



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

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 31ST DECEMBER 2023, YEAR B

Diocese of Broken Bay  
Ancestral home of the  
Darkinjung people

**Readings:** Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3;  
Heb 11:8, 11-13, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40  
**Response:**  
The Lord remembers his covenant  
for ever.

### Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers  
through the prophets; now he speaks to  
us through his Son.

### Alleluia!



### Prayer for a Blessed Home

Father in heaven

We know you bless those follow you.  
You provide for all of our needs.  
Please bless all who live in our home.  
Help us grow in faith and be fruitful.  
Help us to trust in your holy will  
And to be close to you.  
May our home see many happy days  
Of joy and love and laughter.  
Be with us all of our lives  
And grant us peace in our home.  
Amen.

### Thank you



Our Christmas celebrations  
were filled with joyful  
spirit. Thank you to  
everyone who made this  
holy occasion so special.

We thank all who cleaned and prepared  
the church so beautifully; servers and  
readers; musicians; those who prepared the  
data projections. Also to everyone who  
came and brought their families along for  
our Christmas celebrations, may God bless  
all this goodwill.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR !



Be safe on the  
roads, at the beach  
in the pool and  
wherever you  
travel. Happy

holidays and we look forward, in  
friendship as a faith family to 2024.

### 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

### Reflection

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Pray together this prayer thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another.

This prayer, based on Psalm 128.

**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

## 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.

## A New Year's Prayer

DEAR LORD

As a new year begins, We come to You and ask for Your blessing.

We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives.

Thank You for the plans You have for us in this new year.

We wait in anticipation to see all You will do!

Thanking God for you and praying your new year is blessed in every way.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

AMEN

## Funeral Liturgy Information

The parish is now offering a document to plan your own funeral liturgy.

The document will come in an envelope for you to fill out and then seal and return it to the parish office, where it will be kept confidential and secure until requested by your family.

This is an opportunity to have your final wishes planned and give your loved ones a guide on what you would like for your funeral, which will relieve some stress for your loved ones when you pass away.

If you wish to receive the information please contact the parish office during office hours or see Fr Philip.

## Young People becoming Catholics

If you wish for your child/ren to become a member of the Catholic church, we will be holding the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) course commencing on 27th January 2024 at 3pm in the Church.

The children will then celebrate their sacraments at Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday night 30th March

For more information or to register please contact the parish office on 8379 1740 or via email [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

## Salesian Thought

***The day that is past must not judge the day present, nor the present day judge that which is past; it is only the Last Day that judges all.***

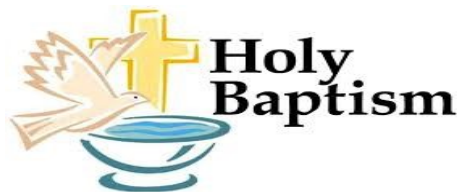
*(Introduction to the Devout Life, Part III, Chapter 29)*

## Patient Admission to any Hospital or Nursing Home

If any parishioners, family or friends are to be admitted to the hospital or a nursing home and they wish to receive Holy Communion, please ensure that you complete the question on the Admission Form that asks "Religion" and tick the box "Religious Visit".

Alternatively please ask a relative/friend to contact Warnervale Parish on 8379 1740 or arrange a visit.

## Baptism Information Night



Our next Baptism information session is on **Tuesday 17th January 2024 at 7pm in the church.** Please contact the parish office on 8379 1740 or email; [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au) to register your interest or for more information about Baptism.

## SAINTS DAYS

**Monday 1 January**  
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

**Tuesday 2 January**  
St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen

**Wednesday 3 January**  
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Thursday 4 January**

**Friday 5 January**

**Saturday 6 January**

## Return and Earn



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.



# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

## First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

### Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless....' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'he shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

### R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praises;  
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that see the Lord rejoice.

Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek the face. **R.**

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgments he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

## Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

### The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants that could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promise had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.

### Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

### The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord –observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord –and also to offer in sacrifice, in of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
Just as you promised;  
Because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared  
for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected –and a sword will pierce your own soul too– so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.