



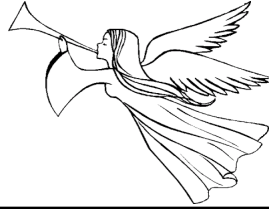
Image by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj

# 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

## SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*Mary, you will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus. I bring you news of great joy. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*



On behalf of the parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop — I welcome each of you to this celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. *Merry Christmas.* May you receive wonderful graces and blessings this Christmas that will strengthen you in your faith, heal and renew your family, bring meaning to your work and fill your hearts with hope in the abundance of God's love for us.

A warm welcome is extended to all family and friends of our parishioners and to every visitor from near and far. We are proud and happy that you are able to join us for this celebration.

To all the children—you are very, very welcome too, and our thanks go to all the parents and family who helped prepare them to be here. In a very busy time, it's just great to have our parish family together.

Today our hearts are full of joy as we celebrate that wonderful moment in human history when God chose to come into our earthly life as one of us. God took on our human form in a most surprising way—as a baby born at night to a young woman betrothed to a young man in a stable for animals far from

their family. The first people to greet them were young shepherds full of the smell of sheep. God became one of us alright—and how! This baby would grow up as truly God, yet wonderfully one of us—full of all that being human really means. What grace we have received!

As we gather to celebrate, let us also pray for peace in our world and in our families, the grace to forgive those who have wronged us, an end to hatred and bloodshed, a grace to a move toward healing. Let us remember in prayer those who have died and the families who grieve for them at Christmas. Let us pray for families that are separated, the sick and the housebound. Let us remember the poor and outcast, the lost and the lonely. Let us also pray for all on active duty to protect us from harm. Especially we pray for our children. May our hearts be opened to the wonder and joy of their love—for that is the real touch of Christmas. God bless.

*Fr. Philip and the Parish Team.*

### Safe Travelling

to everyone who will be away over Christmas. Stay safe and if you are stuck in traffic it's a good time to pray.

### Parish Office

The office will not have regular hours between Christmas and New Year. You can leave a message on the parish answering machine (8379 1740) and someone will return your call. Fr Philip can be reached on the parish mobile in case of an emergency (0423 279 263).

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

**Secretary:** Kim McCarthy **Bookkeeper:** Johnson Mani

**Church:** Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarra **Mail:** PO Box 4367, Lake Haven, 2263

**Telephone:** 8379 1740 **Parish Mobile:** (out of hours) 0423 279 263

**Office email:** [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au) **Web:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale](http://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](mailto:bill@earthgold.com.au)) 0412 051 839

## 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

### Broken Bay News

The December 2023 issue is available at the back of the Church. Please take a copy or you can view the BBN online at [www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/broken-bay-news/broken-bay-news-editions/december-2023](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/broken-bay-news/broken-bay-news-editions/december-2023)

### 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.

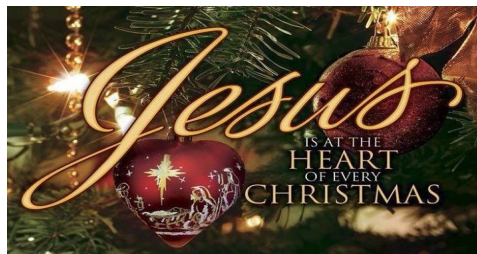
Your presence among us has been a blessing, enriching our spiritual journey and reminding us of the importance of devotion and service.

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. May your future endeavors be filled with God's blessings and may you continue to shine brightly in your mission.



### Christmas Lunch Prayer

*Loving God,*

*Thank you for the gift of Jesus who came into the world to show us your love.*

*Bless our food, our conversation and company.*

*May our gathering at this table be filled with your peace*

*Amen.*

### Trivia Night

Thank you to Bill Mifsud and team for a wonderful 6-months of monthly trivia nights. The Trivia nights raised \$1,004 for the Parish.

Your meticulous planning and hard work truly shone through, creating an event that was not only entertaining but also engaging for everyone involved. The trivia questions were cleverly crafted, challenging our minds and sparking some lively discussions among us. Your efforts to ensure a seamless and enjoyable experience for all did not go unnoticed.

### Baptism Information Night



Our next Baptism information session is on **Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7pm in the church**. Please contact the parish office to register your interest and for more information.

### Salesian Thought

*If the soul is a kingdom,  
where the Holy Spirit  
reigns as king, then  
charity is the queen,  
standing at his right  
hand.*

*(Treatise on the Love of God, Book 2,  
Chapter 22)*

## 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](http://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.

