



SAINT JOHN
the Evangelist
CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO

St John the Evangelist Parish Dapto

A Living Community

4th Sunday of Lent - Year A

15 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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went,
I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



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

Recently Deceased: William Shannon, Monica Nolan

Anniversaries/Special Intentions: Thomas Winnup, Glenn Burton



BAPTISMS

This week we welcome in to the Catholic faith community Madison Nguyen, Olivah & Jasper Potter, Lacey, Layla & Lani Martin

HEALING MASS

In the lead up to Easter, there will be a healing mass on Wednesday 18 March at 9.30am. Everyone is invited to attend.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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.



CHURCH ROSTER

The next Church roster will be coming out late April to start early May. If anyone would like to go on the new roster as a reader at any of the weekend masses please contact the parish office or see Fr Francis.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

If you feel you can help, please leave a message for Shirley on 0431 513 109 or shirleyparker@hotmail.com

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH

Mass on 19th March at 9.30am

CATECHIST MEETING

The next Catechist meeting will be on Monday 16 March at 10am in the meeting room. All Catechists encouraged to attend.

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)

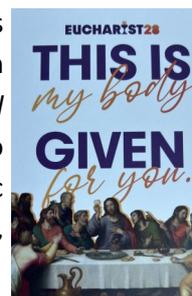
RECONCILIATION
Every Saturday 11 am—12 pm

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 .

INVITATION TO ATTEND: HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - Friday 20 March, 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

St Johns Dapto Church. This will combine Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament & Praying the Stations of the Cross. Every Parish in the country has been encouraged to hold this event in spiritual preparation for the *International Eucharistic Congress 2028* which aims to rediscover what it means to live eucharistic lives that are shaped by devotion, sacrifice, and generous service.



A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus opens the eyes of the blind man, as He can open our eyes blinded by the sins we have committed. Be open to new areas that God is leading you to trust His promises. (John 9:2-3)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

EASTER RAFFLE

The Parish Council is hosting an Easter Raffle

Tickets are \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5

There are 5 prizes to be won



WORKING BEE - looking for volunteers!!

Our next church working bee will be held on Sat 21 March 2026 from 9am-12pm. All welcome. Supplies will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

ASIST Workshop

Monday 20 April - Tuesday 21 April

8.30am - 4.30pm both days

Location: 36 Harbour Street Wollongong, NSW 2500

CatholicCare is an accredited provider of LivingWorks Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). It is two-day in-person workshop where you'll learn how to recognise when someone may be thinking about suicide, and how to provide a skilled intervention and develop a safety plan with the person to connect them to further support.

To book call Rita Maher on 0458 472 983 or email ritam@catholiccare.dow.org.au

LEFION OF MARY

All active and auxiliary members of legion of Mary are invited to the annual ACIE's to be held at Immaculate Conception Church, Unanderra at 2pm on Sunday, 29 March 2026.

Refreshments will be provided in the parish room afterwards.

Please bring a plate. Any enquiries call Susan 0449 807 814.

URGENT NEED FOR FOSTER CARERS

Could you open your heart and home to a child in need? There is an urgent need for foster carers in our community.

For over 30 years, CatholicCare has supported carers to provide vulnerable children with a loving, safe home and a brighter future. Foster carers receive comprehensive training, regular case worker support, and a carer allowance for the child's day-to-day needs.

If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time.

Call: 1800 967 894

Email: fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au

DIOCESAN CHOIR

Sending out an invitation to all those people who are interested in joining the Wollongong Diocesan Choir. The choir prepares music for special Diocesan Masses where all parishes are invited to attend. Rehearsals are on a Monday night in the lead up to a celebration, between 7pm-8.30pm. Rehearsals are usually held in the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong.

If you are interested in being involved, email the Diocesan Choir Director, Angela Quinn, with details of your name, email and parish that you attend. quinna01@dow.catholic.edu.au

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT UOW

UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for **Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room.** See [@uowcathsoc](https://twitter.com/uowcathsoc) on social media to find out more.

