



SAINT JOHN  
the Evangelist  
CATHOLIC PARISH DAPTO

# St John the Evangelist Parish Dapto

## *A Living Community*

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year A

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

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Principal - Mrs Michelle Rodwell

PH: 4261 4611

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

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### FIRST READING **Exodus 17:3-7**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

### SECOND READING **Romans 5:1-2,5-8**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### GOSPEL

**John 4:5-16,19-26,39-42**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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

**Recently Deceased:** William Shannon, Monica Nolan

**Anniversaries/Special Intentions:** Daniel Micallef & Joe Agius



**BAPTISMS**

This week we welcome in to the Catholic faith community Eloise Huynh, Tully & Ziggy Totman, Roman Meta & Isla Ramnac.

**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.



**TAIZE PRAYER 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Church Kiama 7.30pm  
Cup of tea afterwards  
More information: Marion 0407417389

**LENTEN REFLECTION**

Lord, I know how much you love me  
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes  
but I know your love is always with me.  
Help me to use your love a way  
to persevere in my Lenten intentions.  
I am weak, but I know with your help  
I can use these small sacrifices in me  
life to draw closer to you. Amen

**CWL MEETING**

Catholic Women's League, Dapto Branch, meeting will be on Monday 9 March, 2026 commencing at 10.00 am in the meeting room at the Parish Presbytery. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

**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  
Winners will be drawn on Good Friday

**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!

**ON ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY**

All who are 14 years or older are obliged to abstain from meat. All who are 18 to 59 are obliged to fast (Canon 1252). Pastors, teachers, parents are to ensure that even those who, by reason of their age, are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence from meat, are taught the true meaning of penance.

**PASCHAL PRECEPT:**

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (18 February 2026) and Trinity Sunday (31 May 2026) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

**MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat**

**Friday 13 March - Sunday 15 March 2026**

A time for single women aged 18-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing to help discern your vocation.  
More info and RSVP: [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com) OR 0402 602 520

**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](mailto:fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

## OPEN INVITATION TO ALL

2025 was a busy year regarding the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The parish has supported over 20 people, mostly adults, to receive instruction in our faith and who then entered the sacramental life of our church.

The foundation of parish instruction in the RCIA program has been the series *Catholicism* presented by Bishop Rober Barron. His [Word on Fire Ministry](#) has reached millions of people around the world. **In 2026 we open the invitation to all parishioners to gather and view his videos. This invitation is extended also to all parents of primary aged school children in our parish. The parish and school share the same mission of our Church, and this initiative is one of co-operation.**

Bishop Barron is well qualified and instructs with the full authority of the Catholic Church. If you would like to explore our faith at a deeper level this might be for you. We will gather fortnightly to view 10 videos. There will be opportunities to discuss the content during and after the conclusion of each video in a relaxed informal manner with a cup of tea or coffee.

The sessions, about 1 hr in duration, will be held fortnightly on **Tuesday evenings, commencing Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the Joseph Hall (the mini hall)**. The topics covered are *The Identity of Jesus, the Beatitudes, the case for God's existence, Mary, the Holy Spirit, Peter and Paul and the missionary adventure, the mystical union of Christ and the Church, saints, the mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist, prayer and life of the spirit, death and judgement*. Much of his video content is filmed on location in the Holy Lands. For those who may be unable to attend the sessions the playlist of all of 10 videos can be found on YouTube via this link

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWVDdVfADnBFca\\_uPVj57XaG5FO8AZ8os](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWVDdVfADnBFca_uPVj57XaG5FO8AZ8os)

You may have family and friends, interested in the Catholic Church, who would also like to attend the evening sessions.

**If you wish to register to attend the evenings, please leave your contact name and phone number, and the number attending, on the form in the church foyer over the next few weeks.**

I would like to thank school Principal Mrs Rodwell for her cooperation in this initiative.

Steve Leonard

## GUADALUPE: Mother of Humanity | Special Film Screening

**Office of the Bishop, Xavier Centre Conference Rooms Wollongong, Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 6:30pm**

You're invited to a special community screening of the acclaimed documentary film *Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity* In 1531, on a quiet hill near Mexico City, a heavenly apparition changed the course of history. To this day, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe remains perfectly intact after 5 centuries, defying time, science, and logic and contains an entire codex of hidden messages, has survived an acid spill and even a bomb blast. Come and join us for a screening of the acclaimed movie about this Marian apparition and the extraordinary events and miracles that have followed. Because some miracles refuse to fade! Light refreshments and finger food will be provided on the night and merchandise available for purchase.

Tickets \$10 - Book and pay now to secure your ticket(s) [dow.sh/Guadalupe](http://dow.sh/Guadalupe)

Light refreshments and finger food provided on the night and merchandise available for purchase.

## 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](http://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*

14/15 March	1st reader	2nd reader	Extraordinary Minister	Counters
Sat 5pm	M O'Connor	P Farrugia	L Mammone, S Druery, D Kadmon	D Croft E Caruana D Ritter
Sun 7.30am	A Peeyer	Ri Gilmore	D Clegg, M Whatman, Ru Gilmore	
Sun 9.30am	A Negro	C Negro	E Gill, M Flemming, L Negro	
Sun 6pm	A Chatham	K Gurney	G Knowles	

**Baptisms** – Sundays 11am. Bookings through parish office.

**Marriages** – Please contact Priest 6 months prior to wedding date.

**Nursing Home Masses :**

**St Luke's NH:** 1st Tue of month at 10.45am

**William Beach NH:** 2nd Wed of month at 2pm

**Sick Calls** – Please contact Fr Francis or the parish office.

**Wollongong Hospital Chaplain** – Fr Joseph - 0475 815 506

**West Dapto Catholic Cemetery** - Plots are for sale. Please contact the Parish Office.

**MASS TIMES**

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mass	5pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mass	9.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mass Followed by Benediction</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Mass	9.30am
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Reconciliation</b> Rosary <b>Mass</b>	<b>11am - 12pm</b> 4.30pm 5pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Mass  <b>Baptisms</b>	7.30am 9.30am - <b>(Children's Liturgy)</b> 6pm <b>Every Sunday 11am</b>

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

in recess from Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, and resuming on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Matthew Nicholson (0459735640).

**CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDIES**

Thursdays during school term, 7.30pm at the Xavier Room behind the Cathedral. Direct enquiries to Tom Kadmon: 0413927086.

**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*