



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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 22ND FEBRUARY 2026, YEAR A

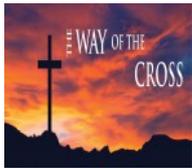
**Readings:** Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

### Response:

Be merciful, O Lord,  
for we have sinned

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!** No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

### Way of the Cross



All welcome to join Fr Philip on Friday evenings at 6:30pm for Stations of the Cross. This will commence on **Friday 20th February in the Church.**

### Lenten Reflection

Join us for a Lenten Reflection with Fr Philip, starting **Wednesday 25th February after 8:45am Mass.** This will be a weekly gathering every Wednesday throughout Lent, and everyone is warmly invited to participate. We look forward to sharing tis time of reflection together!

### Blessing of Memorial Wall



At each Mass this weekend, Fr Philip and Fr Joshi will bless our new Parish Memorial Wall. This sacred place has been established for the prayerful remembrance of our loved ones who have gone before us in faith. May it remain a place of comfort, hope, and quiet reflection for all. All parishioners are warmly invited to join in this special blessing and to continue praying for those whose names are inscribed there.

### MacKillop Fun Fest Fair



Our parish and school community are excited to host our very first **MacKillop Fun Fest Community Fair**, and we warmly invite you to be part of this joyful celebration.

We are currently seeking **market stall holders and small businesses** who would like to participate and showcase their goods and services on the day. If you would like to be involved please contact Lucy Marien on her email at [lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au).

### Parish Stall – Call for Donations

Our parish will have a stall on the day, selling cakes, slices, biscuits, and other homemade goods. If you can contribute, please contact Barbara Cardwell at 0412 506 520 or email [bjc\\_1953@hotmail.com](mailto:bjc_1953@hotmail.com).

### Holy Hour in preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress 2028

A nationwide Holy Hour will be observed on Sunday, 1 March 2026. In our parish, Adoration will take place following the 8:00am Mass, concluding at 10:00am. All parishioners are warmly encouraged to participate in this special time of prayer and to unite with Catholics throughout Australia in this shared hour of devotion.

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](mailto:philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au))

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Joshi Naduppura CFIC ([joshi.naduppura@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:joshi.naduppura@bbcatholic.org.au))

**Secretary:** Kim McCarthy

**Church:** Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarrah

**Telephone:** 8379 1740

**Office email:** [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Funeral

We entrust *Adolphe Parfait* to the loving mercy of God following his passing on Monday, 16th February. His *Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, 27th February at 11:00am* in the Church. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend. Adolphe and his wife, Suzy, have been faithful members of our parish community for many years.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

## Rosary Prayer Group



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

**March 2026:** The prayer meetings will be held on **Thursday 12th & 26th March 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.

## 24 hours of Adoration and Reconciliation



Commencing **Wednesday 25th March 2026**, our parish will hold **24 hours of Adoration and Reconciliation**, starting after the morning Mass and concluding with the **9:15am Mass on Thursday 26th March.**

To help ensure continuous participation, please sign up on the form at the back of the Church to indicate the time you will be attending.

We invite everyone to take part in this time of prayer and reflection.



## Tuggerah Sports & Spinal Physiotherapy

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## 2026 Sacrament Date

### Reconciliation & First Holy Communion (Year 4 and older)

- **First Holy Communion:** The Sacrament will be celebrated on **Sunday, 26th April at 11:45am**
- **Reconciliation:** The Sacrament will take place on **Tuesday, 31st March 2026, between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.**

Classes commencing this **Sunday, 22nd February, during the 10:00 am Mass** for 5 weeks then on 6th week (19th April) class will commence at 4pm.

Please email the Parish Office at [warnervaleparish@bbccatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbccatholic.org.au) for an enrolment letter and form or collect one at the information night.

## Salesian Thought

*The chief exercise of prayer is to speak to God and to hear God speak in the bottom of our heart.*

(Treatise on the Love of God, Book 6, Chapter 1)



## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for FEBRUARY

### For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



## CENTRE OF CARE

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ABN: 3902714905  
RDN: 125724902  
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Address: 1 Amy St, North Woking, NSW 2232  
Phone: 02 9328 9442, 0434 893 505

Email: [admin@centreofcare.com.au](mailto:admin@centreofcare.com.au)  
areservices.com.au  
Phone: 9188 9448  
or 0494 169 308

## SAINTS DAYS

**Monday 23 February**  
**Tuesday 24 February**  
**Wednesday 25 February**  
**Thursday 26 February**  
**Friday 27 February**  
**Saturday 28 February**  
**Sunday 1 March**  
Second Sunday of Lent



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 \$78.80

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/StMaryoftheCrossMacKillopParishWarnervale), please "like" our page.

