

BULLETIN NOTICES

From:	Mr Jude Hennessy	Ref:	JH/hb:2026/20
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Date:	24 August 2026	For weekend:	29 – 30 August 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	Formation Pathway: The Next Faithful Step What is God asking of our parish now? Parish renewal isn't about finding the perfect programme or copying what worked somewhere else. It's about learning to recognise where God is moving, discerning what he may be asking of us, and having the courage to take the next faithful step. This important formation is for clergy, parish and ministry leaders, and parishioners, and is the perfect preparation for the Parish Renewal Summit in October. Campbelltown: Tuesday 1 September, 7:00–9:00pm Wollongong + Zoom: Wednesday 2 September, 7:00–9:00pm To register: dow.sh/fpsept2026	
NEW	Priestly Ordination of Deacon Seth Harsh All parishioners are warmly invited to share in the great joy of the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Seth Harsh, celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord, on Saturday 12 September 2026 at 10:30am at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Please come and support Seth with your presence and prayers as he takes this beautiful step in his vocation and begins his priestly ministry. RSVP is essential by 1 September 2026 rsvp.dow.org.au (preferred) or phone (02) 4222 2400.	

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REGISTER ASAP	Renewed & Sent: Parish Renewal Summit Bishop Brian Mascord invites you to the Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit, to be held at St Gregory's College, Campbelltown, from 1–3 October 2026. Join clergy, religious, lay leaders, ministry volunteers and parishioners from across the Diocese of Wollongong for three days of inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, prayer, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion for the future of our parishes. This opportunity aligns with Bishop Brian Mascord's <i>Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes</i>, helping us to grow as communities where people encounter Jesus, become his disciples, and are sent to share the Gospel. Whether you come on your own or as part of a parish team, you'll leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas to help your parish grow in faith, mission, and community. For the full program and registrations, visit renewedandsent.com.au.	
NEW	St Carlo Acutis Relic and Display coming here in September! Our diocese is excited to be hosting the International Carlo Acutis Major Relic Pilgrimage between 14-21 September 2026. The relic will visit the parishes of Oran Park (Mon 14th), Rosemeadow (Tue 15th) Nowra (Wed 16- Thurs 17th), and the Wollongong Cathedral (Fri 18 - Mon 21), with opportunities for veneration of the first-class relic of St Carlo, participating in the sacraments, and visiting St Carlo's own Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition. Everyone, but especially students and young adults will be amazed and drawn into a deep experience of faith in encountering St Carlo's story, relic and the display. Go to https://www.stcarloaustralia.com/ for more information.	
NEW	Marriage Enrichment Weekend We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 9 – 11 October 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au	
NEW Registration Now Open	Compass Catholic Family Camping Weekend Registrations are now open for our next CCFC Weekend planned for Friday 16 - Sunday 18 October. Join with families from across the Diocese for a relaxed weekend of family fun, faith and food! For more information and to register go to: dow.sh/familycamping26	

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NEW	Blessing of the Animals, Monday, 5 October at 9:30am As usual, the Blessing of Animals will take place on the Monday of the long weekend, 5 October at 9:30am at the Parish of Saint Michael, 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Thirroul. The blessing takes place in the courtyard next to the church. All animals under 800kg and their carers are welcome, though please keep the larger crocodiles on a tight leash. The feast of St Francis of Assisi is celebrated with special Masses on Saturday, 3 October at 5:30pm and on Sunday, 4 October, at 8:00am – pets are welcome at both Masses. <i>Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.</i>	
Continuing	World Youth Day Seoul 2027 – Diocesan Pilgrimage One Year to go until World Youth Day Seoul 2027! Applications are open for the Diocese of Wollongong's pilgrimage. If you're interested in joining thousands of young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience of faith, community and pilgrimage, visit dow.org.au/wyd27 for information on the itinerary, costs, travel arrangements and FAQs. An information night will be held on Wednesday 2 September 2026 from 6-8pm at the Xavier Conference Rooms (38 Harbour St Wollongong) to provide further information and provide a chance for potential pilgrims to meet each other. Anyone looking to apply is required to attend this session. Join our mailing list at dow.sh/wyd27 to receive the latest updates and announcements.	
NEW	A Vocation View "O God, you are my God whom I seek." As St. Augustine recognized, our hearts are restless until they rest in the Lord; eliminate that which blocks your seeking for God. (Psalm 63:2) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au	

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Continuing	 Catholic Business Connections NEXT EVENT Luncheon Thursday 10 Sept 2026 11:45am–2:00pm Rydges Campbelltown GUEST SPEAKER Carmel Shaw (ACRATH) <i>Breaking the Chains: Recognising and Responding to Modern Slavery in Australia</i>  Catholic Business Connections OFFICE OF POLARIS.DOW BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW cbc.dow.org.au 	
Continuing	Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, who's body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, <i>"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."</i> (John 6:54) Through the Eucharist, Christ unites us to Himself and draws us into the eternal life He promises. This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To help your parish and community experience this moment of Eucharistic renewal on the journey to Eucharist28, head to eucharist28.org for more.	
Continuing	Cursillo Diocesan Women's Encounter, Thursday 10 September to Sunday 13 September 2026 Carmel House Varroville Cursillo is a life changing experience providing a method to support and nurture our faith journey and enable us to live vibrant Gospel oriented lives. The weekend will include talks, discussions fostering friendship, daily Mass, spiritual direction, good music, fun and laughter. Cost: \$320 (payment options available) covers all meals, accommodation, resources and activities. Enquiries: Shirley Parker 0431 513 109 cursillo3dayweekend@hotmail.com dow.sh/cursillo	

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Continuing	Great Saints of Italy – Catholic Pilgrimage 21 September 2026 Join Fr Patrick Vaughan on a 12-day pilgrimage journey through Italy. Uncover the sacred heart of Italy — a land where a rich tapestry of faith, history, and culture comes alive. Walk where Saints walked, pray where miracles unfolded, and explore timeless villages nestled among the hills and countryside, each one a thread in this sacred story. Stand in awe before majestic cathedrals, walk beneath the frescoed heavens of the Sistine Chapel, and behold masterpieces born of divine inspiration. Let your soul be captured by the beauty, grace, and wonder of this unforgettable pilgrimage. For more information and bookings, please visit: https://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/great-saints-of-italy/	
Continuing	Jubilee of St Francis Warrawong and Thirroul parishes warmly welcome pilgrimage groups to visit them during the Jubilee Year of St Francis. A plenary indulgence is available, under the usual conditions, to all the faithful "who, with a heart detached from sin, participate in the Year of Saint Francis by visiting, in the form of a pilgrimage, any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to Saint Francis" (Decree, 10 January 2026). Both parishes will be celebrating the Feast of St Francis with special Mass on Sunday 4 October 2026. Please contact the parish/es to arrange a time for your group's visit.	
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 .
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.	
Continuing	Marriage and Relationship Education CatholicCare's Marriage and Relationship Education support couples to strengthen and renew their relationship. Guided by experienced facilitators, you'll build connection through practical tools and shared learning. Choose Prepare for couples planning marriage or Enrich to deepen and strengthen your bond. To learn more or register, scan the QR code or call 1800 967 894	Click to download flyer

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Continuing	Counselling at CatholicCare Feeling overwhelmed or finding things difficult? CatholicCare's team of counsellors are here for you. Our caring counsellors support children, adults, couples, and families through life's challenges. Appointments are available in-person, online, or by phone.	Click to download flyer
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  <i>(Note to Parish Secretaries: To access this image click here)</i>	
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	

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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	
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.	