



**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.

Margaret Noronha, Katherine Chin, Con Kontista, Cliff Dornan,  
Maria & Sam Gauci, Doris Gauci, Joe Tabone, Denise Segatto,  
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

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**1<sup>st</sup> READING:** Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7: Creation of our first parents, and sin.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17: R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** Rom 5:12-19: Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! (Mt 4:4)

**GOSPEL:** Mt 4:1-11: Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.



**“WITH TEMPTATION:  
FAILURE IS HUMAN,  
VICTORIOUS IS GODLY”**

On Ash Wednesday, the annual spiritual Lenten journey commenced. This season gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect, examine and re-examine our personal and spiritual lives. Forty days of the spiritual exercises aimed at the necessary transformation of ourselves in our relationship with God. The traditional ways suggested by the church as well as the word of God to achieve this are prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. These are not simply the only way. You have all the freedom to navigate what is appropriate to your conversion of heart and transformation of your life, which leads to the greater freedom and joy you have never experienced before.

This Sunday readings remind us of one of the ongoing battles, and the inescapable reality of our spiritual lives. which is temptation. The comparison is made between the failure of our first parents; Adam and Eve in the first reading with the victorious of Jesus Christ in the Gospel. This leads us to this theme; with temptation failure is human and victorious is Godly. With God in his son, Jesus won the three temptations of the devil in the desert. The desert itself is a hot and a dry weary land with no water and no trees. When we caught up with chaotic of life and temptations, the call of this Lenten season is; come back to me with all your heart (Joel 2:12-13). Our God is ready to embrace us with his mercy when we seek him with sincerity of heart. Our prayer this week is; O Lord help me to conquer myself first and foremost so that I will be able to conquer the evil spirit. This is because I can do everything through Christ who strengthen me (Phil 4:13). **Fr Feleki Tautunu | Parish Administrator**

# IN OUR PARISH

**Mon 23 Feb**  
1pm Rosary, **Leppington**

**Tue 24 Feb**  
9:30am Rosary on Zoom  
5pm Devotions  
6pm Reconciliation & Adoration  
6:40 Evening Prayer & Benediction  
7pm Mass, Oran Park

**Wed 25 Feb**  
8am Mass, Oran Park

**Thu 26 Feb**  
9:30 Rosary at Church (Zoom Available)  
10am Mass, Oran Park

**Fri 27 Feb**  
9.30am Mass, Oran Park  
**6pm Stations of the CROSS**

**Sat 28 Feb**  
4pm Reconciliation &  
5pm Mass, Oran Park

**Sun 1 MARCH**  
8am Mass, **Leppington**  
8am Mass, Oran Park  
10am Mass, Oran Park  
5pm Mass, Oran Park  
**12noon Chaldean Holy Mass**

**LENTEN GROUPS** are an opportunity, as a member of our Parish, to gather 'in small groups' to reflect on the Lenten scriptures for the coming weekend, to share your faith to pray and to 'get to know' fellow parishioners outside the context of the weekly Mass.

Each session goes for approx. 90 minutes and groups usually finish with a cuppa or supper. Our Parish Lenten Groups are:

1. **Host : Carmen Karauda - Tuesday @ 7pm - Leppington**  
St Mary, Mother of God Church
2. **Host : Christen Yousseph - Tuesday @ 7pm - Oran Park**  
Penola Room, St. Mary Mackillop Church
3. **Host : Dianne Campbell - Wednesday @ 10am**  
Private Residence, Spring Farm
4. **Host : Chris Chircop - Young Adults - Sunday @ 6pm - Oran Park**  
Oran Park Church, Penola Room

## 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).

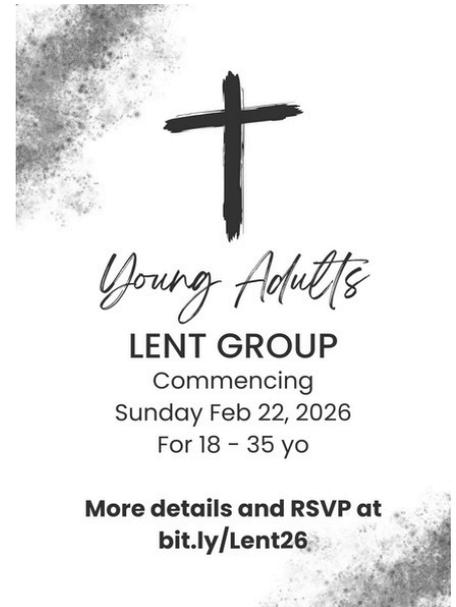
You are invited to gather at :

6pm at Oran Park Church

OR

6pm Leppington Church

on each of the Fridays of 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** of Reconciliation at our Oran Park Church:

