



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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 8TH MARCH 2026, YEAR A

**Readings:** Ex 17:3-7  
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

**Response:**  
If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!** Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### 24 hours of Adoration and Reconciliation



Commencing on **Wednesday 25th March 2026**, our parish will hold **24 hours of Adoration and Reconciliation**, starting after the morning Mass and concluding with the **9:15am Mass on Thursday 26th March**. To help ensure continuous participation, please sign up on the form at the back of the Church to indicate the time you will be attending.

*We invite everyone to take part in this time of prayer and reflection.*

### MacKillop Fun Fest Fair

Our parish and school community are excited to host our very first **MacKillop Fun Fest Community Fair**, and we warmly invite you to be part of this joyful celebration.

We are currently seeking **market stall holders and small businesses** who would like to participate and showcase their goods and services on the day. If you would like to be involved please contact Lucy Marien on her email at [lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au).

**Parish Stall – Call for Donations**  
Our parish will have a stall on the day, selling cakes, slices, biscuits, knitted goods, bric-a-brac and 100s club. If you can contribute, please contact Barbara Cardwell at 0412 506 520 or email [bjc\\_1953@hotmail.com](mailto:bjc_1953@hotmail.com).

### Good Friday—Way of the Cross

On Good Friday (3 April 2026) at 10:00am, our parish community will gather to pray the **Way of the Cross**, with the Stations of the Cross held around the outside of the Church (weather permitting).

We are seeking 14 families or individuals to assist by preparing and leading one station each. A short script and prayer will be provided. If you are able to help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church.



**Happy Birthday to Fr Philip's for Saturday 7th March!**

### Holy Week Timetable

**Holy Thursday (2 April):** 7.30pm

**Good Friday (3 April)**

- Stations of the Cross 10am
- Passion of the Lord 3pm

**Holy Saturday (4 April):** 7.30pm

**Easter Sunday (5 April)**  
8am, 10am & 5pm

**Please Note:** there is no 5pm Mass on Holy Saturday (4th April). There will be no 9:15am Mass on Holy Thursday or Good Friday.



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](mailto:philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au))

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

**Secretary:** Kim McCarthy

**Church:** Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarrah

**Telephone:** 8379 1740

**Office email:** [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bill@earthgold.com.au)) 0412 051 839

## Way of the Cross

All welcome to join Fr Philip on Friday evenings at 6:30pm for Stations of the Cross during Lent.

## Lenten Reflection

Join us each Wednesday during Lent for a Lenten Reflection with Fr Philip, following the 8:45am Mass. This weekly gathering provides an opportunity for prayer and reflection on the upcoming Gospel. We look forward to sharing this special time together. A copy of the Lenten Reflection can be viewed by on the at [https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/2026\\_lenten\\_resource\\_walking\\_in\\_the\\_wilderness](https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/2026_lenten_resource_walking_in_the_wilderness)

## Rosary Prayer Group



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

**March 2026:** The prayer meetings will be held on **Thursday 12th & 26th March 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.

## First Holy Communion Dresses / Outfits

With the Sacrament of First Holy Communion being celebrated on 26 April 2026, we are pleased to share *Mary's Faithful Wardrobe* with our parish community. This beautiful collection of sacramental garments is available for families to borrow for their child's special day.

If you require a garment, please contact Lucy Marien [lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au), or the Parish Office.



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Address: 3 Amy Court, North Wyalong, NSW 2722  
Phone: 02 9188 9448, 0494 89 508

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Phone: 9188 9448 or 0494 169 308

## Salesian Thought

*The chief exercise of prayer is to speak to God and to hear God speak in the bottom of our heart.*

(Treatise on the Love of God, Book 6, Chapter 1)



## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for MARCH

### For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move towards effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders chose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

## Parish Volunteers Needed MUSICIANS WANTED

*Do you play a musical instrument and feel called to share your gift in worship?* Our Parish Music Group is seeking musicians to assist at special liturgies and selected weekend Masses throughout the year. All levels of experience are welcome.

If you would like to support the liturgy through music, please contact the Parish Office and your details will be forwarded to our Music Coordinator, Martin.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word is held each Sunday during the 10:00am Mass throughout the school term. It provides a welcoming and age-appropriate opportunity for children to hear and reflect on the Word of God.

*Volunteers are needed to assist on a once-a-month roster. If you feel called to help nurture the faith of our children*, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

## SAINTS DAYS

**Monday 9 March**  
**Tuesday 10 March**  
**Wednesday 11 March**  
**Thursday 12 March**  
**Friday 13 March**  
**Saturday 14 March**  
**Sunday 15 March**  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

## Return and Earn

**This week we raised \$48.60**

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:** Corazon Armonio, Conchita, Mary & Angelo Spiteri, Neville & Zlatka Pikulich, Sue & Dick Charleston, Lisa Jackos, Anita Delos Reyes, Richard Van Doorum.

**Recently Deceased:** Adolphe Parfait, Lynette Desforges, Jane (Giovanna) Bugeja, Bebang Miro, Belen Roco, Calogero Jerry Picilli, V.C Mani, Bayne Geikie, Lachlan Carlow, Betty Scicluna.



# Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

## First Reading

### Book of Exodus 17:3-7

**Give us water to drink.**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

## Second Reading

### Letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

**The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

# Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

## Gospel

### John 4:5-42

#### **The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again;

but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again:

the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her. 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman.

'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come - in fact it is here already -

when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:

that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying:

Four months and then the harvest?

Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest!

Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.

For here the proverb holds good:

one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for.

Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.