



Image by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale.

We gather as a community of believers in Jesus,
to grow as his disciples,
using our gifts, to proclaim the Gospel

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3RD MAY 2026, YEAR A

Readings: Acts 6:1-7;
1 Pet 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Response:

Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth and the life, says
the Lord; no one comes to the Father,
except through me.

Alleluia!

Understand the Church Evolution & Development of Church Buildings

The church building is more than just four walls and a steeple; it is a physical manifestation of theology, community, and history. While the "Church" (with a capital C) refers to the body of believers, the "church building" has evolved over two millennia to serve as a sacred space for liturgy and gathering.

1. The Origin:

From Homes to Cathedrals: The evolution of the church building reflects the historical status of Christianity—from a persecuted underground movement to an imperial religion.

The House Church (*Domus Ecclesiae*) In the first three centuries, Christians met in private homes. These were not specialized buildings but domestic spaces where the "breaking of bread" occurred.

Dura-Europos (c. 235 AD): The earliest identified house church, located in modern-day Syria, featured a small baptistery and a room for the assembly.

The Constantinian Shift (4th Century)

When Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity via the Edict of Milan (313 AD), the faith moved into the public sphere. Christians didn't adopt the style of Roman pagan temples (which were small and meant to house a statue of a god). Instead, they adopted the Basilica.

The Basilica: Originally a Roman civic hall for law courts and business, its long, rectangular shape was perfect for large crowds and a focused procession toward the altar.

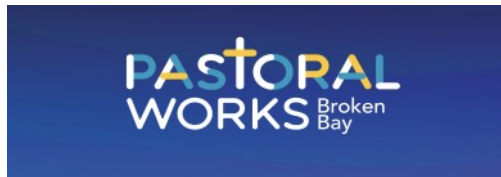
2. Symbolic Architecture and Meaning

Every element of a traditional church building is usually heavy with symbolism, intended to point the worshiper toward the divine. (To be continued in next weeks bulletin).

Annual May Mass Count

During the month of May, our Parish will be conducting a count of those attending our Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. On the third and fourth weekends, in accordance with the National Census conducted every five years, we are also required to record attendance by gender and age groups.

Pastoral Works, Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeal



Next weekend we will hold our Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeal, which will be the final appeal for the financial year. Envelopes will be available in the pews. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

Diocese of Broken Bay
Ancestral home of the
Darkinjung people

Sunday Mass

Sat (Vigil) 5pm,
Sun 8am, 10am, 5pm

Family Mass

Every Sunday at 10am
Includes Children's Liturgy

Weekday Mass

Mon 7:30am
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat
9.15am
Wednesday 8:45am

Monthly BBQ

4th Sunday of each month
after 5pm Mass

Devotions

Rosary after weekday Mass
Tues 6pm Rosary

St Joseph's Men's Group

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7pm

Anointing Mass

3rd Saturday of the Month
at 9:15am

Reconciliation

Sat 4pm - 4.45 pm

Baptisms

Sunday 11.30am Contact the
Parish Office for details.

Baptisms Preparation

3rd Tuesday of each month at
7pm in the church

Weddings

By appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues to Sat/ 8am to 9am

Parish Luncheon

2nd Thursday of the month
12noon at The Ary (Ziva),
Main Rd, Toukley

Men's & Women's Breakfast

4th Saturday of the month at
8am at Warnies Café.

Syro-Malabar Mass

1st Friday at 6pm
1st & 3rd Sunday at 7pm

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Thottam MSFS (philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au)

Assistant Priest: Fr Joshi Naduppura CFIC (joshi.naduppura@bbcatholic.org.au)

Secretary: Kim McCarthy

Church: Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarrah

Telephone: 8379 1740

Office email: warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Office hours: Tues—Fri 8:30am—3:00pm

Bank Details: Account Name: St Mary MacKillop Parish, Account # 10000 5628, BSB: 062-784

Parent Engagement Co-ordinator: Lucy Marien Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

Safeguarding: When safeguarding is embedded in Parish leadership, governance and culture; members of the Parish recognise that it is a shared responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk.

