



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 24TH DECEMBER 2023, YEAR B

Diocese of Broken Bay
Ancestral home of the
Darkinjung people

Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Response:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!



WELCOME
4th Sunday in Advent
December 24, 2023

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**



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



Last weekend, we held a special annual collection for the Missionaries of St Francis De Sales. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this appeal. Envelopes are still available at the back of the Church and can be put in any collection plate

Thank you to our Volunteers

As we reflect on the blessings within our community, we cannot overlook the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers. Their unwavering commitment and selfless service are the pillars that uphold our parish life.

From organising to lending a helping hand, our volunteers embody the spirit of kindness and generosity. Their efforts, whether big or small, resonate deeply within our parish family and make a significant impact.

Your willingness to give your time, talents, and passion for our community is truly admirable. Your dedication is a testament to the strength of our parish.

As we approach this season of gratitude and reflection, let us extend our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of our volunteers. Your contributions enrich our parish life and create a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

Thank you for your selflessness, dedication, and love for our parish. May your kindness and generosity inspire others to follow in your footsteps.

A special thank you to our weekly Church Cleaners and Mervis and Carol for cleaning the toilets regularly, and to Gill, Anthony, Charmaine and Shannon for the Church's beautiful flower displays.



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

Farewell Shayne

As your time with us draws to a close, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the joy, wisdom, and inspiration you've brought into our community during your stay.

Your dedication to your calling as a seminarian has been truly admirable.

Through your thoughtful talks, compassionate outreach, and unwavering faith, you've touched the hearts of many within our parish.

Your presence among us has been a blessing, enriching our spiritual journey and reminding us of the importance of devotion and service.

Your commitment to spreading the teachings of love and faith has left an indelible mark on our community.

Though your time with us may be ending, please know that you will always remain a cherished part of our parish family. Your kindness, humility, and devotion have inspired us in ways that words cannot fully express.

As you continue on your journey in service to God and His people, may you be guided by His grace and strengthened by the experiences shared here. Know that our prayers and best wishes accompany you every step of the way.

Brother Shayne, your contributions have been invaluable, and you will be dearly missed.



Monday—1st January 2024



On Monday 1st January, Fr Philip will have Mass at 9:15am to celebrate the feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Christmas Message 2023 Most Rev Anthony Randazzo Bishop of Broken Bay



Peace is the essence of the message of Christmas.

It is a message that resonates through the scriptures. "For there is a child born for us... wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end". Isaiah's prophetic words remind us of a promised peace, a peace that transcends human understanding—a peace that finds its fulfillment in the birth of Christ.

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In the scriptures, the peace of God is a recurring promise. From the serene teachings of the Beatitudes to the reassuring promises of Isaiah, we are reminded of the divine invitation to embrace peace in our hearts and share it with the world.

Over the past year we have witnessed an escalation of militant and warring communities world-wide. In a troubled world marred by violence and strife, the need for peace has never seemed more apparent.

However, we are not immune to unsettling challenges and destabilising events here in our own homes.

This year has seen many families struggle with cost of living pressures and Christmas can be a time of increased stress as many try to provide for loved ones.

But let's not lose hope nor sight of the transformative power of joy. The Christmas season reminds us that the birth of Jesus Christ heralds a message of reconciliation, harmony, and goodwill to all; a gift from God, becomes our remedy for sorrow. To read or listen to Bishop's message go to www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/latest-news/christmas-message-2023

Salesian Thought

We should really live in this world as though our spirit were already in heaven.

(The Spirit of St. François de Sales, IV, 6)

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 25 December

The Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday 26 December

St Stephen

Wednesday 27 December

St John, apostle

Thursday 28 December

The Holy Innocents

Friday 29 December

Saturday 30 December

Return and Earn

This week we raised \$80



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

Please remember our sick: Margaret Bowman, 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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

First Reading

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year B

Second Reading

St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent to God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.