1936.

Knock is ranked as an International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine. It has received many Papal honours including the distinction of two Papal visits, that of St. John Paul II in 1979 and Pope Francis in 2018.

Images: Mosaic of the Apparition and Sanctuary Knock Basilica



has been enrolled as a member of this Association and, for one year, will share in two Masses offered each day at Knock Shrine for the intentions of members.

Requested by: BERNARD GORDON

Date: 13 NOVEMBER 2023



MASS INTENTION FOR ALL OUR PARISHIONERS IN OUR LADY'S SHRINE AT KNOCK

Dear Parishioners,

The last three months in Ireland was a truly enriching experience for me! Early in the new year I will give a presentation on what I saw and learned in that land so blessed with such beautiful landscapes, literature, music and history. You are all invited to attend my presentation of the sabbatical experience on **Tuesday 27 February in the Xavier Centre at 11am**. (Details of how to register will be provided early in the new year.)

Opposite is a digital copy of the Mass card I arranged for you all when I visited Knock. It gives a short explanation of the history and the purpose of the Knock shrine. It includes the mosaic inside the Basilica which is composed of more than 1.5 million pieces of glass and marble. Many thousands of people every year from around the world find it a place of prayerfulness and peace. My intention was that the Mass be offered in that sacred place for you all, for your families, and for all who are dear to you.

The vision occurred during the 1879 famine in the West of Ireland. It was not as severe as the Great Famines of 1740-1741 and 1845-1852, causing hunger but not mass deaths. Thus the Shrine at Knock is connected to praying for those who suffer and alleviating their suffering. For example, it has a counselling service within the grounds of the Shrine. And as well as affirming a deep love for Mary, the Shrine emphasises the centrality of faith in Jesus and a deep reverence for the Holy Eucharist.

When the mosaic was unveiled Archbishop of Tuam, Michael Neary said, "May this mosaic be a beacon of light and hope to all who gaze upon it." May it be so for you all.

Fr Bernard Gordon

FAIRY MEADOW — CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



Fairy Meadow CWL will be selling Christmas raffle tickets after each Mass both this weekend and next weekend at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral and Mater Dolorosa Church. Tickets are 3 for \$5 to help support the Fairy Meadow CWL.

Thank you for your support!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS & CALENDARS

Christmas Cards & Columban Calendars can be purchased after Sunday Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral this weekend. Please place your items for our SVDP Christmas Hampers in the plastic containers provided at the entrance to the Cathedral. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



KNEELER APPEAL

Donations towards the new padding on the kneelers at Mater Dolorosa will continue. Please give to provide comfort for our parishioners and visiting worshippers, families and friends. You can donate by:

- ♦ completing a pledge form online at: www.lumenchristi.org.au/kneelers
- ♦ Direct Deposit

BSB: **066 711** Account #: **008056** Ref: **Your Name-SOK**

Cheques Payable to: **Lumen Christi Parish**

- ♦ Or by collecting an envelope from the church door (mark it "**Kneelers Donation**") and place it inside the collection bag, collection boxes, or hand it in at the parish office.

St John Vianney—\$ 0 to Go! Thank you!!!!

Mater Dolorosa—\$15, 588 to Go!

For more information on our Columbarium please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium

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 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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

John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.



Third Sunday of Advent

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

Entrance Antiphon

Gaudete Sunday

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