



LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH

Share the **GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

17 MAY 2026

ASCENSION OF THE LORD, A

Liturgy schedule in our parish

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL

36 Harbour Street, 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

1 Cabbage Tree Lane, Fairy Meadow

Tuesday: Mass: 9.30am
 Sunday: Mass: 8.30am, 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH,

47 Balmoral Road, Balgownie

Sunday: Mass: 10am
 Children's Liturgy (3rd Sunday)

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

119 Gipps Road, Gwynneville

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



SUPPORT
OUR PARISH

Parish Centre

PARISH OFFICE

36 Harbour St, (P.O. Box 874)
Wollongong NSW 2500

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.30am — 2.00pm
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)

CONTACT US

02 4211 0500

wollongong@dow.org.au

lumenchristi.org.au

linktr.ee/lumenchristiparish



MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE...

Fr John Pickering, Mary Kane, Secondo Mancini.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...

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

*"All authority in
heaven and on
earth has been
given to me."*

— Matthew 28:18



OUR

Sacraments

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 Peoples.



Welcome to **LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH**

Parish Calendar

- Tue, 19 May: GSFM Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates
Tue, 19 May: GSFM Year 6 Parish Mass Attendance
Tue, 19 May: GSFM Retreat Day for Confirmation
Tue, 19 May: Finance Council Meeting, Rigney Room 5pm
Wed, 20 May: Baptism Class, SFX 7pm
Thu, 21 May: SBG Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates
Thu, 21 May: SBG Year 6 Parish Mass Attendance
Thu, 21 May: SBG Retreat Day for Confirmation
Thu, 21 May: State/Private Confirmation Session 4, SFX 3.45pm
Sat, 23 May: Confirmation, St Brigid's Church, Gwynneville 5.30pm

Cathedral Exterior Renewal Project – Update #3

We are pleased to advise that the Cathedral Exterior Renewal Project has approved for eligibility under an heritage appeal framework, allowing for tax-deductible donations through the National Trust of Australia (NSW) (for approved items within the scope of works).

We are moving into the next stage of this important project, undertaken in collaboration with the Diocese and relevant heritage bodies.

Thank you to Debbie Gates, Director of Development & Community Engagement and a member of the Project Control Group (PCG), for her support in progressing this initiative.

If you are interested in registering as a donor towards the Cathedral Exterior Renewal Project, please visit: www.lumenchristi.org.au/sfx2026

Further information will be provided to the parish in the coming weeks, including details on how you can be involved.

Thank you for your generosity and helping to renew our Cathedral in preparation for our Diocesan Anniversary, the Eucharistic Congress and for future generations.

Fr Bernard

Ageing with Confidence

Join CatholicCare for this free community event exploring ageing well with dignity, confidence and connection. Learn more about ageism, navigating aged care systems, local supports and practical ways to remain independent at home and in the community.

Guest speaker Dr Emily Steel from the Australian Human Rights Commission will share insights on ageism, healthcare and human rights.

Date: **9 June 2026 at Time: 9am – 1pm at The Fraternity Club,**
11 Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Registration is essential.

Enquiries to Jane Hollier 0417 018 152 or
janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au

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

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 Public/Private
Phone: 0475 815 506



Pastoral Council Key Updates

- Sarina Crocco has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. In this role, Sarina will work closely with Kathy Uroda, Chair, to support the leadership, coordination, and mission of the Council, assisting in guiding the pastoral life and direction of the parish.
- The Council acknowledged the value of current initiatives while noting the need for careful planning, formation, and long-term sustainability across parish ministries.
- Parishioner attendance has increased in our parish, as reflected in the most recent count conducted in week .
- At Good Samaritan School, Fairy Meadow, the refurbishment of the double-storey red brick building is well underway. The redevelopment will include contemporary classrooms and a specialist setting for children on the autism spectrum and those with diagnosed intellectual disabilities.
- St Brigid's School, Gwynneville, has made enhancements to its playground, including new planter boxes, a fairy garden, olive trees, lavender, a sand play station, and new toss ball towers.
- Kindergarten 2027 enrolments at St Brigid's School have shown very strong interest, with 58 applications received.
- The parish and schools continue to be recognised as important opportunities to deepen the sacramental life of students and strengthen the relationship between parish and school communities.

Caritas Australia Project Compassion 2026

The total amount collected across Lumen Christi Parish for Caritas Australia Project Compassion 2026 was **\$9,925**. We sincerely thank our parishioners and visitors for your generous support of Caritas Australia and its important humanitarian and outreach work supporting vulnerable communities throughout the world.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal will take place across Lumen Christi Parish (for all three conferences) on the weekend of **13–14 June** 2026.

Clergy Inservice 26–28 May 2026

The priests of the Diocese of Wollongong will attend the annual Clergy Inservice in Campbelltown from Tuesday 26 May to Thursday 28 May 2026.

Please note there will **NO MASSES** at:

- **St John Vianney Co-Cathedral on Tuesday 26 May 2026**
- **St Brigid's Church on Thursday 28 May 2026**

Mass and Reconciliation will be offered at the normal times by Fr Anthony Ha at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral** during this time.

National Count of Attendance

This weekend we are in the third week of the 2026 National Count of Attendance for Catholic Mass in Australia. Next weekend, parishioners will also be asked to participate in the age-based attendance count as part of the national data collection requested by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

We thank you for your assistance and cooperation with this important initiative for the Church in Australia.

Planned Giving 2026/2027

The present Planned Giving Program envelopes are due to finish in June. The new set of envelopes have been issued to envelope givers. If you would like to be a planned giver, fill in the form below and place it in the collection plate or collection boxes, email the parish centre (**Wollongong@dow.org.au**) or see Leanne at the office. Thank you for your ongoing support of our parish.

PLANNED GIVING REQUEST FORM:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please tick your preference of giving

Envelopes Direct Debit Credit Card EFT

lumenchristi.org.au/support



THIS WEEK'S

Readings & Commentary

Entrance Antiphon

Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus
has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Where is the Body?

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century – until now! But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone. But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills all creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity. However, dis-appearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the Church which is His Body'. That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?' The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do.

We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

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