



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 ADVENT 14TH DECEMBER 2025, YEAR A

Readings: Is 35:1-6, 10;
James 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11

Response:
Lord, come and save us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he send me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia!



Advent Reflection

Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice, the Lord is Near

This Sunday, we celebrate *Gaudete Sunday*, lighting the rose candle as a sign of joy. In the Gospel, John the Baptist seeks reassurance, and Jesus points to the signs of God's kingdom: the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor receive good news. Advent invites us to notice these signs of God's presence in our own lives and to hold onto hope, even in moments of doubt. As Christmas draws near, may we welcome Christ with renewed joy and trust.

Rejoice—the Lord is close at hand.

Cleaning Bee and Decorating the Church for Christmas

Parishioners are warmly invited to join our Christmas cleaning and decorating of the Church as we prepare for the joyful celebration of Jesus' birth. This will take place on **Saturday, 20 December, from 10:00am**. Your helping hands and generous spirit are most welcome.

Special Annual Collection for Missionaries of St Francis De Sales (MSFS)

This weekend we will be having a special annual collection for the Missionaries of St Francis De Sales (MSFS).

All proceeds will support the missionary works of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, the religious congregation to which Fr Philip belongs. Their mission includes parish ministry, the education and formation of children and youth, and the care and education of children with cerebral palsy and those who are less fortunate.

The collection has been approved and endorsed by the Diocese.

New Church Projector



On behalf of the parish community, we extend our sincere gratitude to Juliana Young for her generous donation of the new projectors for our church.

Volunteers Christmas Dinner

You and your family are invited to join us on Thursday 18th December from 6:00pm, in the College Staff Room for a volunteers thank you end of year dinner. Please bring an item of food to share. Soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided.

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 Nadupppura CFIC (joshi.nadupppura@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

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

Bookkeeper: Johnson Mani

Mail: PO Box 4367, Lake Haven, 2263

Parish Mobile: (out of hours) 0423 279 263

Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale

Second Rite of Reconciliation

The second rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on: **Wednesday 17th December at 6:30pm.**

First rite of Reconciliation available every Saturday from 4pm to 4:45pm

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

5pm, 8pm, & Midnight

Christmas Day

Mass 8am

Mass 10am

NO EVENING MASS



31st December—Rosary, BBQ, Adoration and Mass

Celebrate the New Year with us!

Parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Philip at the Presbytery on **31st December** for a BBQ and Rosary gathering from **6:00pm**.

As we prepare to welcome the new year, Fr Philip will lead us in a reverent evening of prayer, beginning with **Adoration from 11:00pm to 11:45pm**, followed by a **special Midnight Mass** to usher in **2026**. Come and begin the new year in the peace and presence of the Lord.

All are welcome!

Rosary Prayer Group



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

We pray that this holy season brings peace, joy, and God's blessings to you and your families. The Rosary Prayer Group at Dianne and Bill Mifsud house will resume in **February 2026**

Catechist News

Catechist Wanted For Classes Commencing February 2026

*God gave us His only Son
at Christmas
Why not give God a gift!*

As we prepare for the new school year, we are currently seeking caring and committed volunteers to lead our Kindergarten class on Thursday mornings.

We warmly invite anyone who feels called to this rewarding ministry to consider training as a catechist in our parish government schools.

With the **recent retirement of Lorette after 17 years** of faithful service, and **Maureen stepping back after an extraordinary 25 years**, we are especially grateful for new helpers to continue this vital work. Several other volunteers have also moved on due to work and family commitments.

Full training and ongoing support are provided—no prior experience is necessary, only a willingness to share your faith and love for children.

If you would like to find out more, please contact: Kerrie 0402 815 633 kerriededera@gmail.com

I would be delighted to welcome you into the classroom and journey with you in this beautiful ministry.

A heartfelt thank you to all our past and present catechists and assistants for your generous service. Special congratulations to Maureen and Marianne for completing the Induction Course, and to Rocio for achieving Level 1 accreditation.

I would also like to thank Fr Philip, Kim our Parish Secretary and CCD for their help with the Catechist Ministry.

*The catechist's ministry wish you all
a wonderful Christmas with many
blessings.*

School Holidays 2025

The Christmas school holidays will commence on Thursday, 18th December for staff and students. On behalf of the parish community, we extend our warmest wishes to all staff, students, and families for a blessed Christmas and a joyful holiday season. Please note access to the Church will be via the top gate only. The site will generally be locked at 2:30 pm each afternoon.

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Use Promo Code MACKCP
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Return and Earn

This week we raised: \$67.30



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!**

Find us on Facebook

Keep up with parish happenings on Facebook at [St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryoftheCrossMacKillopParish), [Warnervale](https://www.facebook.com/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: Margaret Sellars, Robert Walker, Marjorie Francis, & Jonathan Breen, Peter Conneely, Tina Keane, Stephen Aitken, John Butler, William Hardman, Tess Hardman, Neville Pikulich.

Recently Deceased: Lachlan Carlow, Patrick Millstead, PJ John, Betty Scicluna, Teuila Kelly, Jessy Edwards, Bill McGuinness, Pamela Noble, Lillian Derbyshire, Claire Otoole, Elizabeth Kellman.

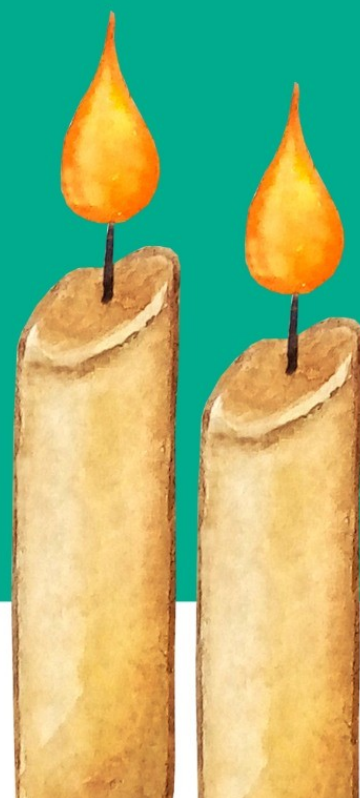




St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish presents
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Friday 12 December 2025
7:30pm | College COLA

Candles for sale on the night - 2 for \$5
Sausage sizzle from 6:30pm - Gold coin donation
Carols commencing at 7.30pm



**ST MARY OF THE CROSS
MACKILLOP CATHOLIC PARISH**
WARNERVALE



MACKILLOP
Catholic College
WARNERVALE

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

First Reading

Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like a jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy in their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion’s God, from age to age. **R**

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

Second Reading

Letter of St James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.