



LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH



SUPPORT
OUR PARISH

Share the GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

26 JULY 2026

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME , 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

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...

James Joyce, Sheila McNamara, Christine Polestico, Therese Joseph, Ashleigh Muirhead.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...

Duc Trong Nguyen, Maureen Harrison, Lorraine Cook, 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.

*"Mary has
chosen the better
part, which will
not be taken
away from her."*

— Luke 10:42

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.



OUR

Sacraments

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEB PORTAL



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 Office Coordinator

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



Welcome To **LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH**

Parish Calendar

Sun, 26 Jul: Grandparents Day

Sun, 02 Aug: Catechist drive weekend 2025

Sun, 02 Aug: Hospitality weekend

Mon, 03 Aug: Fairy Meadow CWL Meeting, MDB 2pm

Tue, 04 Aug: Feast of St John Vianney, School Mass, SJV 9.30am

Tue, 04 Aug: Finance Council Meeting, Rigney Room 5pm

Wed, 05 Aug: Anniversary of the Dedication of Co-Cathedral (2011)

Wed, 05 Aug: Pastoral Council Meeting, Rigney Room 5pm

Thu, 06 Aug: Transfiguration

Thu, 06 Aug: Parish Lunch, The Builders Club Wollongong 12pm

Grandparents Day

Grandparents hold a unique and treasured place in this mission. They are often the quiet witnesses of faith who teach us to pray, encourage us to trust in God during difficult times, and remind us through their example that a life centred on Christ is a life filled with hope. Their wisdom, patience and unconditional love are among God's greatest gifts to our families.

Pope Francis often spoke of grandparents as the "living memory" of the Church, reminding us that they help preserve our faith, our values and our family stories. Many of us can recall a grandparent who first taught us the Sign of the Cross, prayed the Rosary with us, took us to Mass, or simply showed us what it means to live the Gospel through kindness, generosity and forgiveness.

Here at Lumen Christi Parish, we are blessed by the countless grandparents who enrich the life of our community. Through your faithful presence at Mass, your commitment to prayer, your service in parish ministries and the love you continue to pour into your families, you are helping to build a living Church where faith is passed from generation to generation.

On this Grandparents Day, I offer my thanks to every grandparent in our parish. Thank you for your sacrifices, your steadfast faith, your encouragement and your love. Your witness is a blessing to your families, our parish and the wider community.

May the Lord continue to bless you with good health, peace and joy. May He strengthen you with His grace, surround you with the love of your families, and reward your faithfulness with the assurance that the seeds of faith you have planted will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

Happy Grandparents Day, and thank you for being such a cherished part of the Lumen Christi Parish family.

Fr Bernard



Mass for St John Vianney – 4 August

The students and staff of Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School will celebrate the Feast of St John Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests, with Mass at **9.30am on Tuesday, 4 August**, at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow.

All parishioners are warmly invited to join the school community for this special celebration as we give thanks for the life and witness of St John Vianney and pray for our priests and for vocations to the priesthood.

Clergy Retreat 17-21 August

Please note that the Diocesan Clergy Retreat will take place from 17 August to 21 August 2026.

As many of our priests will be attending the retreat, there will be the following changes to weekday Masses:

No Mass at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow on Tuesday, 18 August at 9.30am.

No Mass at St Brigid's Church, Gwynneville on Thursday, 20 August at 9.30am.

All weekday Masses at St Francis Xavier Cathedral will continue as normal.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Enrolments are now open for the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Program. To enrol your child and view the program information, please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental

Couples Preparing for Marriage

Are you preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage? Fr Bernard Gordon and the Lumen Christi Parish community warmly invite you to a special Mass for Couples Preparing for Marriage at **St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong** on **Sunday, 30 August 2026** at **10.30am**. Whether you are being married at Lumen Christi Parish or elsewhere, you are most welcome to attend. During the Mass, we will pray for all engaged couples as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Please confirm your attendance to by visiting: lumenchristi.org.au/rsvp

We look forward to welcoming and praying with you. May God continue to bless your journey together.

Parish Renewal Is Happening

One of the greatest blessings in our parish today is that parish renewal is not just something we talk about—it is something we are living.

Our Lumen Christi Parish Pastoral Plan – Christ in You is much more than a document. It is a roadmap for how we are called to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through Community Life, Worship, Mission, Stewardship and Parish Support.

On average, each weekend more than 1,200 people gather across our four churches to celebrate the Eucharist. Among them are many new parishioners and visitors who have chosen to make Lumen Christi Parish their spiritual home. This growth is a wonderful blessing, but it also presents us with an invitation.

Perhaps, it can be easy to attend Mass, pray, and return home without ever really meeting the person sitting beside us. Yet parish renewal begins with the simplest acts of Christian hospitality. A warm smile. A friendly "hello". Learning someone's name. Inviting a new parishioner to join you for a cup of coffee after Mass or encouraging them to become involved in parish life. These small gestures can become life-changing moments of welcome and belonging.

We are already seeing the fruits of this renewal. One wonderful example is the Children's Liturgy at Mater Dolorosa Church, Balgownie, which continues to flourish and nurture the faith of our youngest parishioners. I sincerely thank Kerrie Guillaume and her dedicated team for their generosity, enthusiasm and commitment. Through their ministry, children and families are encountering Christ in a welcoming and joyful way, strengthening both our parish community and the faith of future generations. St Paul reminds us that Christ is among us and he is the hope of glory (see Colossians 1:27). The renewal of our parish does not depend on buildings, committees or programmes alone. It begins in each of us as we allow Christ to shine through our words, our welcome and our witness.

As we continue to grow together, let us remember that every new face at Mass is someone Christ has brought into our community. May each of us take the opportunity to extend a hand of friendship and ensure that everyone who walks through our doors truly feels that they have arrived home at Lumen Christi Parish.

Fr Bernard



THIS WEEK'S *Readings & Commentary*

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place,

God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Language of Heaven

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is St John Henry Newman's image of Hell.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There would be lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell. That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God. We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven. Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia, was ordained in May 2000, and was a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart until his death in June 2026.