**Tue, 24 March : 5pm-6.45pm**

**Sat, 28 March : 4pm-4.45pm.**

**Tue, 31 March : 5pm-6.45pm.**

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

**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.

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

## First Sunday of Lent 21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



**UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY**  
this Lent

**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](https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

### 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).



### Volunteer with *IMPACT*

**Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!**

Join Palms International Volunteering [online](#) in this special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

**Venue:** Online- Scan the QR or register at [palms.org.au/events](https://palms.org.au/events)

**Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026

**Time:** 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT



02 9560 5333

[palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)

**Want to visit a community first?** Join our 13-day **Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!**

Book by **28 February** for the May tour! See [palms.org.au/encounters](https://palms.org.au/encounters)

### 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.

### 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>



TAKE ME HOME

**Enrolments will close on Friday, 6 March.**

For more information, please visit our website or contact the Parish Office by email: [oranparksacraments@dow.org.au](mailto:oranparksacraments@dow.org.au)

**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.

### 2026 KINDY BAG BLESSING

Each year our Parish offers the opportunity for families to have school bags of children enrolled in Kindergarten to be blessed. This year, at the 5pm Mass on Sunday, 8 March, and Sunday, 15 March, St Justin's Kinder will be invited to bring their school bags to Mass for the blessing. On Sunday, 22 March, Kindergarten students attending other schools are welcome to bring their school bags to Mass for the Blessing.

Come closer to the  
suffering love of Christ



**SACRED SECRETS**

— THE SHROUD OF TURIN —

A profound journey into the Passion of Jesus

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO WATCH,  
GRAB A FLYER FROM THE PARISH WELCOME TABLE

**PILGRIMAGE MOSES AND THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT, A PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Fr Christopher Sarkis will lead this customised pilgrimage in January 2027, following the exodus from Egypt by Moses as he led the People of Israel through the desert to the Promised Land. It will also trace the journey of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt after Herod sought to kill the Baby Jesus, as well as visiting Mt Sinai and the famous St Catherine Monastery.

Incorporating a full day at the New Grand Egyptian Museum and a 4-night Nile Cruise visiting the Pyramids and ancient Egyptian sites, this unique pilgrimage promises to be truly memorable. There will be an Information

Evening open to all on Thursday 5 March, 7.30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, 80 Demetrius Road, Rosemeadow, in the Martha Room off the church foyer (park in church carpark). Bookings & Enquiries at: [harvestjourneys.com/pv2707](http://harvestjourneys.com/pv2707) or Free-Call: 1800 819 156

**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: [mglisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mglisters.sydney@gmail.com) OR 0402 602 520

**Vocaris: Love & Responsibility** Young Adults of the diocese! When: Saturday 28 Feb (6pm to 9:30pm) Where: St Marys Towers, Douglas Park. Address: 415 Douglas Park Drive Douglas Park (25 minutes from Campbelltown and Wollongong) Register : [dow.sh/VocarisLR](http://dow.sh/VocarisLR)

**JOIN OUR MISSION – DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OPPORTUNITY**

CARITAS AUSTRALIA IS SEEKING A PASSIONATE PERSON FOR A PAID CASUAL ROLE AS DIOCESAN DIRECTOR FOR DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG.



**FORMATION PATHWAY | HOSPITALITY**

**No one ever left a parish because it was too welcoming.**

Ever wondered why some people walk into a parish and never come back – while others feel at home almost immediately?

It's rarely about the music or the homily. More often, it comes down to welcome. As part of the Formation Pathway, this formation explores hospitality as more than being friendly or polite. We'll look at how the experience people have when they arrive shapes parish culture, lowers barriers to encounter, and influences whether someone feels safe enough to stay, return, and take a next step. After all, if people don't feel welcome, they'll never stay long enough to hear the Gospel. This session is for anyone who cares about parish life and wants to help create a parish where people truly belong.

**CAMPBELLTOWN Tuesday 3 Mar 7-9pm**

**WOLLONGONG & ZOOM Wednesday 4 Mar 7-9pm**

To register: [dow.sh/fpmar2026](http://dow.sh/fpmar2026)

**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>

**Edmund Rice College – Open Day Tuesday, 3 March 2026 9:00am – 3:30pm, 112 Mount Keira Road, West Wollongong. Try Year 7 for a day – Year 5 & 6 Boys 9:30am-3:30pm** Experience a day of high school and enjoy a range of subjects and activities. After the day, families are welcome to explore the College Expo (3.30pm – 5.30pm). Register now: [edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/try-year-7-for-a-day/](http://edmundricecollege.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/try-year-7-for-a-day/) . **Celebrate 100 years of excellence** with the Centenary Gala Dinner – Sat 16 May 2026.