



SAINT JOHN  
the Evangelist  
CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO

# St John the Evangelist Parish Dapto

## *A Living Community*

1st Sunday of Advent

3 December 2023

Welcome to St John's

*Come in and sit down, relax, don't stress. I welcome you to our beautiful parish & church. Please feel welcome and tell me if you need anything. Keep Smiling, Francis Tran PP*



### Parish Office Hours

Mon - Closed | Tues - Fri 9am - 4pm

Parish Secretary: Jenny Gibson

### 24 Jerematta St Dapto NSW 2530

Ph: 02 4261 1315 | Fax: 02 4262 1527

Fr Francis: 0413 449 821

E: [dapto@dow.org.au](mailto:dapto@dow.org.au) | W: [stjohnsdapto.org.au](http://stjohnsdapto.org.au)

### St John's Primary School

School Principal - Mr Matthew Downes

Ph: 4261 4611

Email: [info@sjddow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sjddow.catholic.edu.au)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

### FIRST READING      **Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8**

**O that you would tear the heavens open and come down**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!  
— at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### SECOND READING

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

### GOSPEL

**Mark 13:33-37**

**If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.

## **Please Pray For the Repose of the Souls of the Faithful Departed -**

**Recently Deceased:** Joe McQuillan, Joseph Portelli

**Special Intentions:** Julio, Eliza & Jose Teixeira



### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children's Liturgy Sunday 9:30am. Children's Liturgy is a time, within the main church service, that the children get to learn about the Gospel at their level. It is enriched with discussion, song, activities and prayer. Worksheets, related to the Gospel, will be available in the foyer for children to access if you cannot attend the 9.30am mass.



### **SOCIAL JUSTICE POINTS**

We must ... consolidate "dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet", well aware that living out "our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect" of our experience of life.

-- Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Participants in the Green And Blue Festival, on the occasion of the 2023 World Environment Day, Monday, 5 June 2023

### **A VOCATION VIEW**

'As I keep the Lord ever in my sight ... my heart rejoices, my soul is glad ... You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in Your presence.' Let our Vocation be, to be one with God - forever. If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

### **BE HELPED OR WANT TO HELP - VINNIES**

The Dapto Conference is operating for crisis help (food, furniture, clothing).

A phone service is available:  
Mon – Fri, 9.30am - 11.30am.  
Ph: 0412 912 641



**New members welcome**



**STAY CONNECTED WITH THE PARISH**



Facebook search: **St John's Catholic Parish Dapto**

Instagram search: **St John's Parish Dapto**

### **PARISH CELEBRATION 2023 - Thank you!**

Thank you to all members of our community who attended and participated in our 2023 Parish Celebration. It was a wonderful community day starting with Mass, followed by food, fun, and companionship. We look forward to seeing all our Parishioners at our Celebration in 2024.

Thank you to all those members of the community who helped make the day so magnificent, thank you to those who helped set up, those involved in the Mass, the choir, volunteers on the food machines, and everyone who helped pack up at the end of the day. The day demonstrated what a wonderful, giving community we all belong to.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

The St Vincent de Paul Society needs your help to provide Christmas Hampers and toys to needy people in Dapto.



We are looking for donations of the following food items by 17 th December :- Christmas puddings and cakes, mince pies, tinned ham, long life custard, soft drinks, fruit drinks, bags of chips, biscuits, tinned fruit, sweets and other Christmas dinner treats. Donations of new toys, gift vouchers or cash donations would also be appreciated. Items donated can be dropped off in the foyer of the church. Many thanks.

**Dapto Conference of St Vincent de Paul**

### **DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong**

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong.

Applications close on Tuesday, 12 December 2023.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to:

[dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/](http://dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/) or for enquiries contact

[helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

### **THE JOURNEY, 3 December 2023 – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast**

On The Journey This Week: Joshua Whitehead says that we're invited to have a four-fold response this Advent to cooperate and make sense of what God gives us. Mother Hilda says we'll love Jesus to mount a crown with our thumbprints all over it on our head. Plus, Fr Tony Percy and some special extra Advent reflections.

The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

**CatholicCare are currently looking for Community Support Workers.**

Becoming a CatholicCare Community Support Worker will give you a career that you love, whilst providing a valuable connection to people living with a disability or the aged in our Diocese. If you want to find out more about becoming a Community Support Worker go to [catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/](http://catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/) or call 4227 1122.

**SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION (Sydney):**

7-14 January 2024, Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35.

Registrations open 31st October. Register by 30th November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625).

