

# 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, B

24 DECEMBER 2023

## PARISH VISION

We are called to reveal the Light of Christ to the world



## 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.



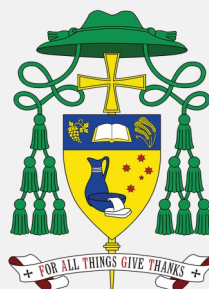
**LUMEN CHRISTI**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Margaret & Paul Gray, Secondo Mancini, Cham Dinh & Maria Trinh.

## 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.



# In our parish & around the diocese

## PARISH CALENDAR: DEC 2023—FEB 2024

Sun, 24 Dec: Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year B  
Sun, 24 Dec: Christmas Eve Masses (see schedule)  
Mon, 25 Dec: Christmas Day Masses (see schedule)  
Tue, 26 Dec: St Stephen (see schedule)  
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  
Fri, 2 Feb: Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas, SFX 7am & 12.10pm

## SACRAMENTS

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



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Eve, Holy Day of Obligation

#### Sunday 24th December

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

Fairy Meadow: Mass 6pm

Wollongong: Mass 7pm & Midnight

### Christmas Day, Holy Day of Obligation,

#### Monday 25th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

Gwynneville: Mass 9am

Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

#### Tuesday 26th December, St Stephen

Wollongong: Mass 8am

#### Wednesday 27th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, Reconciliation 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm

#### Thursday 28th December

Wollongong: 7am

#### Friday 29th December

Wollongong: Mass 7am, Reconciliation 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm

#### Saturday 30th December, Holy Family

Wollongong: Reconciliation 11am –12pm

Gwynneville: Mass 5.30pm

#### Sunday 31st December, Holy Family

Wollongong: Mass 7am & 10.30am

Gwynneville: Mass 9am & 5pm (relocated due to New Year's Eve Celebrations on the Harbour)

Fairy Meadow: Mass 8.30am

Balgownie: Mass 10am

#### Monday 1st January 2024, Mary Mother of God

Wollongong: Mass 9am

Normal Mass times resumes Tuesday 2nd January 2023

The parish office will be closed on public holidays.

## CHRISTMAS WELCOME

Every year our churches are full to overflowing with both regular parishioners and visitors. We pride ourselves in being a parish of hospitality and welcome. Christmas is a grace-filled opportunity for many people to connect with parish life and with our Church. Let's welcome everyone with a warm Christmas greeting.

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

# In our parish & around the diocese

## THANKS FROM KEVIN GALEA



As we approach the end of another year, your heartfelt and warm messages of good will and appreciation for our work resonates deeply with our parish community. The thriving and growing nature of our parish community is indeed a testament to the unwavering support, dedication, and faith of each parishioner and visitor. It is heartening to see the diverse ways in which

individuals have contributed their time, talents, and resources, making our parish a welcoming haven of worship. A special note of appreciation goes out to Fr Bernard for his steadfast support, even from afar in Ireland. His commitment has undoubtedly played a significant role in the strengthening of our community. Likewise, the consistent and invaluable support from Bishop Brian, Fr James, and Fr John has been a guiding force that we are truly grateful for. The contributions of Leanne and Trish in the office have not gone unnoticed, and their patience and understanding have been invaluable in keeping the gears of our parish turning smoothly.

My sincere thanks extends to our parish school principals, Kathy Uroda and Toni Sillis, for their ongoing dedication. I wish Toni Sillis well in her new role next year, confident that her commitment will continue to make a positive impact.

May the coming year bring abundance and blessings to each parishioner of our parish community. I wish you all Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Kevin Galea, GM

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

### - THE KNEES OF SO MANY ARE HAPPY -

A huge thank you to all those who have given so generously for the kneeler pads in the churches at Gwynneville and Fairy Meadow! Lumen Christi has so many wonderful caring people. We have only Mater Dolorosa to go. Please give to provide comfort for our parishioners and visiting worshippers, families and friends. 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 — \$15, 588 to Go!**

over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'



## APPRECIATION AND THANKS!

We extend our sincere gratitude to E & J CASSANEGO BUILDERS and Pardy Aluminium Supplies for their support towards the creation of the new outdoor nativity at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Their generosity has not only enriched the visual appeal of our Cathedral but has also added a spiritual touch to our community.

It is through the support of businesses that we are able to enhance our sacred spaces and create a warm and welcoming place for all.

## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE—NEIL DWYER

A special thank you to Mr Neil Dwyer for his exceptional 15 years of service as a Volunteer Archivist. Neil's dedication, passion, and hard work have significantly contributed to the research and articles. Thank you Neil, for your tireless work and dedication to our Lumen Christi Parish.

Fr Bernard

## CWL FAIRY MEADOW—RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of Fairy Meadow CWL Christmas Raffle are **Mary Dowler** and **Quynh Vu**. Our thanks to parishioners for their generous support which enables us to support our chosen charities which include the St Vincent de Paul Society.

## WRAPPED WITH LOVE (WWL)

A **HUGE** thank you to everyone that has knitted, crocheted, donated wool or money to buy wool to WWL this year. Through your generosity I have taken 142 wraps to the warehouse in Alexandria. A container load of wraps left Sydney last week going to Syria. If you would like to help please contact me. Karen Fitzgerald 043 130 458.

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



### Entrance Antiphon

**Cf Isaiah 45:8**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### First Reading

**2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2**

**(R.)** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Romans 16:25-27**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them

to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Luke 1:26-38**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

### Communion Antiphon

**Isaiah 7:14**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

### REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

#### 'Spirit Hovering'

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfolded, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers

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