'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding officer - Bill Mifsud (bill@earthgold.com.au) 0412 051 839

Rosary Prayer Group



Come pray with us for our families, the parish and the world, every **Tuesday at 6pm in the Church.**

May 2026: The prayer meetings will be held on **Thursday 14th and 28th May at 7:00pm**, at the home of **Bill and Dianne**, 56 Irving Court, Hamlyn Terrace. For further information, please contact Dianne on 0413 454 547. All are most welcome to attend.

Antonio (Tony) Macapagal

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Tony Macapagal this week. Tony, together with his wife Maria, has been a devoted and faithful member of our parish community for many years.

Tony's Funeral Mass will be held in the Church on **Friday, 8 May at 11:30am**. We kindly ask you to keep Tony, Maria, and their family in your prayers during this time. May he rest in peace.

Fr David Taylor

It is with sadness that Archbishop Randazzo advises of the death of **Fr David Taylor, who passed away on Saturday 25 April 2026**. Fr David was born in Melbourne and moved with his family to Sydney's Northern Beaches, where he was educated at St John the Baptist, Freshwater, and St Augustine's College, Brookvale. He was ordained in 1991 and served faithfully in the Diocese of Broken Bay in the parishes of Mona Vale, Gosford, Pennant Hills, Forestville-Davidson, and Manly-Freshwater. He retired in 2024 and had most recently been living at Allambie Heights. Fr David will be remembered for his warmth, humour, and dedicated pastoral ministry.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.



Due to the availability of our Children's Liturgy volunteers, Children's Liturgy will not be held on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st May. It will be available during the 10.00am Mass on 24 May only for this month.

The parish is currently seeking additional volunteers to support this important ministry. Children's Liturgy offers a meaningful opportunity to help share and "break open" the Word of God with the children of our parish in a way that is accessible and engaging.

If you are interested in joining this valued ministry, please contact the parish office via email or speak with Fr Philip after Mass.

Salesian Thought

A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will which the called person has to serve God in the way and in the places to which Almighty God has called him.
(Letters to Persons in Religion, V, 8)

Accommodation Available

Room for Rent – Berkeley Vale

A self-contained one-bedroom studio is available for rent in Berkeley Vale. The studio includes a private kitchen and bathroom, along with a refrigerator. Additional features include air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, access to a shared laundry, and an outdoor area. All utilities are included in the weekly rent of \$350.

For those seeking long-term accommodation, please contact Jason on 0412 858 750 for further details.

Email: admin@centreofcareservices.com.au
Phone: 9188 9448 or 0494 169 308



Ricky Li
Registered NDIS provider
Phone 4355 4445
www.tuggerahphysio.com.au

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 4 May
Tuesday 5 May
Wednesday 6 May
Thursday 7 May
Friday 8 May

Anniversary of Election of Pope Leo

Saturday 9 May
Sunday 10 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Return and Earn

This week we raised \$25.50

Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Return and Earn fundraising project and commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility for our community.



Please remember:

- ♦ containers need to be empty of all liquid;
- ♦ not crushed or broken;
- ♦ labels must be on the containers;
- ♦ No wine bottles or spirit bottles.
- ♦ Please place glass bottles in crates

Thank you for your continued support!

MacKillop Online Newsletter



Please scan the QR code to subscribe to our weekly email *MacKillop Online* newsletter, sent each Friday.

Find us on Facebook

Keep up with parish happenings on Facebook at [St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale](#), please "like" our page.

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Please remember our sick: Vincent Abela, Corazon Armonio, Julie Granero, Mary Swift, Alan Smith, Anne Levett, Ivan Dzido, Barry Bateson, Chiara Wallace, Jo O'Loughlin, Cecelia Henry, Joset Gatt, Sheila Marquez.

Anniversaries: Dinoi Scania, Cecil Robert, Peter Whallan, Anne Firmstone, Rick Walters, Violet Gove, Corazon Armonio, Conchita, Mary & Angelo Spiteri, Neville & Zlatka Pikulich.

Recently Deceased: Antonio (Tony) Macapagal, Angela Polito, Fr David Taylor, Emmanuel De Battista, Pamela Jennings, Adolphe Parfait, Lynette Desforges, Jane (Giovanna) Bugeja, Bebang Miro,



Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give our food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty of them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

R.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Second Reading

First letter of St Peter 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious: but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.