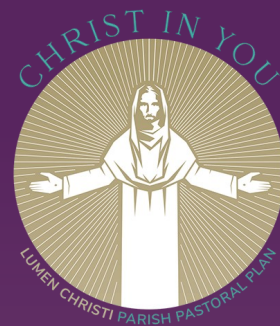


2ND SUNDAY OF LENT, B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

Let the Word of God dwell in you in all its richness



MASS TIMETABLE

St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong

Monday	Mass: 7am
Tuesday	Mass: 7am
Wednesday	Mass: 7am
	Confessions: 11:00am
	Mass: 12.10pm
Thursday	Mass: 7am
Friday	Mass: 7am
	Adoration: 11:30am
	Confessions: 11:00am
	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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PARISH CENTRE

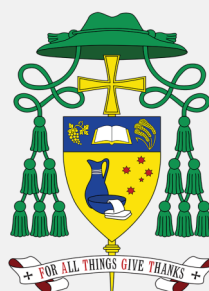
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am —2.00pm
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)
36 Harbour St, Wollongong NSW 2500

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
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
Vicky Davidson, Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Kathy Uroda, Principal, St Brigid's Gwynneville
Lisa Tyson, Acting 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.



LUMEN CHRISTI

CATHOLIC PARISH

MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE ...

Sr Grace Cini, David Crowe, Aldo Tomasiello, Anthony Dowdall, Christopher Dowdall, Elvira & Vincenzo Sebastopoli, Darrell Southam, Paul Gray, Margaret Gray.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...

Bishop Peter Ingham, Fr David Catterall, Joan O'Dowd, Alan Curtis, Matthew Johnson, Suzy May Gellel, Pat Carr, John Parkinson, Joseph Scalia, Bill Sharpe, Ron Cooper.

SR GRACE CINI—RIP

Sr Grace Cini of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus, departed from this world in Adelaide, SA, on the morning of 10th February 2024. Sr Grace's legacy is for serving in our Diocese at St Francis of Assisi Warrawong for over 53 years. May her soul find eternal peace and rest in the embrace of our loving God.



In our parish & around the diocese

PARISH CALENDAR: FEB—MAR 2024

Sun, 25 Feb: Second Sunday of Lent

Thu, 29 Feb: Staff Development Day, Parish Office Closed

Fri, 01 Mar: Reconciliation & Stations of the Cross SFX 5.30pm

Sat, 02 Mar: Stewardship Mass, SFX 10am

Sat, 02 Mar: Superbloom Concert, SFX 3pm

Sun, 03 Mar: Hospitality weekend

Mon, 04 Mar: CWL Fairy Meadow Branch Mtg, MDB 2pm

Tue, 05 Mar: Education Mass, SJV 6pm

Tue, 05 Mar: Finance Council Mtg

Wed, 06 Mar: Pastoral Council Mtg

Thu, 07 Mar: Parish Lunch, Master Builders Club, 12pm

Sun, 10 Mar: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Rose Sunday)

Tue, 12 Mar: Lenten Reconciliation after SJV, 9.30am Mass

Wed, 13 Mar: CWL Wollongong Branch Mtg, Xavier Ctr 10am

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

MAY YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH LIGHT

The Rite of Reconciliation begins with the sign of the Cross, a reminder that we are baptised into the Family of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that we are saved by the outpouring of Divine Love in the mystery of the Cross.



(The Return of the Prodigal Son, 1667/1670, Spain—Bartolomé Esteban Murillo)

But I would like to focus on the next prayer the priest prays for the one seeking renewal in God's forgiveness:

"May the grace of the Holy Spirit fill your heart with light. That you may confess your sins with loving trust and come to know that God is merciful."

This prayer sets the true tone for the experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It gives lightness when I may at first experience the heaviness of my responsibility and the burdensome weight of my guilt.

