



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**1<sup>st</sup> READING:** Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13: In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 145:7-10: R: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** 1 Cor 1:26-31: God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad;

Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia! (Mt 5:12)

**GOSPEL:** Mt 5:1-12: Happy are the poor in spirit.

On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church leads us up the mountain with Jesus. As He is transfigured before Peter, James, and John, His divine glory shines through His humanity. For a brief moment, the disciples see who He truly is - the beloved Son of the Father.

But this vision comes on the way to Jerusalem. The glory of mountain Tabor stands in the shadow of the Cross.

Lent is our mountain journey. We climb through prayer, fasting, and sacrifice. At times the path feels steep, and the Cross looms ahead. Yet the Transfiguration reminds us that suffering is not the final word. Hidden within fidelity, hidden within surrender, there is glory waiting to be revealed.

The Father speaks: "This is my beloved Son... listen to Him." Lent is a season of listening. It is a season of quietning the noise, softening the heart, allowing Christ's voice to guide us. When we listen, we begin to change. The light that radiates from Him begins to touch the darkened corners of our own lives.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that the disciples fall in fear, but Jesus touches them: "Rise, and do not be afraid." That same gentle command is spoken to us. Do not be afraid of the Cross. Do not be afraid of conversion. Do not be afraid to climb.

The Transfiguration assures us that beyond every cross is the glory of the resurrection, beyond every shadow there is light. It invites us to climb the mountain of prayer, to behold His glory, and to descend bearing that light into the world.

**Deacon Sam**

**HOLY THURSDAY (2 APR):**

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm (Oran Park - Hall & Leppington)

**GOOD FRIDAY (3 APR):**

Stations of the Cross at 10am (Oran Park - Hall & Leppington)

Passion Service at 3pm (Oran Park - Hall & Leppington)

**EASTER VIGIL (4 APR):**

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass at 6pm (Oran Park - Hall & Leppington) Please Note: there will be no 4pm Reconciliation OR 5pm Vigil Mass on 19 April

YOU ARE INVITED TO

join us for

**Easter**

**Chaldean Holy Mass**

9pm (Oran Park - Church)

**EASTER SUNDAY (20 APR):**

Mass at 8am (Leppington)

Mass at 9am (Oran Park - Hall)

Mass at 5pm (Oran Park - Church)

St Mary MacKillop  
Catholic Parish  
ORAN PARK

Holy Week Liturgies and Masses at Oran Park will be held in the St Justin's/St Benedict's Hall, except for the 5pm Easter Sunday Mass which will be held in our Oran Park Church.



TAKE ME HOME

# IN OUR PARISH

**MON. 2 MARCH**  
1pm Rosary, **Leppington**

**TUE. 3 MARCH**  
9:30am Rosary on Zoom  
5pm Devotions  
6pm Reconciliation & Adoration  
6:40 Evening Prayer & Benediction  
7pm Mass, Oran Park

**WED. 4 MARCH**  
8am Mass, Oran Park

**THU. 5 MARCH**  
9:30 Rosary at Church (Zoom Available)  
10am Mass, Oran Park

**FRI. 6 MARCH**  
9.30am Mass, Oran Park  
**6pm Stations of the CROSS**

**SAT. 7 MARCH**  
4pm Reconciliation & Mass, Oran Park

**SUN. 8 MARCH**  
8am Mass, **Leppington**  
8am Mass, Oran Park  
10am Mass, Oran Park  
5pm Mass, Oran Park  
12noon **Chaldean Holy Mass**

