



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 28TH APRIL 2024, YEAR B

Diocese of Broken Bay
Ancestral home of the
Darkinjung people

Readings: Acts 9:26-31;
1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Response:

I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the
Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Reflection

First Reading (Acts 9:26-31): Reflect on Saul's transformation and reception by the early Christian community in Jerusalem as recounted in Acts 9:26-31. Despite initial distrust due to his past, Saul boldly proclaims Jesus after his encounter on the road to Damascus, contributing to the Gospel's spread.

Second Reading (1 John 3:18-24): where John stresses the significance of love in Christian living. He encourages believers to show love through actions, particularly by aiding those in need. Through loving one another, believers remain in God and find assurance in answered prayers.

Gospel (John 15:1-8): Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to illustrate the intimate relationship between himself and his disciples. He declares, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit because without me you can do nothing." This passage emphasizes the importance of remaining connected to Jesus, the source of life and nourishment, in order to bear fruit in the Kingdom of God.

Overall, these readings invite reflection on the themes of conversion, community, love, and spiritual growth. They challenge believers to deepen their relationship with Christ, to live lives of love and service, and to remain rooted in him as branches on the vine.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Rita and Tony Dimech extend a warm invitation to all parishioners to join them for a special 8am Mass on Sunday, April 28th, as they celebrate their remarkable 50th Wedding Anniversary. Following the Mass, please stay and join them for a delightful morning tea.

Sacrament of Confirmation



Sacrament of Confirmation for children in year 3 and above who are baptised Catholic. Parent information session **Tuesday 14th May at 7pm**. Classes commence **Sunday 26th May** for 4 weeks. **Confirmation** will be celebrated on Saturday 29th June.

School Resumes for Term 2

School will resume on Monday, April 29th. We hope all the teachers, staff and students had a restful break. We would like to remind all drivers to prioritise safety within the school premises. In particular, we kindly request that all vehicles adhere to a maximum speed limit of 10 kilometers per hour within the school car park.

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 The Ary (Ziva),
Main Rd, Toukley

**Men's & Women's
Breakfast**

4th Saturday of the month at
8am at Warnies Caf e.

Syro-Malabar Mass

1st Friday at 6pm
1st & 3rd Sunday at 7pm

Priest: Fr Philip Thottam MSFS, Parish Priest (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

We are Recruiting for HELPERS & CATECHISTS



Today we are starting our recruitment campaign for helpers and catechists to go into our public schools. We attend Woongarrah PS on a Thursday and Warnervale PS on a Wednesday where our small group of lovely helpers and catechists tell of God's love to around 150 children.

Below is a story from Nadine, a new catechist who recently moved from Liverpool to our parish.

Nadine was asked the following:

Why did I become a catechist?

I can't explain this well all I can say is I guess it felt more like a calling I had in me all along. I started out as a catechist when I was in high school then fast forward I gravitated towards this ministry when I migrated to Australia. Then there was a long pause but when the calling came some 3-4 years back, I responded. When I moved to Warnervale recently I responded again.

Why do I continue?

As long as there is a need and I am able to, I feel I just have to carry on with this calling.

How have I grown by being in this ministry?

This journey has increased my faith and hope in our young people.

If you hear the Lord asking you to go and tell the children about his life and love pray about it and have the courage to say yes.

We will be available at the back of the Church after Mass for more information or please contact Kerrie Dederera, Catechist Coordinator 0402 815 633; kerrie.dedera@bbcatholic.org.au

Bible Study Group

Join us for a Bible Study group led by Robert Madafiglio every Wednesday following the 8:45am Mass. The session will commence on **Wednesday 15th May** in the meeting room of the Church. This session will delve into the teachings of John Stott on the Beatitudes and will continue for 8 weeks. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information please contact the parish office on 8379 1740 or via email warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Rosary Prayer Group



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

The prayer meetings for **May on 9th and 23rd, Thursday evening at 7pm**, in the home of Bill & Dianne 56 Irving Court, Hamlyn Terrace. Phone 0413 454 547. Everyone is welcomed.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

For the Role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

Salesian Thought

Let your speech be gentle, frank, sincere, straightforward, candid and faithful.

(Introduction to the Devout Life, Part III, Chapter 30)

Annual May Mass Count

During the month of May we will count the number of people attending Saturday and Sunday Masses. This has been done throughout the Diocese for a number of years and provides us with important information for allocation of resources and planning for the future.

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 29 April
St Peter Chanel

Tuesday 30 April
St Pius V

Wednesday 1 May
St Joseph the Worker

Thursday 2 May
St Athanasius

Friday 3 May
St Philip
St James

Saturday 4 May

Return and Earn

This week we raised \$

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;
- ◆ cans and bottles must have 10c refund logo.
- ◆ 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](#), please "like" our page.

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Please remember our sick: Christine Nemes, Antonio L. Macapaqal, Maria C Edwards, Cody Mann, Salvacion Mabaquiao, Finn McConnon, Lucy Hardman, Bill McGuinness.

Anniversaries: Edward Swift, Maria, Hans Hendry, Elizabeth Walker, Jack Gill, Vince Mulheron snr, Anne Firmstone, Rick Walters, Antonio Delotora, Mons Peter Butkus, Adam Laukaitis, Angelja Laukaitis.

Recently Deceased: Phylis Austin, Pat Mcleod, Helen Cohen, Paul Arkley, Rev Angelo Bartolo, Rita Borg, Modesto Romonz Castro, Steve McCallum.



Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

**R. I will pray you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.**

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Second Reading

First Letter of St John 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children,

our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,

if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, and I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away—he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord