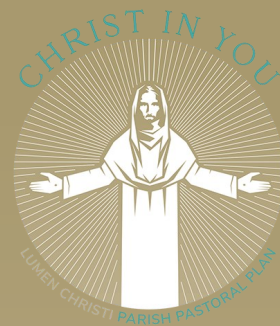


# HOLY FAMILY, B

31 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The child grew to maturity



## 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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## 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  
**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.



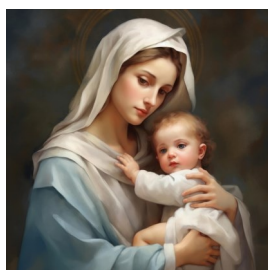
**LUMEN CHRISTI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Deceased members of the Gray Family.

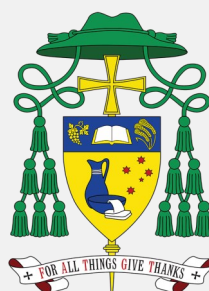
**PLEASE PRAY FOR  
OUR SICK PARISHIONERS ...**

Frank Caruso, Bishop Peter Ingham, Fr David Catterall, 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.



## MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Mass will be offered on Monday **1st**  
**January 2024, 9am** at St Francis  
Xavier Cathedral  
ALL ARE WELCOME!



# In our parish & around the diocese

## PARISH CALENDAR: DEC—FEB 2024

**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  
**Thu, 1 Feb:** Parish Lunch, Master Builders Club 12pm  
**Fri, 2 Feb:** Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, SFX 7am & 12.10pm  
**Sun, 4 Feb:** Hospitality weekend resumes  
**Tue, 6 Feb:** Mass of Anointing, SJV 9.30am  
**Sat, 24 Feb:** Mental Health, Xavier Centre 9.30am

## SACRAMENTS

- ♦ **Baptisms:** By appointment only. Baptism preparation session must be completed. Contact the parish office or book online [lumenchristi.org.au/baptism](https://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](https://youtube.com/massforyouathome)
- ♦ **Mass/Prayer Intentions:** [lumenchristi.org.au/intentions](https://lumenchristi.org.au/intentions)
- ♦ **Light a Votive Candle:** [lumenchristi.org.au/votive](https://lumenchristi.org.au/votive)
- ♦ **Census Form:** [lumenchristi.org.au/census](https://lumenchristi.org.au/census)
- ♦ **Online Donations:** [lumenchristi.org.au/donate](https://lumenchristi.org.au/donate)
- ♦ **Join Planned Giving:** [lumenchristi.org.au/support](https://lumenchristi.org.au/support)
- ♦ **Columbarium:** [lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium](https://lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium)
- ♦ **Sacramental Programme:** [lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental](https://lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental)
- ♦ **Privacy Policy:** [privacy.lumenchristi.org.au](https://privacy.lumenchristi.org.au)
- ♦ **St Brigid's School:** [sbgdow.catholic.edu.au](https://sbgdow.catholic.edu.au)
- ♦ **Good Samaritan School:** [gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au](https://gsfmdow.catholic.edu.au)

## PARISH EFT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

### CHURCH ACCOUNT

(Donations & Planned Giving)

**BSB:** 066 711 **Account:** 008056

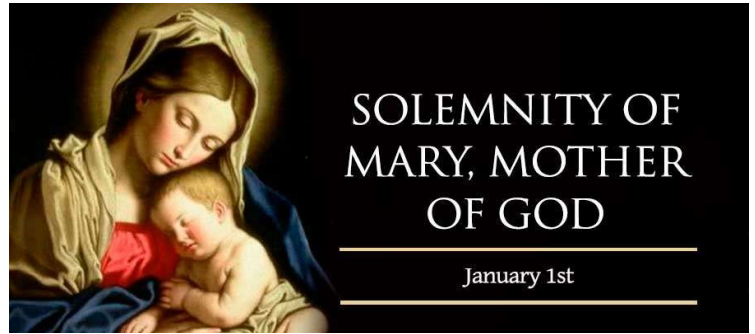
**Account Name:** Lumen Christi Parish

### PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT

(For the Clergy)

**BSB:** 066 711 **Account:** 002286

**Account Name:** Lumen Christi Parish Presbytery



## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday 1st January is the Octave Day of Christmas. Eight days ago we began with the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. Now we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a liturgical feast that looks at the identity of the Child born at Bethlehem through the prism of Mary's true motherhood.