More info: [contact@summerschool.org.au](mailto:contact@summerschool.org.au).

Bookings: [summerschool.org.au](http://summerschool.org.au)

**BENEDICTION**

Benediction is resuming every Thursday straight after the 9.30am mass. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**ANOINTING MASS**



There will be an anointing mass held on Wednesday 13 December at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE**

As we approach Christmas 2023, in a very war-torn world, it is appropriate, and I would suggest pastorally helpful to recall the Apostolic Letter given by Pope Francis in Greccio, at the Shrine of the Nativity, on 1 December in the year 2019: ON THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE. In that Letter, Pope Francis acknowledges that the first creche (nativity scene) created by St Francis was in 1223. That means that Christmas 2023 marks the eight-hundredth anniversary of a symbol, a creation that is very central to our Liturgical celebration of Christmas.

*To quote Pope Francis: "It does not matter how the nativity scene is arranged: it can always be the same or it can change from year to year. What matters is that it speaks to our lives. Wherever it is, and whatever form it takes, the Christmas crèche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman, and child, regardless of their condition."*

**LAUDATO SI ADVENT PRAYER**

God of all creation, we enter with joy into the season of Advent, anticipating your coming in the humbleness of a child, your Son Jesus. We thank you for the great gift of the Incarnation, as Jesus joined in our human nature, sharing the material being of all creation. Let us honour the goodness of all your gifts in the natural world. In a season too often marked by overconsumption and excess, let us give thanks for all the good things throughout nature. This Advent, let us be in solidarity with those enduring conflict and poverty, and nurture a spirit of true generosity. May the light of Advent grow daily together with our love for your creation, redeemed by your Son whose coming we will celebrate soon. Amen.

*Church Roster*

9/10 December	1st reader	2nd reader	Extraordinary Minister	Counters
Sat 5pm	C Honeysett	T Kadmon	P Portelli, D Kadmon, S Druery	L Negro S Parker
Sun 7.30am	E Brennan	Ja Jogen	D Clegg, M Whatman, Ru Gilmore	
Sun 9.30am	L Foy	M Howe	L Negro, L Foy, S Iverson	
Sun 6pm	K Gurney	L Burns	G Knowles	



*For all things give thanks.*

1 THESS 5:18

26 November 2023

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this blessed solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, I wish to give to you the vision for parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong that I have been prayerfully discerning over the past 12 months.

It is almost six years since I was ordained the Bishop of Wollongong, and as we approach the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diocese, I believe now is the time to pause and reflect on the life, health, and direction of our parishes. Our parishes are far more than lifeless buildings or mere meeting places. It is in our parishes that we gather together to celebrate, hear the Good News of Jesus, and live our calling to love as God loves with good works and care for one another (cf. CCC 2179).

The beating heart of the parish is the person of Jesus, made present in Word, Sacrament, and the living community of believers. This heart beats with the words “**come and see**”, and “**go and make**”. Come and see! Encounter the person of Jesus, be transformed and renewed, and become disciples. Go and make! Share the joyous Good News with a world that does not know, or has forgotten Christ—our Lord Jesus is King, not by violence, force, or coercion, but by an invitation of love, mercy and grace!

It is no secret that there has been a decline in Catholic practice in our parish communities over recent decades. Some may argue that this is clear evidence that the world has left our model of community and the Catholic Faith behind, but thankfully, this is not the case! Pope Francis boldly proclaims: “The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 28). We must exercise the flexibility that our parish communities possess, calling on the Holy Spirit to challenge us in our openness and to draw forth missionary creativity, not just for our own sake, but for the sake of the world that needs us.

To this end, **you will be receiving the following documents today:**

- *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes*—the vision I have developed which I now invite you to prayerfully read.
- *Principles and Foundations*—a short explanation of key principles described in the vision document.
- *Go Deeper*—a short compendium of additional reading on key concepts discussed in the vision document.

Additionally, in December, your parish will receive several worksheet documents that will support communities in the process of prayer, reflection, and discernment in the New Year. Your engagement with these activities will be a crucial part of the renewal process in your community.

We embark on this journey together, trusting in the goodness and mercy of God who promises, “I know the plans I have for you ... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). I encourage you to pray for your communities and your pastors, and please pray for me as we follow the Good Shepherd to where he leads us. Let us make this our prayer:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation.  
(Psalm 25:1–2, 4–5)

With every blessing,

*+ Brian Mascord*

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD**  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

**MOST REV BRIAN G MASCORD DD**  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

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