Perhaps I am very nervous when I come into the presence of the priest who is to hear my confession. Perhaps I feel that I have to make all the effort to become better or I am frustrated that once again I have failed in something that I have confessed any number of times. **But wait**, perhaps I need to have another look at how I am thinking. Is this the true way in which I can receive the sacramental gift of God's kindness and forgiveness?

The truth is that already the Holy Spirit has been at work in my heart, leading me to the refreshing waters of repentance, the change of heart that brings new life. The grace of the Holy Spirit does the work of love and renews me.

The prayer therefore makes me aware that the grace of the Holy Spirit fills my heart with the light of hope and encouragement. The same Holy Spirit helps me to confess what I have done "with loving trust" because I speak in the presence of the God who wants to show mercy to me.

Now I am ready to speak ...

Fr Bernard

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

In our parish & around the diocese



CHRIST IN YOU
LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

"To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in You, the hope of glory"

Colossians 1:27

As bearers of Christ's love called to Come and See, Go and Make disciples, our Lumen Christi Parish seeks to reveal the Light of Christ to the world through ...

WORSHIP

"Let the Word of God dwell in you in all its richness"

Colossians 3:16

Celebrating prayerful liturgies that praise God, lifting our hearts and singing with thankfulness, expressing our faith and enriching our understanding of God's love for us.

Action Plan - Establish a Community Life Leadership Group.

Suggested Strategies to take us forward:

- Acknowledge and promote quality practices that currently enrich worship.
- Gather information and feedback to enhance the quality of sung liturgy and the engagement of the worshippers.
- Review the impact of homilies and liturgies so that they challenge and enrich reflective and mature thinking about faith and commitment.
- Enhance parishioners' liturgical and spiritual life through active participation.
- Review and refine initiatives for the ongoing formation of a range of liturgical ministries.
- Provide initiatives for adults to renew and deepen their understanding of and be enriched by the life and prayer of the Church.
- Draw the community into participating in the Sacramental life and liturgical cycle of the Parish.

The Christ in You Pastoral Plan will set our direction and goals for the growth of our life together as a community of faith and liturgical worship.

There are other possible strategies that can be discussed as the Pastoral Plan is discussed and developed. Please provide your response to the abovementioned strategies or recommend any further strategies to our pastoral plan group by email:

lc.pastoralplan@dow.org.au

Lent at Lumen Christi Parish

"Hold rather to the things that eternally endure"

(Preface II of Lent)

- God has given us a sacred time
- The grace of Lent renews and heals our hearts
- We are encouraged to love in accord with what is good
- We are empowered to grow towards eternal life

RECONCILIATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross will be offered at St Francis Xavier Cathedral every Friday of Lent.

Reconciliation 5.30pm

Stations of the Cross 6.30pm

WEEKDAY RECONCILIATION TIMES

During Lent at St Francis Xavier Cathedral there will be extended Wednesday and Friday Reconciliation times.

Wednesday & Friday 11am to 12pm.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2024

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations.**



CONFIRMATION ENROLMENTS 2024

Parents and caregivers of children in Year 6 are now invited to enrol their child into the 2024 programme for Confirmation.

To enrol your child in the Sacramental program visit the parish website: lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental

N.B. Enrolments close 1 March 2024.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Parishioners are invited to attend World Day of Prayer for 2024 to be held in Mater Dolorosa Church, Balmoral St, Balgownie on Friday 1st March at 10.00am followed by morning tea in the meeting room.

SUPERBLOOM CATHEDRAL CONCERT

On Saturday 2 March at 3pm The Song Company will offer a captivating program of old and new music at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong**. Superbloom refers to a truly Lenten theme—the abundant flowering of the desert after rare rains! Please come to enjoy music by Hildegard of Bingen and a new work by Guest Director Jane Sheldon which explores the contrast between the desert's dry season and the abundance ushered in by the rains. It will be a captivating journey inspired by nature's miracles.

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God ac-

quits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Transfigured Bodysouls

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

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