



SAINT JOHN
the Evangelist
CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO

St John the Evangelist Parish Dapto

A Living Community

Palm Sunday

29 March 2026

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

Fr Francis: 0413 449 821

E: dapto@dow.org.au | W: stjohnsdapto.org.au

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Principal - Mrs Michelle Rodwell

PH: 4261 4611

E: info@sjddow.catholic.edu.au

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village facing you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her: untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately.'

This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, *'Tell the daughter of Sion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'* The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem,

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face

against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself but God raised him high

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 27:11-54

Key: N. Narrator. ✕ Jesus. O. Other single speaker. C. Crowd, or more than one speaker.

N. Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

O. Are you the king of the Jews?

N. Jesus replied,

✕ It is you who say it.

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him,

O. Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

N. But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

O. Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

N. For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

O. Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

N. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them,

O. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N. they said,

C. Barabbas.

N. Pilate said to them:

O. But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N. They all said:

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Pilate asked:

O. Why? What harm has he done?

N. But they shouted all the louder,

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said,

O. I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

N. And the people, to a man, shouted back,

C. His blood be on us and on our children!

N. Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying,

C. Hail, king of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him. On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross.

When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

C. So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!

N. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

C. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God.'

N. Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

✕ Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

N. That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said,

C. The man is calling on Elijah.

N. and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

C. Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

N. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

N. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said,

C. In truth this was a son of God.

HOLY WEEK & Easter MASS TIMES

HOLY THURSDAY

7.30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

10 am - Stations of the Cross (Church)

3 pm - Veneration of the Cross (Outdoors)

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL

7.30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

7.30 am & 9.30 pm (No 6pm Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 11 am—12 pm

HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for Holy week volunteers. If you can help, please put your name down on the list in the foyer of the Church .

EASTER RAFFLE

The Parish Council is hosting an Easter Raffle Tickets are \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5



PALM SUNDAY
28-29 March 2026



As Project Compassion 2026

comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate!

Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

Or by calling: 1800 024 413
Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



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

Recently Deceased: Vilna Costa

Anniversaries & Special Intentions:

Dot Inskip, Joseph, Tony & Tania Formosa



HOLY LAND COLLECTION – GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 3rd. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the Covid pandemic, the war in Gaza and now with Iran, recent years have been and continue to be extremely difficult for the Church and people of the Holy Land with much reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and visitors . Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.7 million through the Good Friday Collection, a wonderful effort that went a long way to assist the Church of the Holy Land. But this year, the Holy Land continues facing an income shortfall in funds due to ongoing effects of the pandemic, the war in Gaza and now the war with Iran, all of which discourage or totally prevent pilgrims coming to the Holy Land. And so, we again urge Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

A VOCATION VIEW

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (29/3/26) Our Lord identifies with our suffering and offers His for our salvation. When we unite our sufferings with His, we are bound to Him on the Cross for the salvation of our brothers and sisters. If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

SEEKING PEACE & HEALING?

CatholicCare Counselling Can Help Life's burdens can feel heavy, but you are not alone. CatholicCare offers professional counselling rooted in compassion and guided by the values of faith and hope. Whether you are facing family challenges, relationship struggles, grief, or personal concerns, our counsellors walk with you on the path to healing and renewal. Reach out today and let us walk with you: Call (02) 4254 9395 or visit <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au>

FORMATION PATHWAY | Leading People Well

The conversation you avoid today becomes the conflict you manage tomorrow. Every leader eventually discovers the same thing. The most difficult part of leadership is not vision, planning, or organisation. It is people. Our next Formation Pathway evening will focus on the practical side of leading people well. The session will explore several areas that often determine whether teams thrive or struggle, including: • handling conflict constructively • having honest and respectful conversations • setting clear expectations and responsibilities • supporting the people entrusted to our leadership If you are involved in any form of leadership or ministry, this evening will offer practical help for one of the most important parts of leadership: caring for and guiding people well. All are welcome. • CAMPBELLTOWN Tuesday 21 April 7-9pm • WOLLONGONG & ZOOM Wednesday 22 April 7-9pm To register: Dow.sh/fpapril2026

APPIN MASSACRE MEMORIAL

This year is the 210th Anniversary of the Appin Massacre which occurred on 17 April 1816. Our annual memorial service will be held on Sunday, 19 April 2026 at Cataract Dam from 11:00am – 3:30pm. We would like to encourage everyone to come to the Appin Massacre Memorial as a sign of respect for the Dhara-wal people who were killed in the Massacre on the 17 April 1816, and to the descendants of the survivors. It is a family friendly day. The day begins with a free sausage sizzle. We encourage bringing a hat, sunscreen, water bottle, and walking shoes for the short walk down the hill from the picnic ground to the dam wall. Some event buses will be available for those unable to walk. Once there, we hold a short ceremony, including a smoking ceremony, dancing by local Aboriginal dance groups, and didgeridoo playing. It is important that we continue our efforts at truth telling and reconciliation.

NO MASSES

There will be no mass on Tuesday 31 March at 5pm due to the Chrism Mass. Thursday 2 March there will be no 9.30 am mass as we enter in to Triduum. (Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter)



ST JOHN'S JOURNAL

Term 1 2026 edition of St John's Journal is now available in the foyer of the church! Grab a copy to read! Copies can also be read from the parish website stjohnsdapto.org.au

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 19-21 June 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

CATHOLICISM - Bishop Robert Barron

A small group attended the first session of the video series on Tuesday evening in the Joseph Hall. Session 2 based on the Teachings of Jesus and the Beatitudes will be held on Tuesday 31st March between 6pm and 7pm If you were not able to attend the first session that is ok...each video has a different focus.

TENEBRAE-

A service of Shadows and light Presider: Most Rev Richard Umbers DD. Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney When: 7pm on Wednesday, 1 April (Wednesday of Holy Week) Where: St Columbkille's Church, Corrimal. All are warmly invited to attend.

Welcome to St John's!

Are you new to our Parish? Have you registered at the office that you attend our church?

Please feel free to inform us of your arrival in our Parish as we would love to know that you are here and get to know you.

Please feel free to complete this form and return it to the office or place it in one of the collections at mass.

NAME/S:.....

CHILDREN:.....

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:.....MOBILE:.....

EMAIL:.....

Would you like to join in planned giving to support our Parish? **Yes / Not now**

Please see Fr Francis or contact the office on 4261 1315

Thank you for making a difference to our Parish