LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH

Share the GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

8 NOVEMBER 2026

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, A

SUPPORT OUR PARISH

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...
In this month of November, we commend all our departed relatives, friend and benefactors to God's eternal mercy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...
Denis Bristow, Margaret Mascord, Maria Hubbard, Daniel Caruana, Duc Trong Nguyen, Maureen Harrison, Jacek McLaurin, Angela Mosley, Brian Mattock, Jim Lyon, Teresa George, Chiara Sirianni, Joyce Milan, Noel Meddows, Matthew Johnson, Pat Carr, John Gauci, Joseph Scalia, Liesl Caibal, John Wise.

*"Let us keep the **light** of **faith burning brightly**, preparing our hearts with **wisdom** and **hope** for the coming of the **Lord.**"*

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.





WE ARE CALLED TO REVEAL THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD.



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us through the parable of the ten bridesmaids to keep the light of faith burning brightly and to be ready to welcome Him into our lives.

As I reflect on this message, I am reminded of the wonderful gift of people within our Lumen Christi Parish. I sincerely thank all our parishioners who generously give their time, talents and energy to the life of our community. Your kindness, faith and dedication help keep the light of Christ alive among us. If you are able to assist with ministries on page 3 please contact the parish office.

As your Parish Priest, I have continued to grow and learn from you. Your faith, friendship and experiences have enriched my own priesthood, and for this I am truly grateful. I hope that my homilies have also offered you moments of reflection and inspiration as we journey together in understanding the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

May we continue to support one another, sharing our gifts and keeping the light of Christ shining brightly in our parish.

Fr B!



Understanding the Mass

Part 5 The Collect

What happens when the priest says, "Let us pray"?

After the introductory rites, the priest invites us: "Let us pray."

A brief silence follows. This is important. It gives each of us an opportunity to become aware that we are in God's presence and to bring our own intentions before the Lord.

The priest then prays the Collect. It is called the "Collect" because it seeks to gather or "collect" us as one praying community in the Lord Jesus and dispose us to present our prayers as the assembled priestly people of God. When we respond "Amen," we make that prayer our own.

The Collect often expresses a theme of the day or the liturgical season. Its words may ask for courage, charity, perseverance or a deeper understanding of God's gifts. Listening carefully can help us carry the prayer into the rest of Mass and into the week ahead.

The silence after "Let us pray" is therefore a real invitation, rather than a pause while we wait for the priest. We can place a person, a concern or a hope before God or we can leave our hearts open and waiting for the Lord's grace and light. Our personal intentions become part of the shared prayer of the assembled Church.

Parish Information

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

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Emergency Calls: 0475 815 506
(Wollongong Public/Private)

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

Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections

Presence Advent and Christmas books are available from the parish centre for just $3 each.

Volunteers Needed

Our parish is blessed with many dedicated volunteers who generously share their time and talents to support our churches and parish community. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- **Sunday Morning Tea & Hospitality:** Helping prepare and serve morning tea following the 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on the first Sunday of each month. A wonderful opportunity to bring parishioners together in friendship and fellowship.

- **Data Projector Operators:** Assisting with the display of hymns, prayers and Mass responses during weekend Masses, particularly at the 8:30am Sunday Mass at St John Vianney Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow.

- **Sunday Collection Volunteers:** Helping with the collection of offerings during weekend Masses across our four parish churches.

Could You Spare a Little Time?

Volunteering is a meaningful way to serve God, support your fellow parishioners and contribute to the life of our Church. Whether you can assist once a month, occasionally or on a regular basis, every contribution is valued.

To volunteer or find out more, please contact the Lumen Christi Parish Office on (02) 4211 0500 or email **wollongong@dow.org.au**

Cathedral Restoration Works – Important Access Notice

Please be advised that restoration works have now commenced at the front entrance of St Francis Xavier Cathedral.

During this period, parishioners and visitors are kindly asked to use either the **northern side entrance** or the **southern side door** when entering and exiting the Cathedral.

Please be mindful of construction activities, temporary barriers currently in place.

We thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we continue these important restoration works to preserve our beautiful Cathedral.

imperative applies to us also: Be alert, be vigilant. Be prepared for the eruption, the intervention of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, into our history, into our moment of time.
For example, is Christ coming to meet us in the modern movements which demand to hold authority accountable, or which press for just recognition of women? We can foolishly remain in the dark or we can wisely try to throw light on these questions. Only then we will be able to discern whether indeed it is the Lord who is approaching.
We could pause to pray that we be ready when the Bridegroom responds to the ancient prayer: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

November Masses – Book of Remembrance

November Mass envelopes are available from our churches. Please write the names of those you wish to have remembered and return your envelope on the collection plate, to the parish office or drop it into the collection boxes at the doors of our churches.

You can also submit your November Mass intentions online at: **lumenchristi.org.au/novembermass**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Aid to the Church in Need – Special Mass

On Friday, 13 November 2026, at 12:10pm, Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong, will be offered in support of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), an international Catholic charity dedicated to supporting Christians who face persecution, poverty and hardship because of their faith.

We invite all parishioners to join us in prayer for suffering Christians around the world, particularly those living in areas of conflict and religious persecution. Together, let us pray for peace, religious freedom and hope for those in need.

Diocese of Wollongong Diamond Jubilee – Opening Mass

A reminder that all parishioners are warmly invited to attend the Opening Mass of the Diocese of Wollongong's Diamond Jubilee, celebrating 75 years of faith and service.

Bishop Brian Mascord will celebrate Mass on **Saturday 14 November 2026** at **11:30am** at **St John Vianney Co-Cathedral**, **Fairy Meadow**, joined by clergy, religious and parishioners from across the Diocese.

Please note: There will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Francis Xavier Cathedral on Saturday 14 November 2026 due to the Diamond Jubilee Opening Mass.

Children's Liturgy - 15 November

We warmly invite all children to join our Children's Liturgy of the Word, where they can discover and celebrate the Gospel in a fun, engaging and age-appropriate way. A wonderful opportunity for our younger parishioners to grow in faith and friendship with Jesus.

When: 3rd Sunday of each month at 10am Mass

Where: Mater Dolorosa Church, Balgownie.

THIS WEEK'S Calendar Readings & Commentary

The Parish Calendar

Tue, 10 Nov: GSFM Year 3 Parish Mass Attendance
Reconciliation after Mass, 9.30am SJV
GSFM Retreat Day

Wed, 11 Nov: Pastoral Council Meeting, Rigney Room 5pm
Wollongong CWL Meeting, Xavier Ctr 10am

Thu, 12 Nov: SBG Year 3 Parish Mass Attendance
SBG Reconciliation for Candidates after 9.30am Mass
SBG Retreat Day
Sacramental Program Session 3, SFX 3.45pm

Fri, 13 Nov: Good Samaritan, Feast of All Benedictine Feast
Aid to the Church in Need Mass, SFX 12.10pm

Entrance Antiphon
Cf Psalm 87:3
Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading
Wisdom 6:12-16
A reading from the book of Wisdom
Wisdom is found by those who look for it.
Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2
(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.
We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation
Matthew 24:42. 44
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 25:1-13
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.
Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Communion Antiphon
Cf Psalm 22:1-2
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
The Hour and the Time
Israel was often portrayed as a bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the question was: 'When would the Bridegroom – the Anointed One of God, the Christ – appear?' Jesus' warning is to the attendants of the bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared.' Some (the five foolish attendants) did miss the moment: the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.
But his warning is also for the Catholic Church which is the new Bride of Christ. We are the attendants to the Bride and the

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