



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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A 22 DECEMBER 2019

Diocese of Broken Bay
Ancestral home of the
Darkinjung people

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!



MESSAGE TO JOSEPH

Joseph, newly engaged to Mary, faced a baffling and painful enigma. Following the angel's advice, he reversed a former, anguished decision and took Mary into his home as his wife and the baby as his. This is a reminder for us to have the courage and flexibility to adapt our life's plan to the responsibilities of love.

As we approach this Christmas let us continue to be mindful of those who, like Mary and Joseph, are refugees not finding room in our 'inns'.

He Dwells Among Us

The third verse of the Angelus says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" We understand that God the Son in John's Gospel is called the Word. When we say he became 'flesh' we mean that he entered into a whole web of relationships. He became connected not just to the universe but also to the ethnic, political and economic systems of his time.

One thing we know is that Jesus has not left this world. Once he became flesh he did not throw it off like an old overcoat. He did not try to escape from the web of all the relationships that make up a human life. At the time of the Ascension he says "I am with you always, to the end of time."

Extract from the Far East.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 5pm
(In the Hall) Fr Vince

Youth Mass 8pm
Fr Philip

Syro Malabar Mass
10pm Fr Philip

NO MIDNIGHT MASS

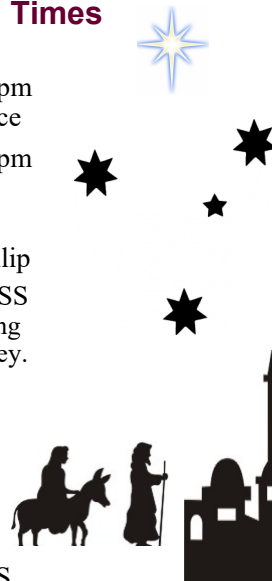
There is 11pm at Wyong and Midnight at Toukley.

Christmas Day

Mass 8am
Fr Vince

Mass 10am
Fr Philip

NO EVENING MASS



THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

It is difficult to find words to thank people who give of their time for our parish and make it part of their daily lives. You give life to our parish and enable it to flourish.

Thank you to everyone who assisted us in preparing for Christmas in the Parish—cleaning and decorating the church, preparing rosters, preparing and leading the music, preparing powerpoint slides, doing the clicker, taking up and counting the collections..... THANK YOU!!!!

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm

Weekday Mass

9.15am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7.30am Wed

Reconciliation

Saturday @ 4.00pm

Family Mass

Every Sunday @ 10am
Includes children's liturgy

Youth Mass

Every Sunday @ 5pm

Seniors Anointing Mass

Third Saturday of the month
at 9.15am.

Men's Breakfast

Fourth Saturday of the month
at Warnies Café.

Baptisms

Most Sundays @ 11.30am
Attendance at Information
Evening is required

Weddings

By Appointment

Thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Please contact Parish staff
for more information.

Devotions

Divine Mercy before Mass at
9am; Rosary after Mass.

Exposition Of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays after 9:15am Mass

Priests: Fr Vince Casey (vince.casey@bbcatholic.org.au)

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

Secretaries: Kate Clark & 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) 0498 036 713

Office email: warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale

Office hours: Wed 8:30am - 4pm, Thurs 8.30am - 2pm, Fri 8.30am - 2.30pm

PPC: Ann Jackson, Glenn d'Cruz, Antony Joseph, Bob Madafiglio, Michael McCarthy, Bill Mifsud, Paul Moir, Maureen Mulheron, Christine Owen.

From the Seniors Group

The Seniors Ministry commenced in 2010 under the direction of Jan Allen who set the groundwork for a ministry that has continued ever since. Under Jan's direction numbers grew, many successful activities were planned and enjoyed, and our community benefitted, both financially and pastorally. Christine Clysdale took over from Jan and successfully held the position for two years. Ria Firmstone has been facilitator since 2018.

There were always willing hands to assist Jan, Christine and Ria to make their load less difficult, however, after ten years of Seniors' Ministry we must face the reality that we and the parish community have aged. A number from our parish have moved and some have died. Our current committee of six has an average age of 76 years (young). No-one can take on the leadership and so the Seniors' Ministry will not be continuing.

From the start of her time at the helm Ria has focussed on the pastoral needs of our parish: care, support and friendship. She introduced a prayer that we prayed prior to each meeting: "Lord, help us to listen to each other and be mindful of our words. Send us your spirit to guide us in our decision for the good of the community."

