



International Eucharistic Congress 2028

“This is My Body, Given for You.”

Launch this Weekend:

The International Eucharistic Congress Sydney 2028 (Eucharist28) officially launches this Sunday, 1 March, marking the start of a Year of Prayer to encounter Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The theme of the Congress is:
“This is My Body, Given for You.”

Diocese of Wollongong parishes — along with all Australian parishes — are encouraged to host a Holy Hour after Mass this Sunday, 1 March, to join in this important moment of prayer and preparation.

Our Parish will have a holy hour of Adoration commencing at 6pm immediately after the 5pm Mass today.

Visit eucharist28.org for more information about the Congress, resources, and inspiration for your parish Holy Hour. Let's make this weekend a powerful start to our Year of Prayer!

What to expect: The Congress offers a rich spiritual and cultural program designed to inspire, uplift, and unite. Pilgrims will have the opportunity to enter into moving Eucharistic celebrations and moments of communal prayer, inspiring catechesis and keynote sessions, and exhibitions and opportunities for encounter. Eucharist28 is for the whole church! There will be youth and family activities, as well as cultural performances and artistic expressions of faith, ensuring the event is a moving pilgrimage experience for all who join this journey.

The International Eucharistic Congress will bring pilgrims together in Sydney in 2028. Hosted at a world-class venue in the heart of the city, the event's schedule will offer a rich program of worship, reflection, and cultural experiences.

A detailed program of liturgies, catechesis, cultural events, and community gatherings will be published closer to the event. Stay tuned for updates.

Ordination to the Diaconate of Stuart Lake

Congratulations to our new Deacon Stuart Lake who was ordained by Bishop Brian Mascord yesterday.

Stuart and his wife Judy have been members of our parish for many years. Stuart has undergone extensive preparation for his vocation. We are very pleased that he has chosen to minister in our parish and Stuart is also working in our parish office.

As a Deacon, Stuart may proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily and is an ordinary minister of Holy Communion and may give directions to the assembly.

He can baptise, assist at weddings and funerals and give certain blessings. A Deacon is not permitted to ‘celebrate Mass’, hear confessions or anoint the sick, that is reserved for ordained priests.



1 March 2026

Second Sunday of Lent
Year A

Entrance Antiphon

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 from the
book of Genesis 12:1-4

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R.
v.22

Response: Lord, let your
mercy be on us, as we
place our trust in you.

Second Reading

from the second letter of
St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel Acclamation

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!

Holy Gospel according
to Matthew 17:1-9

Communion Antiphon

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

The
*Season
of
Lent*



Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass:

1st Sunday at 12 noon

Maori Mass:

1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Weekday Mass

9am each day except Thursday;

Thursday at 7.30pm

Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

Devotions & Prayer groups

Adoration with the Rosary:

Saturday at 9.30am

Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass

& devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion:

3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm

Faith Circles:

every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom

Holy Family Fellowship:

every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club:

meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Friendship Group:

is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Bible Study & Reflection

Group: meets Monday at 10am.

Children's Ministry

Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Ascent Youth Ministry:

meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.

Parish Notices

Friendship Group on Tuesday 3 March after the 9am Mass. The theme in March is St Patrick day. Please bring a plate to share and wear something green. For more information please contact the Parish Office.

Car and Bike Show on Saturday 14 March from 8am is a fundraising and evangelising event for the parish and I encourage you to come along and bring your family & friends to be a part of the fun. Our fundraising team are also reaching out for some assistance on the day.

Please sign up to help us with any of the listed activities:

Help with the traffic wardens: We need 10 people to be at the college gates and the parish gates throughout the morning.

Assistance with setting up on Friday from 4pm and Saturday from 6am and also cleaning up on Saturday afternoon.

We need 10 people to serve at each the cake stall and on the bbq to cook and serve. We are also accepting donations of cakes and sweet treats, soft drinks, sausages, bacon sauces, serviettes, etc

The Parish information and welcome team requires helpers to engage with our visitors about upcoming parish activities and invite them to join in. It will be an opportunity for our ministries to reach out beyond the parish.

Also there will be an opportunity for your ministry to set up a stall for something such as facepainting or religious sales.

If we have enough helpers, we can set up teams of about 2 hours each, so everyone can also enjoy the exhibits on the day.

To commit to help on the day, please call the parish on 0434 705 176.

The next Fundraising team meeting is on Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm

Lenten Reflection Groups; Continuing all through Lent, there will be a lenten reflection group meeting on Monday at 10am and Tuesday at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join.

Lenten reflection booklets "Compassio" are available to purchase for \$7 each. There is also a cd and digital recording of the reflections available by calling the parish office.

Our Pastoral Care Team visit people who cannot attend Mass any longer due to ill health and age. If you know anyone who would like to have a home visit and Holy Communion please call the parish office and submit the persons contact information.

Grief and Loss Support Group commencing Tuesday 10 March at 10am. Our Pastoral Care team and Grief Care are commencing a support group and hope to continue on a monthly basis for people who have experienced grief and loss in their lives and who would like an opportunity to connect with others in a gentle environment. **Please come along at 10am till 12 on Tuesday 10 March.**

Ascent Youth Group "Ever felt like you were alone in your faith? Have questions about God & life? Come along to ASCENT Youth, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall! All young people aged 12–17 are invited to a fun and faith-filled evening with games, food, friendship and opportunities to grow together and explore life's big questions. Bring a friend and help us kick off 2026!

Food Sponsors: Our Parish Youth Group, Ascent Youth, is looking for parishioners to help sponsor dinner for their gatherings every 2nd and 4th Friday. As a food sponsor, you are welcome to cook, buy something for us to cook or provide a donation of \$60 for us to purchase food. You will be rostered approx 2-3 times a year and will be helping provide food for about 15 young people. Thank you to our generous existing sponsors who have helped in the past. Contact the Parish if you can join the team.

