



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 17TH DECEMBER 2023, YEAR B

Diocese of Broken Bay
Ancestral home of the
Darkinjung people

Readings: Is 61:1-2, 10-11;
1 Thess 5:16-24;
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Response:
My soul rejoices in my God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 5pm
(in the school hall)
Youth Mass 8pm
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Mass 8am
Mass 10am

**NO EVENING MASS ON
CHRISTMAS DAY**

Second Rite of Reconciliation



The second (communal) rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on: **Thursday 21 December at 6:30pm.**

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

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



This weekend (16/17 December), we will be having a special annual collection for the Missionaries of St Francis De Sales (MSFS). All money collected will go towards the formation of the seminarians to support of the congregation to which Fr Philip belongs. The collection has been approved and endorsed by the Dioceses. Envelopes will be available at the back of the Church and at the end of each pews. Envelopes can be put in any collection or placed in the donation box outside the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Sr Marea Ross—Happy Birthday!



Wishing you the happiest of birthdays (22 December)! On this special day, may the joy and warmth you've brought to the lives of others come

back to you in abundance.

As you celebrate another year of life, may you feel the gratitude and admiration of those whose lives you've touched. Your presence is a gift to the community and beyond, and we are blessed to have you in our lives.

Happy 80th Birthday, Sr. Marea Ross RSJ!

Sunday Mass

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

Family Mass

Every Sunday at 10am
Includes Children's Liturgy

Weekday Mass

Mon—Communion Service
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 Wallarah Bay Club

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

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

Secretary: Kim McCarthy

Bookkeeper: Johnson Mani

Church: Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarrah

Mail: PO Box 4367, Lake Haven, 2263

Telephone: 8379 1740

Parish Mobile: (out of hours) 0423 279 263

Office email: warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale

Office hours: Tues—Fri 8:30am—3:00pm

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

End of School Year 2023

On Friday 15th December concludes the College school year for 2023, and we pause to give thanks for the blessings received through being educated together as a community of faith. The parish congratulates all staff, students and families on their achievements, and thank Deb Ferguson and Frank Cohen for their service to our community as they embark on a new chapter of their lives. We pray God's blessings for a wonderful Christmas season and an enjoyable holiday for everyone.

St Vincent de Paul Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

As we gather in the spirit of love and giving during this joyous Christmas season, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who generously contributed to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Your kindness and compassion have truly made a significant impact on the lives of those less fortunate in our community.

Warnervale Parish have raised \$850 towards helping the those less fortunate in our community.



Salesian Thought

Have patience with all the world, but first of all with yourself.

(Letters to Persons in the World, VI, 17)

O Almighty God, gracious provider and giver of life, we anxiously await the celebration of your birth. Like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we, too, are in need of light, in need of direction, in need of your Word, to show us the way. Our busy lives and the consumerism that surrounds us make it difficult to recognize your kingdom and to hear your voice. Help us Lord, to focus on you. Amen.

Please remember our sick: Joel Diaz, Finn McConnon, Betty Scicluna, Robyn Donnelly, Helen Cohen, Lucy Hardman, Bill McGuinness, Len Carlos, Caterina Allen.

Anniversaries: Mike McQueen, Michael McQueen, John Butler, Vincent Abela, Leo Galea, Sue Landen, Peter Larkin, Alice Joseph, Venancio Villalba, Frank Costa, Abraham K, Bill Rogers.

Recently Deceased: Jim Speight, Alf James, Jason Davis, John O'Reilly, Ronnie O'Loughlan.

Thank you



We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Ann, Tony and Frank who tirelessly tend to our beautiful garden. Their hard work, green thumbs, and love for nature have transformed our parish grounds into a place of tranquility and beauty.

Through planting vibrant flowers, nurturing flourishing plants, or maintaining the grounds with care, Ann, Tony and Frank contribute immensely to creating a welcoming and peaceful environment for all who visit.

Their efforts truly enhance the entrance to the Church.

Let us express our gratitude to Ann, Frank and Tony whose commitment to the parish garden reflects their love for our community. We are sincerely thankful for the positive impact you bring to our shared space.



This Sunday, 17 December at 10am Mass will be the last Children's Liturgy for 2023.

Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 28th January 2024 during 10am Mass.

Thank you to our leaders, Cath, Kate, Maureen and Christine for dedicating your time each week to this ministry.

Find us on Facebook



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

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 18 December
St Rufus

Tuesday 19 December
St Francis Xavier Mau

Wednesday 20 December
St Domonic of Silos

Thursday 21 December
St Peter Canisius

Friday 22 December
St Chaeromon

Saturday 23 December
St John of Kanty

Return and Earn

This week we raised \$74



Thank you to all the parishioners who continually support our Return and Earn fundraising project.

Just a few reminders as we come into the festive season of BBQs and socialising.

Please remember:

- ♦ containers need to be empty of all liquid;
- ♦ not crushed or broken;
- ♦ labels must be on the containers;
- ♦ cans and bottles must have 10c refund logo.

Thank you for your continued support!



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes with value their active participation.



PREPAID FUNERAL PLANS AVAILABLE

- ✓ Lock in the price today
- ✓ Document your wishes

24/7 care line **4324 1533**

creightonsfuneralservice.com.au



Dear Parishioners of St Mary of the Cross, Warnervale,

I have one week left with you all before I begin my month-long holidays and then return to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush, to finish my formation. It's been wonderful to be part of this parish for the past year. Thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to feel at home.

The ordained priesthood makes no sense if there are no people to serve. It is the people of God who give meaning and purpose to the priest's life. The Good Shepherd's very identity depends on him having sheep to care for. So, it's a great joy to share with you that this year has strengthened my desire to want to be like Jesus, the Good Shepherd. My heart has slowly but surely gone over to you.

Since I decided to join the seminary, I have always been somewhat aware of this desire in me. However, it is quite different and incredible to experience this desire within the context of the parish. So, I cannot thank you all enough for drawing this desire out of me. I also want to thank you for welcoming me into your lives. It's humbling and edifying to be able to witness your love for God and neighbour, particularly in your family life. I have learned much from you!

I also want to thank Fr Philip for saying yes to having me in the parish, his good witness as a priest, his encouragement, and for putting up with me in the presbytery! I have learned a great deal from him.

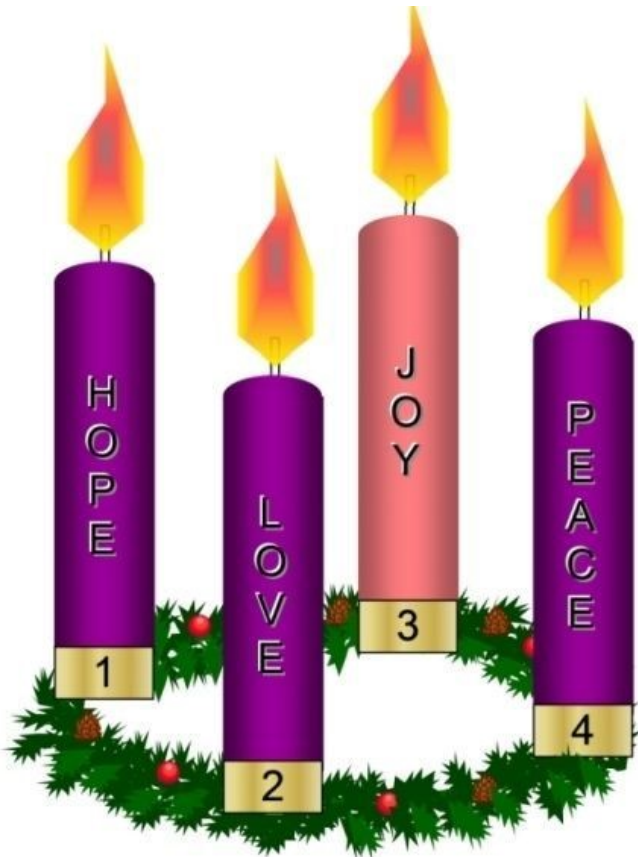
It will be hard for me to leave. However, this year has also revealed a desire to offer something more to you (the Sacraments)! So, with that in mind, and with the knowledge of how fulfilling parish life is, by God's grace, I will do my best to persevere in my formation. I have at least 2 years left in the seminary and approximately 3 years before, God willing, priestly ordination.

Please keep praying for me, particularly that I may be formed into a priest after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. And keep praying for more priestly vocations. Be assured of my prayers for you. I hope you all have a blessed Christmas!

God bless,
Shayne D'Cunha

Goodbye!
& THANK YOU

MEANING OF ADVENT CANDLES



During the advent season, it's customary in the Catholic Church to have an advent wreath present in our homes, and parishes.

This Advent Wreath has 4 candles and have their own special significance and are gradually lit throughout the four weeks of advent.

What Are Advent Candles?

Advent candles are the four candles that you see in the Advent wreath. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle on the wreath, and each candle has its own significance and meaning.

Purple Advent Candles

The colour purple has been significant in the Catholic Church for years, and it remains to be the color of the priest's vestments during the Advent and Lenten season. This colour may also symbolise the waiting and longing for the coming of Christ.

Pink Advent Candle

In the Advent wreath, the colour pink represents joy. This particular candle is lit with significant timing that signals that something great is coming soon.

When are the Advent Candles Lit?

The Advent candles are not lit all at the same time. There are four Sundays in Advent before Christmas, and every Sunday you light one candle from the wreath.

Advent Candles Order of Lighting

Week 1: Purple

Week 2: Purple

Week 3: Pink

Week 4: Purple

Meaning of Advent Candles Catholic

Lighting these Advent candles each week symbolises the proximity of Jesus' coming, hence each candle has its own special symbol and meaning.

Week 1: Purple Advent Candle, Hope

The first candle lit on the first week of Advent is a purple candle, this candle represents Hope.

In the first week of Advent, we recall the Prophet Isaiah, who anticipated the birth of Jesus. This first candle also represents the anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah.

Week 2: Purple Advent Candle, Faith

The second candle to be lit is also a purple candle. This candle symbolises faith and the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. It calls you out to prepare the way of the Lord.

Week 3: Pink Advent Candle, Joy

The next and third candle to be lit is the pink candle, which represents Joy. This candle reminds us that Jesus coming is near as we reach the middle point of Advent. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, which symbolises the nearness of Christ's coming.

Week 4: Purple Advent Candle, Peace

On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the last candle is lit, which is purple.

This candle represents peace and reminds us of the importance of Peace as the true savior of the world is coming.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
For the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of nations.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age.
On those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R.**

Third Sunday in Advent, Year B

Second Reading

St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything—hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul, and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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!

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not a prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you—unknown to you—the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.