The title Mother of God points to who Jesus is as the "light from light, true God from true God" and it indicates Mary's true relationship with him as his human mother. Jesus is truly the Son of the Most High and is also truly the Word made flesh who dwells among us. He dwelt in the heart and womb of Mary and so began his dwelling among us, his living with us.

One of the aspects of the mystery of Christ's living among us is his growth into maturity and wisdom. In his humanity Jesus grew in understanding through his experience of Mary, Joseph, his relations and friends, playmates and as he became an adult man, his workmates. From this wealth of experience of nature, life and other people he would later draw images and analogies that helped people understand the Kingdom of his Father. Jesus weaved in to his teaching and parables anything from the flowers of the field and the birds evoking God's providential care to images of good and careless workers who were open to the blessings of the kingdom or missed opportunities to receive those blessings.

One lesson we can learn from Jesus is to pay attention to our experience, remember and reflect on it, and see what it teaches us about our life and about our God.

As we begin this New Year of Grace with all its joys and challenges to come, I pray that like Jesus we will experience an ever deeper growth in maturity and wisdom. Christmas leads us back to the beginning of Jesus' life to renew us in our awareness that we begin in God's love. And as we celebrate Mary's Motherhood we are reminded that Jesus the Son of God truly shares our humanity through a beautiful mother. But as the Christmas season comes to its climax with the celebration of Jesus' Baptism and the beginning of his mission to preach the Father's kingdom, we are drawn to look forward with confidence to complete the work given to us in this New Year of Grace.

Fr Bernard

*For more information on bequests please visit: [lumenchristi.org.au/bequest](https://lumenchristi.org.au/bequest)*

# In our parish & around the diocese



Bishop Brian, Fr Bernard, Fr James, Fr John and Fr Anthony, Kevin and, the Lumen Christi staff wish all our parishioners and visitors a safe and Happy New Year.

Please join us for a new year cuppa after the **9am New Year's Day Mass** at St Francis Xavier Cathedral outside the Mgr John Rigney Room.



## AUSTRALIA DAY MASS

Mass will be offered on Australia Day at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral, 8am Friday 26th January 2024** followed by a cuppa and lamington after Mass.

All are welcome!

Please note that there will be no 7am & 12.10pm Mass at the Cathedral on Australia Day

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

An essential part of the Christmas mystery is giving to others that they may feel they are loved and appreciated. This is the spirituality of the Wise Men giving gifts to Christ!

It is also essential to thank those who give presents to us so they know the joy of gratitude. It will take me some time to individually thank everyone who has given me a Christmas gift, so for the moment may I thank everyone through this bulletin for the kind messages, beautiful cards and gifts that you have given me. You are a great and beautiful parish and it is a joy for me to serve in your parish community as a priest.

Thank you moreover for all you have done for our parish and wider community during 2023. When you think of all the ministries — help for the needy, welcoming of visitors, teaching in schools, the giving for various appeals, and so much more — it adds up to a great deal of good deeds, love and service. Thank you for everything.

As we enter the New Year, may our hearts be full of gratitude for blessings received, forgiveness for faults and offences, and firm hope as we face the challenges of the future.

God bless you all abundantly.

Fr Bernard

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### The Liberation of Women

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

## PASTORAL COUNCIL

A big Thank You to Alice O'Conner (Member of the Pastoral Council) and Louise Macdonald (Co-Chair) who have stepped down from the Pastoral Council after completing over 4 years on the Pastoral Council. Alice and Louise have been dedicated members of the Pastoral Council and on behalf of the parish I acknowledge with appreciation the time, effort, and passion they have invested in fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for our parish community.

A big thank you to Sergio Ambrosi who has stepped in as the role of Co-Chair of the Pastoral Council for 2024. New pastoral council members will be appointed in the coming year to serve on the Pastoral Council.

Fr Bernard

## KNEELER APPEAL

As a parish we have contributed wonderfully to providing comfort for worshippers' knees at Gwynneville and Fairy Meadow. It would be great to finish this work for the parishioners of Mater Dolorosa as we move into the New Year. You can donate by:

- \* completing a pledge form online at:

[www.lumenchristi.org.au/kneelers](http://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.

**Mater Dolorosa — \$14, 678 to Go!**

*For more information on our Columbarium please visit: [lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium](http://lumenchristi.org.au/columbarium)*

### Entrance Antiphon

Luke 2:16

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

### First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis

*Your own son shall be your heir.*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)
2. Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. (R.)
3. Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

### Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your

name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

### Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us though his Son.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,  
you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

### Communion Antiphon

Baruch 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

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