



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

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 17TH MAY 2026, YEAR A

Diocese of Broken Bay  
Ancestral home of the  
Darkinjung people

**Readings:** Acts 1:1-11;  
Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

### Response:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

### Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the  
world.

### Alleluia!

### Reflection

The Feast of the Ascension reminds us that Christ has not abandoned us, but remains present with us in a new and deeper way. Before ascending to the Father, Jesus entrusted his disciples with the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This mission continues today through each one of us.

### Eucharistic Ministers & Senior Servers

Fr Philip invites all Eucharistic Ministers, and Senior Servers, to a Thanksgiving Mass on Saturday May 30 at 9.15am to celebrate the re-introduction of Eucharistic Ministers and to give ministers a special blessing for partaking in this ministry. Senior Servers have also been invited in recognition of their role in this ministry.

After Mass it is planned to have a brief meeting to review procedures and to deal with any questions any ministers may have, followed by tea & coffee.

Please contact Michael Goodway on 0418 294034 or via email at Michael Goodway michaelgoodway33@outlook.com to RSVP your attendance.

### Understand the Church Sacred Space in the Church

In the Catholic tradition, a sacred space is far more than just a building for meetings; it is considered the "House of God" (Domus Dei) and a visible sign of the Church living on earth.

These spaces are designed to facilitate an encounter between the divine and the human through architecture, art, and liturgy.

### 1. The Theology of Sacred Space

For Catholics, a church is a "Sacramental Space". This means the physical structure itself points to a spiritual reality.

**Consecration:** Unlike a secular hall, a Catholic church is solemnly consecrated by a Bishop, set aside exclusively for divine worship.

**Threshold:** The entrance represents the transition from the "profane" world into the "sacred" realm of the Kingdom of God.

Next week will continue with Key Elements of the Sacred Interior

### Fr Joshi Annual Leave

Fr Joshi will be taking leave from 18th May and returning 19th June. Please keep Fr. Joshi in your prayers while he is away.

*Prayer for Fr Joshi's safe travels.*

*Heavenly Father, we entrust Fr. Joshi to Your care as he embarks on his journey. Grant him protection from all harm and guidance in every step. May Your angels accompany him, shielding him from danger and bringing him safely to his destination. Bless those he meets along the way, and may his presence be a reflection of Your love and peace. Grant him restful moments and joyful encounters, and bring him back home safely, renewed in spirit and health. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### 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](mailto:bill@earthgold.com.au)) 0412 051 839

## Pastoral Works, Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeal

This weekend we will continue our final Pastoral Works Broken Bay Appeal for the financial year. Envelopes are available in the pews and with the parish bulletin.

The Appeal supports important ministries including CCD catechists teaching Catholic students in public schools, Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, as well as St Lucy's School, St Edmund's College, and the Ephpheta Centre.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Thank you for your generous support of these vital ministries.

## Holy Shroud Exhibition

From 7-14 June, St Mary's Church will host a replica of the Shroud of Turin and replicas of the instruments of the Passion, presented by Aid to the Church in Need.

A highlight of the week will be *Decoding the Shroud*, a presentation by Shroud expert Francine Pirola on Monday 8 June from 3:00-5:00pm. Tickets are \$5.

For bookings and information: [Try-Booking Event Page](#) or [That Catholic Shop - Holy Shroud Exhibition](#) For further information, please visit [www.thatcatholicshop.com/holyshroud](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com/holyshroud).

## Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and guardians participating in Church services of the importance of accompanying children to the toilets before, during, or after Mass. This practice is crucial for the safety of all parishioners, particularly children. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation.



Due to the availability of our Children's Liturgy volunteers, Children's Liturgy will only be held during the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 24th May for this month.

## Rosary Prayer Group



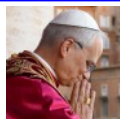
Come pray with us for our families, the parish and the world, every **Tuesday at 6pm in the Church**.

**May 2026:** The prayer meetings will be held on **Thursday 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.

## Salesian Thought

*Generous devotion does not wish to have companions in all that it does, but only in its aim, which is the glory of God and the advancement of our neighbor in divine love.*

(Spiritual Conferences, 1)



## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for MAY

**That everyone might have food**  
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## SAINTS DAYS

Monday 18 May

**St John I**

Tuesday 19 May

Wednesday 20 May

Thursday 21 May

**St Christopher Magallanes**

Friday 22 May

**St Rite of Cascia**

Saturday 23 May

Sunday 24 May

## Return and Earn

**This week we raised \$56.00**



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.



**Ricky Li**  
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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:** Deacon Jim Caulfield, Dinoi Scania, Cecil Robert, Peter Whallan, Anne Firmstone, Rick Walters, Violet Gove, Corazon Armonio, Conchita, Mary & Angelo Spiteri, Neville & Zlatka Pikulich.

**Recently Deceased:** Roslyn Smith, Antonio (Tony) Macapagal, Angela Polito, Fr David Taylor, Emmanuel De Battista, Pamela Jennings, Adolphe Parfait, Lynette Desforges.



## MacKillop Formation Retreat Day Sunday 24 May 2026

All parishioners are warmly invited to a day of prayer, reflection, and community at the MacKillop Formation Retreat on Sunday 24 May, beginning at 11.30am in the Library Foyer with registration and morning tea.

The retreat will include a keynote address by Mr. Martin Scroope, "*Pentecost – Work of the Spirit in our Lives,*" reflecting on how the Holy Spirit continues to guide, strengthen, and renew us in our everyday faith journey.

Throughout the afternoon, participants are invited to choose from a range of engaging workshops designed to deepen prayer, inspire creativity, and strengthen parish life.

Options include

- Music Ministry,
- The Examen
- The Spirit of Julian Tenison-Woods,
- Colours of Pentecost
- Expression of Faith
- Adoration and Rosary.
- Mindful Movement activity for students.

The retreat will conclude at 4.00pm, followed by a Youth Mass at 5.00pm in the Church. A Community BBQ will then be held at 6.00pm, with all parishioners warmly welcome to attend.

This promises to be a grace-filled day of formation, reflection, creativity, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Pentecost.

**RSVP:** Please sign the sheet at the back of the Church, indicating your workshop preferences or contact the parish office at [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

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### Program Overview

#### **11.30am – 12.00pm**

Arrival, Morning Tea, Welcome & Icebreaker

#### **12.00pm – 1.00pm**

Keynote: *Pentecost – Work of the Spirit in our Lives*

#### **1.00pm – 1:55pm**

Lunch

#### **2.00pm – 3.00pm**

Workshop Sessions (choice of activities from list above)

#### **3.00pm – 4.00pm**

Workshop Sessions (choice of activities from list above)

#### **4.00pm**

Retreat Conclusion & Feedback

#### **5.00pm – 6.00pm**

Youth Mass

#### **6.00pm**

Community BBQ



# *Mass of Thanksgiving*

Mass will be followed by a farewell supper for the Archbishop.



with **Most Rev Anthony Randazzo**  
Prefect, Dicastery for Legislative Texts  
Apostolic Administrator Diocese of Broken Bay

## **The Mass of Thanksgiving**

**You are all welcome to the 40th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving for the Diocese of Broken Bay on Thursday 28 May 2026 at The Light of Christ Centre, end of Yardley Ave, Waitara at 7.00pm.**

**The Mass will be followed by a farewell supper for Archbishop Anthony.**

If you would like to attend, please scan the QR code and register yourself and any accompanying guests.



# The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

## First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

**Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

# The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

## Second Reading

First letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

**He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.