CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
WOLLONGONG

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BULLETIN NOTICES

From:	Mr Jude Hennessy	**Ref:**	JH/hb:2026/25
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Date:	10 November 2026	**For weekend:**	14 – 15 November 2026

RSVP details are essential for adequate catering, seating, handouts etc. We ask that details are kept in notices where included.

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
NEW	**What's on around the Diocese?** Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses - too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected about what's happening around our Diocese!	
NEW	**"Ephphatha: Be Opened!" Saturday, 12 December 2026** **12:00pm - 4:00pm, St Therese Parish West Wollongong** ***Calling young men 18-35 years old*** Jesus is always calling us to life, and life to the full—the challenge for us is to be open to hearing his voice. How can we become more open to his quiet voice in the big and small decisions of life? How do we know if we are called to marriage, priesthood or religious life, and how do you live your baptismal vocation more fully as a single young man? Unmarried young men aged 18–35 who are open to discerning God's call are invited to join the priests of the Vocations Team and our seminarians for lunch, formation, Q&A and Eucharistic Adoration. Schedule: 12pm for 12:30pm lunch 1:30pm Introductions, Input and Q and A 3pm Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation and one-to-one chats 4pm Finish Registration is free, pls RSVP by 5 December dow.sh/Ephphatha	
Continuing	**Diocesan Annual Catechist Mass** All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the **Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 21 November at 10am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong**. Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light refreshment. To register: visit dow.sh/cm26 or scan the QR Code or contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au for more information.	

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REGISTER NOW	**Men's Prayer Breakfast, Friday 20 Nov 2026 | 6:30am–8:00am** **Speaker: Dr Robert Haddad "Battle Ready"** **Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong** Join other men for a morning of breakfast, prayer and inspiring input from our Guest Speaker, Peter Gilmore. Be inspired and strengthened as you connect with others seeking to live as authentic disciples on mission. Book here dow.sh/MPBNov26 by Wednesday 18 November ***The Men's Prayer Breakfast Series is organised by the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation and menALIVE in the Diocese of Wollongong***	
NEW	**Holy Cross Parish Helensburgh – 40th Anniversary Celebration** **Sunday, 29 November 2026 at 9.00am** Holy Cross Church, 4 McMillan Street, Helensburgh Holy Cross Parish warmly invites you to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Mass being celebrated in its current church. The church is home to a particularly special piece of history: its altar is the very altar on which Pope Saint John Paul II celebrated Mass in Canberra during his 1986 Papal Visit to Australia. Following this historic occasion, the altar was relocated to Helensburgh, where Mass was celebrated in the church just a few days later. Join Bishop Brian and Fr Paul for this special anniversary Mass, followed by morning tea in the parish hall. All are warmly welcome to share in this significant milestone in the life of the parish.	
NEW	**Standing In Solidarity: Red November at Milton Parish** This Red November, Milton Parish stands with persecuted Christians around the world. Red symbolizes the blood of martyrs and the enduring love of Christ. Through their sacrifice, we are called to witness, pray, and act in solidarity. Globally, believers face extreme threats in nations such as North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Nigeria, and parts of the Middle East, where basic freedom of faith is denied. Across Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, millions risk imprisonment, violence, or exile simply for professing the name of Jesus. **Join us each Friday in November at the 10am, Milton Mass and pray for persecuted Christians.**	
NEW	**Final VOCARIS of 2026... Movie Night Under the Stars!** Young adults 18+ are invited to come and enjoy a free food truck dinner, a catechesis on the Seven Deadly Sins and an outdoor screening of *Fr. Stu*, an inspiring story of faith and discovering God's call. **When: Saturday 5 December, 6:00–10:00pm,** **Where: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park** Bring a picnic rug or camping chair, your favourite movie snacks and a friend! Head to **dow.sh/vocarisdec26** for more information or to register! for more information or to register!	

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NEW	**Walk with Christ 2026** Join with Bishop Brian Mascord and the Diocese of Wollongong on the Solemnity of Christ the King. We'll join thousands of Catholics from Sydney, Parramatta, Broken Bay and beyond as we follow Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Sydney, praying together and bearing witness to his Real Presence in the Eucharist. **Sunday, 22 November 2026** **From 1:00pm | Walk with Christ Festival in Martin Place.** **2:30pm | The Eucharistic procession leaves the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street and concludes at St Mary's Cathedral.** **Walking with us**? Meet outside the Rolex Boutique in Martin Place and look for the Diocese of Wollongong banner. For more information and to register to walk with our diocesan group, visit dow.sh/walkwithchrist26 or contact jude.hennessy@dow.org.au or 4222-2407	Click to download flyer
NEW	**Advent Retreat:** Milton Parish is hosting its annual Advent Retreat to prepare spiritually and faithfully for Christmas from **Sunday 29 November 5.00 pm – Wednesday 2 December 2.00 pm. The theme of this flexibly delivered 3-day retreat will be "Happy the Eyes that see what you see:"** Deepening Our Appreciation of Advent through a Liturgical Lens. The retreat will be facilitated by Fr Michael Dyer & the Milton Parish Formation and Liturgical Team members. All have wide experience and professional qualifications. Day or residential participants are welcome. Presentations and accommodation will be at our newly refurbished Milton Parish Guesthouse 3 Corks Lane Milton, adjacent to our beautiful St Mary Star of the Sea Church. Cost: $50 per day for day retreatants and $120 per day for residential ones. Please do not let costs deter you. Flexible rates available. For more information and/or to receive a retreat program call 02 44551313 or email milton@dow.org.au RSVP ASAP to secure your place in this truly dynamic spiritual experience.	
SAVE THE DATE	**Diocesan Eucharistic Night - "Five Lessons from Fulton Sheen" with Fr Patrick Briscoe OP** When: Wed 9 December Time: 5.30pm to 8.30pm Venue: Xavier Conference Room What: Adoration - Food & Fellowship - Talk - Q&A Guest Speaker: Fr Patrick is an American Dominican friar and author. He is the Promoter-General for Social Communication of the Order and a host of the popular *Godsplaining* podcast. A sought-after preacher and speaker, he has written widely on faith, culture, and the spiritual life, sharing the beauty of the Gospel with clarity and joy.	