Enrolments Year 7 2027: Mount Carmel Catholic College Information Night will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2026 commencing at 6.00 pm with tours of the school followed by a presentation in the Champagnat Centre at 7.00 pm. Expressions of interest to attend the evening can be made via the online portal using this [link](#). We encourage parents to attend the evening prior to completing an enrolment application.

Loving Well Program – Supporting Healthy Relationships CatholicCare is offering Loving Well, a new FREE four session pilot program for anyone who has experienced relationship change and is seeking guidance, healing, & healthier ways of relating moving forward. Rooted in compassion and personal growth, the program explores understanding relationship patterns, building self awareness, navigating life’s changes, and fostering positive, healthy connections with others. Participants will also receive a small wellness pack and be entered into a draw for a \$50 movie voucher. To learn more or register, please visit CatholicCare: <https://tinyurl.com/392tswzb>

FORMATION OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISHES - Welcome & Hospitality

This session on Hospitality is for members of your Welcome and Hospitality teams, parishioners, and parish leaders — anyone who wants to help shape a parish where people feel safe, expected, and able to belong. Together we’ll explore how the experience someone has — from the car park to the pew to the coffee table — shapes what they believe about your parish, and whether they return.

You’ll leave with:

- Practical tools you can apply immediately at Mass and parish events;
- A simple framework for forming the right beliefs in guests & in our parish community
- Greater confidence in creating welcoming, dignified interactions
- A shared vision for how we can build a culture of belonging together
- if you care about the future of your parish, this is not a night to miss.
- **CAMPBELLTOWN** Tuesday 3 March 7-9pm
- **WOLLONGONG & ZOOM** Wednesday 4 March 7-9pm

To register: dow.sh/fpmar2026

Summit Night- an evening with Dr Robert Haddad Young adults of the diocese (18+) are invited to the first Summit Night for 2026 - an inspiring evening of truth, formation, and community featuring Catholic author and apologist Dr Robert Haddad. Join us on Saturday 21 March, 6pm–9:00pm at the Xavier Conference Centre (next to Wollongong Cathedral) for The Eucharist- The Medicine of Immortality.

Using his book, The Medicine of Immortality: The Eucharist in the pre Nicene Church Fathers, our speaker will give us some insights into what the Church Fathers had to say, why the Eucharist is indeed so central in our Church history. The evening includes a wine & cheese reception, Dr Haddad & keynote, Eucharistic Adoration, Q & A and expo of some of our local ministries. Free event (donations are welcome), but registration is essential. Register here: dow.sh/SummitEucharist. Follow @CYMDOW on socials for more details

What’s on around the Diocese? Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses—too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected about what’s happening around our Diocese!

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound:

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Leoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdryns, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic,

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently departed
Shirley Wrightman

Anniversaries that occur at this time

Rita Carmel Lopresti, Anne Migus, Hilda Young, Mark Thompson

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Rosters

8 March 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Gabriel & Myra	Bianca, Antony & Laura	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah & Arland	Orly	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Louis & Candice	Martin & Tess	Fev & Madonna
Refreshments	Tracey & Richard	Samoan Choir Community	Margaret, Geoff & Danni
Altar Linen	Sr Jill	CLOTW: Lee & Princy	
Flowers	Jeanne & Jessica	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	Margaret & Jeanne	Church Foyer	Parish Office



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
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Holy Gospel according Matthew 17: 1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.



As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Reflection : Project Compassion

Sisilia, Tanzania

Sisilia, a 13-year-old from remote northern Tanzania, faced immense challenges including poverty, unsafe water and poor sanitation. After her father passed away, she supported her mother by fetching water three times a day, often through unsafe and exhausting conditions that left little time for study. With support from the A+ Successor Project, clean water taps have been installed at her school and her village, easing her burden and improving health across the community.

Through SWASH (School Water Sanitation and Hygiene) Club, Sisilia has become a leader, teaching her peers and parents about hygiene and sanitation. With the time saved from collecting water, Sisilia hopes to fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.

We all need a vision. Long ago, the Book of Proverbs told us that 'where there is no vision, the people perish.' When we look at the world around us, with so many wars, so much violence, such widespread hardship and numerous groups of people putting up walls against each other, we might wonder where the real leaders are to be found. On the world stage, Pope Leo XIV often seems like a lone voice for peace, justice and sanity. He points a direction based on his deep encounter with God.

Perhaps we find vision in the less well-known stories of ordinary people, some of whom we may know. This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of young Sisilia who lives in a remote part of northern Tanzania. Her father died when she was young, and her family has faced enormous difficulty. 'Life is hard,' she says as an understatement. Your help has enabled her village to gain access to a reliable supply of safe water. What has this got to do with education? The time that Sisilia spent walking three times a day for water was having a major impact on her schooling. She now has a vision for life, one she shares with her community.

In today's readings, we hear about vision. In the book of Genesis, Abram leaves his country, his family and his father's house. He may not know quite what will happen, but he puts his faith in a call that will lead to life and abundance. He does not have a map, but he does have a vision.

We hear in the Gospel that Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain. His face shone like the sun and became 'as white as the light.' A voice from heaven said, 'this is my beloved son; listen to him.' Peter said how wonderful it was to be there, and he wanted to build a tent so they could stay. But vision is always on the move and Jesus knew that he and his friends had a hard road ahead. The transfiguration may have only lasted a few minutes, but it was clear that Jesus' friends never forgot it. Every year, we hear this story near the start of Lent because we, too, need to be inspired.

During Lent, we are also called to transfigure the world, to make a difference by uniting against poverty.

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