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**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:** Conchita, Mary & Angelo Spiteri, Neville & Zlatka Pikulich, Sue & Dick Charleston, Lisa Jackos, Anita Delos Reyes, Richard Van Doorum, David Pennings, John O'Reilly.

**Recently Deceased:** Adolphe Parfait, Lynette Desforges, Jane (Giovanna) Bugeja, Bebang Miro, Belen Roco, Calogero Jerry Picilli, V.C Mani, Bayne Geikie, Lachlan Carlow, Betty Scicluna.





## LENTEN PENANCE

The Season of Lent is a most important time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is an annual pilgrimage of grace whereby we are drawn more deeply into the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught that the Lenten liturgy has a twofold means of preparation. By remembering their own Baptism and undertaking penance, the liturgy assists in the renewal and ongoing formation of the faithful (cf. Sacrosanctum Concilium 109). The formation of catechumens via the various stages of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is equally an important part of Lent (cf. GIRM 27).

For both the local community of the faithful and the elect, Lent is a time of grace and mercy whereby the Holy Spirit greets and renews those who seek to live as disciples of the Lord Jesus, who is our light and our salvation (cf. Psalm 27).

The Season of Lent commences on Ash Wednesday. Lent particularly useful time to reconnect with our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ; to reflect upon our spiritual pilgrimage both as individuals and as one community of disciples.

In our Catholic tradition, Lent is commemorated as a time for conversion, repentance, and renewal. Marking our foreheads with ashes in the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday is an outward sign of internal conversion. It is also an invitation to “Turn away from sin and believe the good news”. In this annual invitation, we acknowledge our human vulnerability, and we pray to be strengthened by God’s grace, mercy, and love.

In imitation of Jesus our teacher and master, we also fast (cf. Matthew 4:1-11). Like Our Lord, we will journey into the desert places of our life. Where the Lord has gone, we hope to follow, and so we must expect some challenges and temptations because the Gospel reminds us that this too was the plight of Jesus. Christians are people of hope, so during these moments of vulnerability, let us take shelter in God’s mercy and compassion.

## DAYS OF PENANCE

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, abstinence from meat is to be observed by those who have completed their fourteenth year of age. Those who are aged between 18 and 60 are to fast on these days. Priests should encourage those under their pastoral care to embrace the spirit of abstinence and fasting. This Lenten practice is not to be a burden upon those who have health issues or special needs. Clergy as pastors of souls, are asked to be particularly vigilant in encouraging the faithful to undertake the disciplines of Lent with moderation and care.



On all other Fridays of Lent the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

1. *Prayer* – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways;
2. *Self-denial* – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or deserts; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor in one's own country and elsewhere; limiting screen time on social media; or in other ways;
3. *Helping others* – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened or feeling isolated from our Church community; or in other ways.

Lent is from **Ash Wednesday** (18 February 2026) until the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** (2 April 2026) inclusive. Fasting is also observed on **Good Friday** and if possible, on **Holy Saturday** until the Easter Vigil.

### **PASCHAL PRECEPT**

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is done between **Ash Wednesday** and **Trinity Sunday** (31 May 2026), unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year.

All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion (seven years old) are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year. Priests in the Diocese of Broken Bay are encouraged to make available to the faithful not only the first form of the Rite of Penance, but also the second form.

I encourage you to read the Scriptures in your homes, individually and as a family. Likewise, you may take the opportunity to be part of a Lenten prayer or discussion group, face to face or online. For this purpose, I offer to you the 2026 Diocesan Lenten resource, ***Walking in the Wilderness: A Lenten Pilgrimage Towards Easter***, as prepared by Mission Broken Bay.

The Paschal mystery is the heart of the Eucharist. Personal private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful way to probe the mystery of faith. Our churches are regularly open outside of Mass times to assist the faithful in making a visit for prayer, contemplation, and adoration. In a particular way, I invite all the People of God to seek opportunities to enter more deeply into the graces of this Lenten season through prayer within their local parish communities, especially by participating in the Stations of the Cross and Penitential Services.



My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, I pray in these weeks ahead that our community of the Church of Broken Bay will be open to encounter new life in Christ. This Lent, may we humbly confess our sins, prayerfully perform our penance, and joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through words and deeds of charity, mercy, and compassion.

+ Anthony Randazzo

**Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL**  
Bishop of Broken Bay  
17 February 2026

# First Sunday of Lent, Year A

## First Reading

### Book of Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

#### Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

### R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin **R.**

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

# First Sunday of Lent, Year A

## Second Reading

### Letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-19

**Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.**

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

## Gospel

### Matthew 4:1-11

**Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.**

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,

and they will support you on their hands

in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied,

'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,

and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.