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NEW	**Why do we go to Eucharistic Adoration?** One of the most precious things we can offer someone we love is our time. To just be present with them is a beautiful gift. That is the heart of Eucharistic adoration. When we spend time with Jesus, we learn to share His love in everyday ways, from being more patient at home to noticing who might need a hand in our parish or community. If your parish offers a Holy Hour, consider joining it. Or simply visit the Blessed Sacrament for ten or fifteen minutes. You don't need perfect words or an extraordinary spiritual experience. Just a willingness to be there, and to open your heart to Him. Be still. Give Jesus your time. He invites you to be with Him. For more on adoration, head to eucharist28.org	
NEW	**Lay Carmelite Gatherings – An Invitation** Are you interested in deepening your spiritual journey and growing in your relationship with Jesus through Carmelite spirituality? The Illawarra Lay Carmelites welcome people seeking prayer, reflection, formation and spiritual companionship. Connecting online or in community at Kiama Parish Meeting Room, the Lay Carmelites provide accompaniment and formation to support people in living their Christian mission amid the demands of everyday life. For further information, please contact Gabrielle Fogarty gfogarty@exemail.com.au on 0409 327 563 or email laycarmelites20@gmail.com	
NEW	**Purchase a Caritas Australia Global Gift this Christmas** With Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, you can give a meaningful Christmas card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Whether you're shopping for family, friends or colleagues, you'll find a gift that continues to make a real difference long after Christmas Day. Each Global Gift card you buy helps make the world a little better every day. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school. Give a gift this Christmas that reflects the true spirit of giving and makes a lasting impact. Browse the full range of Global Gifts: www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts	

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NEW	**Advent Taizé Prayer – Come Emmanuel** **Saturday, 5 December 2026 | 7.30pm** **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 193 St Andrews Road, Varroville** You are warmly invited to an evening of Taizé prayer as we prepare our hearts for Christ this Advent. Under the theme Come Emmanuel – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, join us for a peaceful evening of prayer, song and silence. All are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. For further information, please contact Sr Ines on 0468 462 814.	Click here to download flyer
Continuing	**BEACHHOUSE – A Post-School Getaway for Year 12 Graduates** Finishing Year 12 can bring big changes. BEACHHOUSE is a relaxed three-day beach house experience helping school leavers build faith, friendship and community as they begin life beyond school. 📍 Jesuit Villa House, Gerroa 🗓️ 16–18 February 2027 💲 $275 (includes accommodation & meals) 👥 Year 12 graduates ⚠️ Only 20 places available A chance to slow down, connect with other young Catholics and start the next chapter well. More details & registration: dow.sh/beachhouse	
Continuing	**The Journey – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast** The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.	www.jcr.org.au.
NEW	**A Vocation View** **Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (15/11/26)** "Since you have been faithful in small matters, you will be given greater responsibility." To follow the Lord is to slowly grow in the love of the Lord, practicing small steps of virtue in order to grow to a vibrant faith in Christ. (Matthew 25:14-30) **Our Lord, Christ the King (22/11/26)** "He will separate the sheep from the goats." To be a shepherd is to tend the flock of the Lord, teaching them to hear His voice. Have courage to follow wherever He leads. (Matthew 25:31-33) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au	
Continuing	**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 on social media to find out more.	

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Continuing	**Want your community to grow? Try Faith Circles** Faith Circles is a weekly resource to help individuals but mainly small groups to come together in Parishes. In doing so it assists in the development of faith and community, a strong desire expressed in our Diocesan feedback from the National Church Life Survey. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use with simple questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.	
Continuing	**A Gift to the Church in your Will…. will help**  *(Note to Parish Secretaries: To access this image click here)*	
Continuing	**An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council** An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue Continuing or restart your monthly gift at any time. **Please visit https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/ to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronic**	
Continuing	**Cathedral Books & Gifts Wollongong** Cathedral Books & Gifts shop has a wide range of gifts for Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Missals, books, rosaries, medals, statues, plaques, cards for various occasions, holy cards etc. Operating hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10am – 2pm Entry via 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong. For any enquiries, please contact 4222 2484	

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Continuing	**Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcasts** **Catechism in a Year** This year, Ascension Press will also again run the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at **www.ascensionpress.com/ciy** **Bible in a Year** Ascension Press is running the global hit Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz. It is the world's leading religious podcast, now with over 1 billion downloads worldwide. A new episode is released every day, but you can listen entirely at your own pace! It is never too late to catch up or start your journey. Sign up to download your free reading plan at Ascension Press BIY.	