



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*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21ST DECEMBER 2025, YEAR A

**Readings:** Is 7:10-14;  
Rom 1:1-7;  
Mt 1:18-24

### Response:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel:

God-is-with us.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

### Advent Reflection

#### *"Emmanuel: God With Us"*

As Advent draws to a close, today's Gospel invites us to stand with Saint Joseph, a man who trusted God even when the path was unclear. Through the angel, Joseph learns that the child Mary carries is conceived by the Holy Spirit and will be named **Jesus**, the fulfilment of the prophecy of **Emmanuel—God with us**.

In these final days before Christmas, we are reminded to make room for Christ with the same faith and openness Joseph showed. God comes to us not in grandeur but in humility, choosing to be close to us in every moment of our lives.

May this week deepen our hope and prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord who comes to save us.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

### 31st December 2025

#### *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!

### Parish Office Hours

The parish office will be closed from **Wednesday, 24 December** until **Friday, 9 January 2026**. During this period, please feel free to leave a voicemail or send an email to the parish office; your message will be attended to upon my return.

There will be **no weekly mailouts** during the closure. However, parish bulletins will continue to be available in the church and on the parish website.

For **urgent matters**, please contact the parish mobile on **0423 279 263**.

Wishing you all a very **Merry Christmas** and every blessing for **2026**.

*Kim—Parish Secretary*

### Second Rite of Reconciliation

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

#### PLEASE NOTE

NO EVENING MASS



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](mailto: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](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale)



Children's Liturgy of the Word has now concluded for the year and will recommence in 2026.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated volunteers—Cath, Kate, and Maureen—who have so generously shared their time, faith, and gifts with the children of our parish throughout the year. Their commitment and loving service are deeply appreciated.

If you feel called to support this important ministry in the coming year, please contact the parish office or speak with one of our facilitators. We would be delighted to welcome you.

We wish all our families a joyful, holy, and blessed Christmas season. May the peace of Christ dwell richly in your homes and hearts.

### Thank you!

A big thank you to Lucy Marien, our Parent Engagement Coordinator, for organising such a beautiful evening last Friday (12th December) for Carols by Candlelight. While it was unfortunate that the Carols had to be relocated to the College hall, the event was still filled with the true Christmas spirit.

We are also deeply grateful to all our very talented musicians and singers who performed so beautifully, bringing joy and celebration to the evening. Thank you to everyone, parents, staff, students, and volunteers whose time, energy, and enthusiasm helped make this special night a memorable start to the Christmas season.



On behalf of Fr Philip and Fr Joshi, we extend our sincere gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers for their generous service throughout 2025.

As we reflect on the many blessings within our parish community, we acknowledge with deep appreciation the invaluable contributions of our volunteers. Through your unwavering commitment and selfless service, you help sustain and enrich the life of our parish.

From organising parish activities to quietly offering a helping hand, your service embodies the Gospel values of kindness, generosity and love. Whether seen or unseen, each contribution—large or small—has a meaningful impact on our parish family.

Your willingness to share your time, talents and gifts is a true witness to faith in action and a testament to the strength and vitality of our parish community.

As we enter this season of gratitude and reflection, we offer our heartfelt thanks to each of you. May God abundantly bless you for your generosity, and may your example continue to inspire others to serve with the same spirit of love and dedication.

*Thank you for all that you do.*

### 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.**

### School Holidays 2025

The Christmas school holidays commenced 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.



Premium Pure Water

Exclusive Offer 10% Off & \$1 per unit Donated to SMOTC MacKillop Parish  
Use Promo Code MACKCP  
More info go to [earthgold.com.au](http://earthgold.com.au)

### Return and Earn

**This week we raised: \$58**



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, Warnervale](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryoftheCrossMacKillopParish), please "like" our page.



**Ricky Li**  
Registered NDIS provider  
Phone 4355 4445  
[www.tuggerahphysio.com.au](http://www.tuggerahphysio.com.au)



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

100% Locally owned and operated

**PRE-PAID FUNERALS AVAILABLE**

**LOCK IN THE PRICE TODAY!**

**DOCUMENT YOUR WISHES**

Book an appointment at one of our offices or in the comfort of your own home with our mobile representatives.

Office Locations: 376 The Entrance Road, Erina Heights

14 Mingara Drive, Tumby Umbi

2 Viewpoint Drive, Toukley

41 Palmdale Road, Palmdale

460 Avoca Drive, Green Point

1083 Pacific Hwy (cnr Telegraph Rd), Pymble

**1300 130 955**

[creightonsfuneralservice.com.au](http://creightonsfuneralservice.com.au)

**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:** Alwyn and Sandra O'Connor, Mike McQueen, Michael McQueen Snr, Craig Bengtson, Kenneth Grigg, Neville Pikulicif, Margaret Sellars, Robert Walker, Marjorie, Francis.

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



# Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

## First Reading Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

### The virgin will conceive

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Emmanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

### Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness  
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **R**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord

and reward the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

# Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

## Second Reading

Letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

**Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

**Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.