

Journeying together

IN FAITH & MISSION



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
WOLLONGONG

News and events from the Diocese of Wollongong

VOL. 1 NO. 3 • SEPTEMBER 2026

Moments of grace

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There are moments in our lives that stay with us. Years later, we can still remember where we were, who we were with, and what we experienced. Sometimes we only come to understand the grace of those moments afterwards.

I believe that, in the coming weeks, our diocese is being given two such moments. My hope is that we will not simply hear about them later, but that we will be there together, open to what the Lord may wish to do in us as we approach the 75th anniversary of our diocese's founding.

From **14 September**, a relic of **St Carlo Acutis** will journey through our diocese, visiting Oran Park, Rosemeadow, Nowra and St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. At each of these locations, we as a diocesan community will have the opportunity to pray before and venerate this first-class relic, participate in the sacraments, and visit the *Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition*. Above all, we will encounter the witness of a young saint whose ordinary life was transformed by an extraordinary love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

I warmly encourage you to come, and to bring your children and grandchildren.



Invite a young person. Come as a family, with friends, or simply come yourself. Allow St Carlo's witness to draw you again towards Jesus.

Then, from **1-3 October**, we will gather for the **Parish Renewal Summit** at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown. This gathering is not only for priests, parish councils, or ministry leaders. It is for all of us who love the Church and long to see our parishes alive in faith and mission: to pray, listen, learn, be encouraged, and discern how God is calling us forward.

So I take this opportunity to ask you personally, to not let these moments pass you by. Come and be part of them.

Come ready to encounter the Lord, to be renewed in hope, and to be sent again as bearers of Christ's love.

Perhaps, in years to come, we will ask: where were you when St Carlo Acutis came to our diocese? Where were you when we gathered at St Gregory's to seek renewal together?

My prayer is that we will be able to answer with gratitude: I was there. We were there. And God was at work among us.

Yours in Christ

+Brian Mascord

Most Rev Brian G Mascord
Bishop of Wollongong



Bishop Brian's prayer intentions



- Parish Renewal Summit 2026.
- That St Carlo Acutis may draw more young people to the sacraments.
- Rev Seth Harsh as he prepares for priestly ordination.
- Those journeying towards full membership of the Catholic Church.



Ordination to the

PRIESTHOOD
Rev Seth Harsh

10:30AM • 12 SEPTEMBER 2026
OLHC Rosemeadow
rsvp.dow.org.au



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
WOLLONGONG

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Your place at the Summit

Renewed & Sent isn't just for parish priests, councils or ministry leaders. It's for anyone who cares about their faith, their parish, and where God may be leading us next.

For some, the Summit may be your first real introduction to parish renewal. You might be curious about what it means, unsure where to begin, or simply looking for encouragement and hope. For others, renewal is already well underway in your parish. And some will come with years of experience, looking for fresh thinking, deeper formation and the next challenge.

The Summit has been designed with all of these people in mind. Alongside inspiring keynote presentations, prayer and opportunities to connect with Catholics from across the diocese and beyond, the workshop program includes sessions for those who are new to renewal, those already on the journey, and those ready to go deeper. Whether you're exploring the foundations or grappling with more advanced

questions of leadership, culture and mission, there will be practical formation to help you take your next step.

One of the great highlights will come on Friday morning as the first full day of the Summit begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Brian, together with five bishops from around Australia, and upwards of 100 priests. Gathering around the Eucharist as one Church will be a beautiful way to begin the day and place Jesus at the centre of everything that follows.

There will also be particular value in coming as a parish group. Experiencing the keynotes and workshops together, then sharing what you're hearing and discerning, can help turn inspiration into practical action back home.

Wherever you are on the journey, there is a place for you at *Renewed & Sent*. ■

Peter Gilmore
Coordinator of Evangelisation
and Parish Renewal



Explore the program
and register at
renewedandsent.com.au

Around the diocese

MAJOR DIOCESAN EVENTS

6 September: Significant Marriage Anniversary Mass (2pm, St Francis Xavier Cathedral)

10 September: Catholic Business Connections luncheon (11:45am, Rydges Campbelltown)

12 September: Ordination to the priesthood of Rev Seth Harsh (10:30am, OLHC Rosemeadow)

19–20 September: Bishop's Annual Appeal for retired clergy and seminarians

1–3 October: Parish Renewal Summit (Campbelltown)