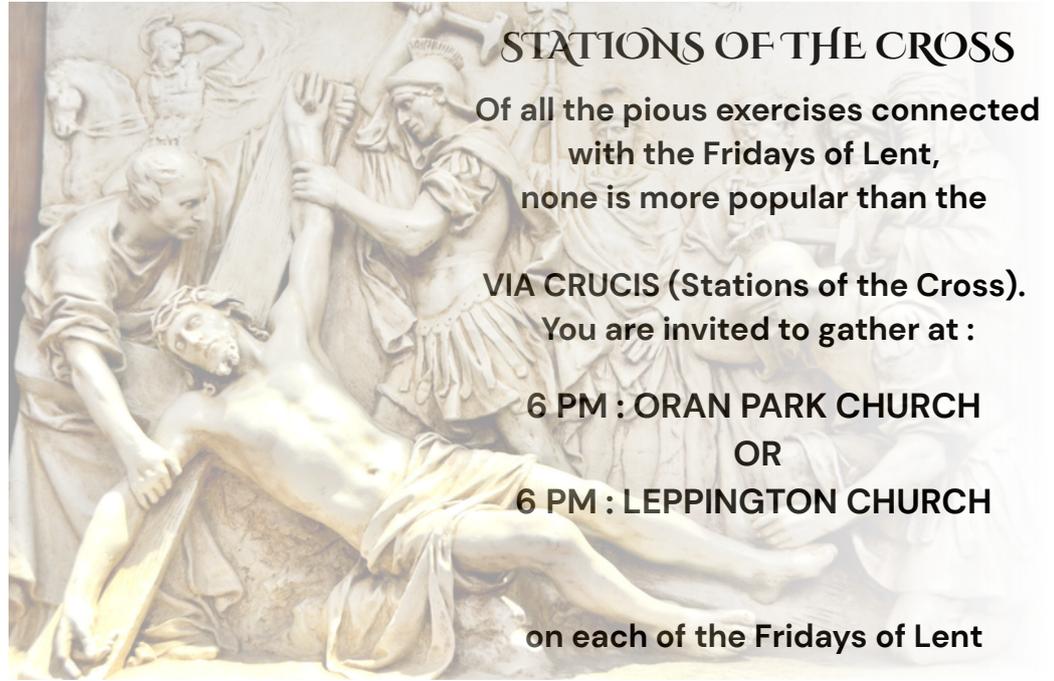
TAKE ME HOME

**Rosary**

If you would like to pray the Rosary with us from home on Tuesdays or Thursday at 9:30Am. Please use this QR Code or Zoom ID below:




Meeting ID 983 7876 0423



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Of all the pious exercises connected with the Fridays of Lent, none is more popular than the **VIA CRUCIS (Stations of the Cross)**. You are invited to gather at :

**6 PM : ORAN PARK CHURCH**  
**OR**  
**6 PM : LEPPINGTON CHURCH**

**on each of the Fridays of Lent**

### JOURNEY TO PENTECOST

If you are an adult Catholic who has previously received the Sacrament of Baptism but have not received the Sacraments of 1st Holy Communion and/or Confirmation, please consider joining us in preparing to receive these Sacraments. We will be offering a special preparation program called "Journey to Pentecost" which will be held over 4 weekly evening sessions beginning in April which will see adult candidates receiving the Sacraments of 1st Holy Communion and/or Confirmation at the Vigil Mass of Pentecost on Saturday, 23 May 2026. Please contact the Parish Office and we will send you the relevant information for this program.

### WE REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

We pray for our faithful departed who have died recently and whose anniversaries are remembered at this time. We also join in prayer for those who are unwell or in need of extra prayers.

**Mary Passanha, Noreen D'Souza, Jeferry D'Souza, Therese Edwige Arlequin, Valerie Kuhn, Francisco de Nascimento Sarmento, Francesco Napoli, Nandu Shorey, Ravi Iyer, Philip D'Souza, Janice Dell'Olio**

We invite you to share the names of those who are sick or in need of extra prayers by emailing the Parish Office



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
28 February – 1 March 2026

**Sisilia** is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.




**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

**Or online at:** [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

**LENTEN PENANCE & OBLIGATIONS :** The Church's Canon Law reaffirms our obligation to do penance.

The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the season of Lent. Please visit the Notice Board for more information. To allow as many Parishioners as possible to receive the

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession),** we will be holding the following extended sessions:

**Tue, 24 March : 5pm–6.45pm (Oran Park)**

**Wed, 25 March : 5pm–7pm (Leppington)**

**Sat, 28 March : 4pm–4.45pm (Oran Park)**

**Tuesday, 31 March : 5pm–6.45pm (Oran Park)**

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 and 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

**Back to School** Do you live in the Macarthur region, have kids at school? Could you use help with back to school costs? Macarthur Social Justice Network has \$50 per child available to help offset school expenses. Visit [www.msjn.org](http://www.msjn.org) to find out more and submit your request.

Available while funds last.

### MOTHERS' DAY SALES

The MacKillop Craft group will be having their Mother's Day sales over 2 weekends following Easter – 25/26 April and 2/3 May! Come and check out the unique, beautiful hand crafted and practical gifts for Mothers, Grandmothers and other special mums!!

### KINDY BAG BLESSINGS – 22 MARCH 2026

If your child is in Kindergarten this year and does not attend St Justin's we invite you to register to attend our Kindy Bag Blessing which will be held during our Sunday evening Mass on 22 March 2026.

Please use the link below or scan the QR code to register:

<https://bit.ly/KINDYBAGS>



### PARISH 10TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Orders are now open for you to purchase your copy of our Parish 10th Anniversary Book for \$30 per copy. Please scan the QR Code or use the link <https://bit.ly/10ANN> to register your order and a member of our Parish Admin.

Team will contact you to arrange collection.

Cash purchases are now available at Oran Park (Piety Stall) Leppington (Welcome Table).