CATECHIST RETREAT - March 2026

All Catechists and supporters of the Catechist Ministry are welcome to join us on a special day of retreat either in **Wollongong on Monday 23 March or in Rosemeadow on Friday 27 March.** Being the season of Lent, the theme for the retreat is "Gospel Conversion: Turning to the God of Jesus". **Retreat facilitator, Fr Aloysius Rego OCD,** will lead us into a greater understanding of the God of Jesus, as revealed to us in Scripture. There will be times for prayer, learning and discussion. Mass is planned before lunch. Please BYO lunch. Morning Tea provided. Donations are welcome however there is no cost for the retreat.

Register now: dow.sh/CCDRETREAT26

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross in the Church at 6pm every Friday during Lent. Everyone welcome to attend.

LENTEN GROUP

Every Friday during lent, the CWL will be running a Lenten discussion group after Friday morning Mass in the Chapel. Everyone is most welcome to attend.



STAY CONNECTED WITH THE PARISH



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

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

Church Roster - Those offering their time - Thank you

| 21/22 March | 1st reader | 2nd reader | Extraordinary Minister | Counters |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sat 5pm | A Harnett | M Harnett | A Johnston, D Kadmon, P Portelli | L Negro S Parker |
| Sun 7.30am | E Brennan | D Barry | G Teixeira, E Brennan, D Clegg | |
| Sun 9.30am | P Udeh | L Foy | M Nicholson, L Foy, S Iverson | |
| Sun 6pm | L Burns | E Burns | | |

LENTEN REFLECTION

I find it very significant that before Jesus called his first disciples, preached his first sermon, or healed his first leper, he deliberately chose to spend 40 days in the wilderness—certainly without a compass and probably without a tent. Why did he do this? Howard Hanger gives this clue: “When it comes to discovering who you are and what you’re about, never discount the value of a little time on the wild side.” Jesus was on the verge of discovering who he really was and what he should do with the rest of his life. Perhaps he instinctively knew he needed time alone with his God, stripped of all the familiar people and trappings of his ordinary life. He needed to encounter not only himself, but also his God “face to face” (in a way). He needed to trust God to show him the next step to take in his life.

We don’t have to be in the New England woods or on a Galilean mountainside to experience the wilderness. Sometimes the wilderness can be our own hometown or even inside our own house. Just think of those times in your life where you felt lost, alone, not in charge. Times when your life seemed completely disorganized and nothing was running on your schedule. Here’s an example. Although I’ve never had a child, I think the birth of a first child can be a wilderness experience for parents. When my nephew and his wife had their first child, little Reece, and were packing things up to take him home, their doctor walked in and asked them how they were doing. My nephew, looking down at their day old, helpless little son said, “You know, Doctor, this is going to be a daunting task.” The doctor smiled and said, “Don’t worry, Chris.

Remember: cave men and women did this!”

Other wilderness experiences might be: moving to another city or country, going off to college, making a retreat, starting a new job, going through a divorce, facing retirement, being diagnosed with a serious illness, losing a loved one. As discombobulating as it may be, the wilderness can be a holy place.

Perhaps we can look upon the 40 days of Lent as a wilderness experience. No, we need not seek out a cave or pitch a tent in a local forest. But perhaps we can set some time aside these days to do what Jesus himself did in the wilderness: to get in touch with who we really are OR who we really want to be (start with a child of God... a disciple of Jesus... a better spouse, parent, grandparent, adult child, friend, vowed religious man/woman, priest, human being!)... to re-appraise our priorities (One hint of our real priorities: how are we spending our time and our money?)... how might we deepen those relationships that we say mean so much to us?

(Carving out time for our spouse... zooming an old friend... visiting an elderly relative...)... how might we grow in gratitude for all the gifts we have received in our life so far?... and (in the end) to formulate a plan for what we want to do with the rest of our life.

The wilderness can be a scary place where we are not in charge, where we do a lot of waiting, where we experience loneliness. But it can also be the place where, like Jesus, we encounter God in a new and life-changing way.

For God is always with us in the wilderness. It is the place where God does some of God’s most creative and beautiful work!

Sr Melannie Svoboda