Ria, as your committee we would like to take this to acknowledge your friendship and leadership during these past two years. We believed that we shared the load in a ministry that we value and enjoyed. Our Christmas lunch was a beautiful opportunity to say "Ria, farewell and thank you for a job well done".

Colleen S, Marie F, Marie W, Annie R, Judy W.

Plenary Council

How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church This month's theme is "Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal" please take a handout from the table at the back of the church to reflect on this theme. A box will be at the back of the church for you to share your views on **what action we can take** to become more *Inclusive Participatory and Synodal*.

Return and Earn

This week we raised \$96.40

Plant Stall—Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has supported the plant stall in 2019. We have raised \$260 in December for the Parish.

Rita, Ed and Sam would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for the new year.



Nativities & Gifts in the Piety Stall

If there is a coloured sticker next to the price there will be a box for the item under the table. If unattended talk to Fr Philip or Fr Vince.

Fr Philip's Farewell Dinner

All welcome to farewell Fr Philip on Wednesday 8 January 2020
Time: 6:30pm for 7 pm start
Cost: \$30 prepaid or \$45 at door
Indian restaurant Bollywood, Charmhaven.

Please contact Glenn D'cruz on 0413291129 or see him after 8am Mass.

Why Do Catholics Have Nativity Scenes?

Most Catholics have grown up associating nativity scenes with Christmas, but the first nativity scene only appeared about 800 years ago.

St. Francis of Assisi staged the first nativity scene in a cave outside of the town of Greccio, Italy on Christmas Eve night 1223. It is said that St. Francis was inspired to re-create the nativity scene because he was disgusted with the greed and materialism that was rampant in Italy at that time. He felt that people had forgotten that Jesus came to us not as a rich king but as a poor child. Quickly the idea of setting up live nativity scenes became popular throughout Italy and within a hundred years every church in Italy had a nativity scene.

Today it is a common to set up nativity scenes in Advent and Baby Jesus is added on Christmas Eve.

THIS WEEK

Monday 23 December
9:15am Mass Fr Philip

Tuesday 24 December
Christmas Eve
See front of bulletin for Mass times

Wednesday 25 December
Christmas Day
See front of bulletin for Mass times

Thursday 26 December
St Stephen
9:15am Mass Fr Philip

Friday 27 December
St John the Apostle
9:15am Mass Fr Philip

Next Weekend 28/29 Dec
The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Sat 4pm Reconciliation Fr Vince
5pm Mass Fr Vince

8:00am Mass Fr Vince
10:00am Mass Fr Philip
11:30am Baptisms Fr Vince
5pm Mass Fr Philip

Social Justice

Foreigners, Strange Beliefs and the Nativity Story!

The lowly shepherds were Jewish but the Magi were foreign and not poor. They had different beliefs and their learning was not from the scriptures but from a different reality beyond earthly learning. Yet it is the Magi, not the religious leaders, who sought out Christ. They were actively seeking knowledge. They journeyed into strange lands to gain deeper knowledge.

Why was this written into the scriptures? Does this challenge us to revise our view of strangers? Could they teach us new perceptions? Are they to be feared? Should we work to see strangers, people with different backgrounds to us, refugees, not as a threat but part of God's kingdom. Should we actively work for fairness for all peoples in our nation?



Social Justice Group
Warnervale Catholic Church
www.marymackillopsocialjustice.wordpress.com

Please remember our sick: Fr Bing, Peter Percy, Steve Roll, Dr Louis Fourier, Evelyne Pavlides, Victor Carreon, Luzviminda San Pedro, Cara De Guzman, Vincent Shea, Koby Bourke, Michael Hunt, Sharon King, Adeline de Silva, Neville Brown.

Deceased: Bradley Wall, Geoffrey Ranson (Father of Fr David), Colin Randazzo, Mary Mahoney, Barry Howe, Helen McKeon, Delene Menzies, Kevin May, Kelvin McGuinness, Lorna Hancock, Alberto Go, Mary Mahoney, Alex Robinson, Leo Galea, Raymond Kaifa, Hannah McCool, Anne Snodgrass, Betty Mecelli.

Mass Intentions: Sue Lauder, Peter Larkin, Dorothy Tinker, Peter Walsh, George Pantos, Helen Pantazopoulos, Linda Bond, Conchita Claramunt, Sr Alma Pollard rsj, Reg/Beryl Gible, Alice Kumarasiwie, Andrew Barlow, Gerald Weeratunga, Diana/Alicia Mitchell, Cecil Mansfield, Christi Kunandour.