**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 Feb) and Trinity Sunday (31 May), unless it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

### ONLINE ENROLMENTS FOR 2026

**1ST RECONCILIATION/**

**1ST HOLY COMMUNION**

**OPEN ON MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY**



Those families who wish to present their child/ren for the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation/1st Holy Communion in 2026 are asked to complete the online enrolment form which will be available through the 'Youth Sacrament' page on our Parish website from Monday, 23 February, or by using this QR Code or [bit.ly](https://bit.ly/46Jom9n) link: <https://bit.ly/46Jom9n>

**Enrolments will close on Friday, 6 March.** For more information, please visit our website or contact the Parish Office email: [oranparksacraments@dow.org.au](mailto:oranparksacraments@dow.org.au)

**Purchase your Copy of "COMPASSIO"** This year's Diocesan Lenten Book "COMPASSIO" is now available to purchase at the special price of \$5.00. Please purchase your copies of the Lenten Book from the Welcome Table.

### LENTEN GROUPS

1. Host : Carmen  
Karauda – Tuesday @  
7pm – Leppington Ch.
2. Host : Christen  
Yousseph – Tuesday  
@ 7pm – Oran Park  
Ch.
3. Host : Dianne  
Campbell –  
Wednesday @ 10am,  
Spring Farm
4. Host : Chris Chircop –  
Young Adults Sun  
6pm–Oran Park Ch.

Come closer to the suffering love of Christ



**SACRED SECRETS**  
— THE SHROUD OF TURIN —

A profound journey into the Passion of Jesus

And many other hand-picked programs, including retreats, reflections, sacred stories, and prayerful songs, to accompany you through Lent and toward Easter.



BEGIN YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

[shalomworld.org/lent](http://shalomworld.org/lent)

No registration. No cost.  
Available on phone, computer, and TV.



TAKE ME HOME

**EASTER VIGIL CANDLES:** Each year, as part of our Easter Vigil Mass, we begin our service with the Ritual of Light. The Church itself is dark, as dark as that night when Jesus lay in the tomb. The ritual begins outside the Church with the lighting of the Paschal fire. The flame is then transferred into the Church via the Paschal Candle. As the priest processes through the darkened Church with the candle, he sings "Christ our Light" three times to which the congregation responds "Thanks be to God". This year, we would again like to encourage each and every parishioner who will be attending the Easter Vigil Mass to purchase a candle from our Parish Piety Stall to be fully immersed in this celebration. Candles are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.



### **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 Guadalupe. 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)

### **World Day of Prayer 2026 – Focus on Nigeria 'I Will**

Give You Rest: Come' (Matthew 11: 28–30) St Joseph's Parish, Bulli (48 Park Road, Bulli) on Friday, 6 March 2026 at 10am. Come & Pray together with other Christian Churches followed by a shared luncheon.

### **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

### **A POWERFUL LENTEN RETREAT JOURNEY AT INGLEBURN & YOU ARE INVITED !**

This Lent, journey through the last hours of Christ's life, from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

Dates: 7pm for five consecutive Thursday evenings 26 February – 26 March.

Venue: Holy Family Parish Ingleburn – Parish Meeting Room (located around the back of the church, underneath) Retreat Facilitator: Charbel Raish Register your attendance at <http://www.hfi.org.au>

### **LOVING WELL PROGRAM – SUPPORTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**

CatholicCare is offering Loving Well, a new FREE four-session pilot program for anyone who has experienced relationship change and is seeking guidance, healing, and healthier ways of relating moving forward. Rooted in compassion and personal growth, the program explores understanding relationship patterns, building self-awareness, navigating life's changes, and fostering positive, healthy connections with others.

Participants will also receive a small wellness pack and be entered into a draw for a \$50 movie voucher. To learn more or register, please visit CatholicCare's website: <https://tinyurl.com/392tswzb>

## **NEWS FROM SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE**

In the lead up to the launch of Eucharist28 on 1 March, St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish in Berala will host Eucharist 28

Surge to Catholicism skyrockets as 460 gather for Rite of Election

Women's Lenten retreat is a call to deepen intimacy with Christ: What began as a single retreat day has now grown so significantly that in 2026, organisers have had to open two retreat dates to make room for all those who wish to attend.

**Christianity has deep roots in China By Michael Cook** (opinion)– read further [catholicweekly.com.au](http://catholicweekly.com.au)

### **World ignores fate of 20,000 abducted Ukrainian children**

: Led by Cardinal Mykola Bychok CSsR, several hundred people commemorated the sombre fourth anniversary of the devastating Russian invasion of Ukraine in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral on 24 February

### **FUNDRAISER RAISES ALMOST \$400,000 FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECTS**

Sydney-based charity Somaskan Missions raised almost \$400,000 for the charity's local and global projects which assist orphaned, abandoned and impoverished children in Sri Lanka, India and Mozambique.