14 November: Opening Mass for the Diamond Jubilee of the Diocese of Wollongong (11:30am, SJV Co-Cathedral, Fairy Meadow)

FORMATION

1 & 2 September: Formation Pathway Sessions: The Next Faithful Step (Campbelltown & Wollongong)

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS AND FAMILIES

23 September: Faith & Fries – Youth (4:30pm, Grill'd Wollongong)

14 October: Faith & Fries – Youth (4:30pm, Grill'd Macarthur Square)

14 October: Sanctus: Holy Hour and Young Adult Dinner (6:30pm, OLHC Rosemeadow)

16–18 October: Compass Catholic Family Camping Weekend (Woogelemai)

31 October: Vocaris Youth Event (Wilton)

SPECIAL DATES / WEEKS

13 September: Safeguarding Sunday

14–21 September: St Carlo Acutis Relic & Eucharistic Miracles Exhibitions

4 October: Jubilee Year of St Francis – Special Feast Day Masses (Warrawong and Thirroul parishes)

dow.org.au/events



St Carlo Acutis: a pilgrimage to the heart of the Eucharist

*The Eucharist is my
highway to heaven.*

ST CARLO ACUTIS

As the first anniversary of his canonisation fast approaches, St Carlo Acutis continues to inspire more and more Catholics to rediscover the centrality of the Holy Eucharist to their faith. Particularly among the young, there is a revival in regular Mass attendance and a desire to spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Diocese of Assisi, in partnership with the *Friends of St Carlo Acutis*, is excited to be bringing the **Pilgrimage of the Major Relic of St Carlo** to Australia. This international pilgrimage has already drawn tens of thousands of visitors across countries including Italy, Canada, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom. Hearts have been touched, the flame of Eucharistic faith reignited—and many stories have emerged of non-believers requesting baptism after being invited along.

The Diocese of Wollongong has the privilege of hosting the pilgrimage between **Monday 14 and Monday 21 September**. The relic will visit the parishes of Oran Park (14 September), Rosemeadow (15 September), Nowra (16–17 September) and the Cathedral (18–21 September). During these visits, pilgrims will spend time in prayer with St Carlo, receive a blessing with his relic, immerse themselves in his



Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, and—most importantly—reencounter the great source and summit of our faith: the Eucharist. More than 25 schools in our diocese have expressed interest in sending student representatives. The story of St Carlo speaks powerfully to the hearts of young people.

As the Australian Church prepares for *Eucharist28*, we are being called into a deeper appreciation of the gift that Christ gives of himself in the Most Holy Eucharist.

It is truly our “highway to heaven”—just as it was for St Carlo, and for all the holy men and women who went before us on this pilgrimage of faith. May your experience of this pilgrimage serve to increase your love for and trust in Our Eucharistic Lord. ■

Dr Edsel Parke
Coordinator of Liturgy



Scan to view full
itinerary or visit
dow.sh/acutis

ST CARLO ACUTIS
MAJOR PILGRIM RELIC
FROM ASSISI
AUSTRALIAN NATIONWIDE
MISSION



AUSTRALIA 25TH NATION TO HOST
MAJOR PILGRIM RELIC

14-21 SEPTEMBER
IN WOLLONGONG

ADORATION • VENERATION • TALKS
• MASS • CONFESSION

ST CARLO'S 5 STEPS TO HOLINESS

"TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO LOVE
THROUGH THE EUCHARIST"



EVENT DETAILS: [DOW.SH/ACUTIS](https://dow.sh/acutis)

RENEWED & SENT

PARISH
RENEWAL
SUMMIT
2026



1-3 OCTOBER 2026
ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW
renewedandsent.com.au



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
WOLLONGONG



in partnership with



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Join me in supporting the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians.

Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG



Your gift supports **11 retired clergy** and **3 seminarians** preparing for the priesthood. A further 11 clergy are expected to retire within five years.

DONATE TODAY

dow.org.au/giving



SAVE THE DATE



YEARS

Opening Mass of the
**Diamond Jubilee of the
Diocese of Wollongong**

11:30AM • SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2026
ST JOHN VIANNEY CO-CATHEDRAL • FAIRY MEADOW

compass

CATHOLIC FAMILY CAMPING WEEKENDS

Join us for a relaxed, faith-filled family camping weekend. Time to unplug, connect, and share life together through meals, activities, prayer, and Mass.

16-18 OCTOBER 2026
Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre, Oakdale
dow.sh/familycamping26

The Journey

A weekly Catholic podcast featuring gospel reflections, faith formation, interviews, testimonies and music.

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jcr.org.au

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