



The Exultation of the Holy Cross, 14th September 2025

*The call to 'Encounter Jesus' is both an invitation and a mission.*

*We are an open, welcoming community that seeks to share the life and love of Jesus with every person we encounter.*

*As a community, we strive to create those spaces where anyone can freely encounter the person of Jesus.*

*We are further challenged to encounter Jesus in each other, in the world and in the life of the Church.*

### St Joseph's Catholic Church

📍 140 Wangi Rd, Toronto 2283

☎ 4943 4153

@ stmarythecross@mn.catholic.org.au

🌐 www.torontoparish.org

**Weekend Mass Times:** Sunday 9am

### Reconciliation:

Before Mass on Sundays

### This Week at St Joseph's

Sun	14 <sup>th</sup> :	Mass	9:00am
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup> :	Mass (Booragul)	9:00am
		Mass (Morisset)	9:30am
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup> :	Mass (Boolaroo)	9:00am
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup> :	Mass (W/Bay)	9:30am
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup> :	Mass	9:30am
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup> :	Mass	9:00am

The Church will be open from  
8:30am to 4:00pm daily.

### Parish Office Hours

St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub

Phone: 02 4943 4153

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm.

7 Milson Street, Charlestown.

Emergency after hours:

0493 969 362

*Parish Priest:*

Fr Darryl Mackie

*Assistant Priests:*

Fr Raphael Madukwe

Fr Paul Kamau CSSp

Fr John Purnell

*Parish Administration:*

Maryanne Barry

Vimal Valiyaveetil

Bridget Voigt



We acknowledge the Awabakal people as traditional custodians of this place.

Dear Parish Family,

### *On the Cross of Christ Lies our Victory*

The people of God as they embarked on their Liberation journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, were faced with challenges in the wilderness and lost patience with God and complained against Him and Moses. God sent snakes to bite them to death. Finding themselves in such a deadly situation, they accepted and acknowledged their wrongdoing and requested Moses to plead on their behalf. Moses pleaded and God gave instructions on what should be done for their safety. A bronze serpent was to be moulded and set up on a pole such that those bitten would look at the bronze serpent and be cured.

Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness and those affected by the snake venom looked up at it and were healed. After so many years, in a clearer fashion, Christ in our time was lifted up and crucified on the cross, that all who believe in Him and follow His way might be liberated and saved. This was in line with what Christ said about Himself in today's gospel that, "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

The cross was an object of mockery, in the time of Jesus. It was designated for those who committed heinous crimes and was chosen by Jesus to show the depth of His Love for us. Identifying with us and acknowledging our sinfulness before His Father, "He bore our sins in his body on the tree (cross), that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you (we) have been healed" (1Pet. 2:24). Primarily, it was not only our sins that took Him to the cross but His Love for us which surpasses everything.

The salvation offered to the Israelites in the wilderness through the bronze serpent was perfected in Christ as salvation offered to the entire children of God through the Cross. We are now liberated and are victorious through the Cross of Christ. Therefore, in celebrating the Feast of Exaltation of the Cross, "we are reminded that the cross was not the defeat of Jesus or the defeat of love, but rather the triumph of Jesus and of God's love for us." (MK)

Considering the 'cross' from this perspective, how do we go about the crosses that come our way in our lives. In the gospel of last Sunday, our Lord Jesus Christ told us, "Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple". How are you handling your own cross?

So, today September 14th the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. This feast commemorates the discovery of the True Cross in 326 by St Helena the mother of Emperor Constantine; initial exaltation of the cross for public veneration at the Church of Sepulchre in 335; and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628 by Emperor Heraclius. In this celebration, we look at the true cross of Christ as the ultimate symbol of Christ's victory over death and a sign of healing, hope, and divine love for all humanity.

Again, in solidarity with the Church throughout Australia as it observes National Safeguarding Sunday, our diocese also marks the Perpetual Day of Remembrance, the day we remember with heavy hearts, the wounds inflicted to the body of Christ - the Church, and to some of her members - the abuse of children, young people, and vulnerable adults, by some ministers of the Church and her representatives. We keep praying for the victims.

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(continued...)

Together we are all on the path of healing and as today's liturgical celebration calls for the faithful to look upon the Cross and see there the revelation of divine love that embraces all humanity and offers new life wherever there is suffering and death, let us respond positively to Bishop Michael's calling, as he invites "those who have been hurt and are still hurting in any way because of abuse, either personally or because you are a member of the Body of Christ, to bring your hurt, your anger, your suffering, to the cross of Jesus Christ, look upon Christ there and know the love of God for you, know that he wants to set you free, know that he wants to and will lead us all from this wilderness." (MK)

Finally, as we humbly resolve to carry our crosses and follow Christ, we must make sure that we are not the cross others are carrying, that our attitudes are not the burdens others are suffering from, that our deliberate silence and omissions are not the pains others are going through. May we learn from the Cross of Christ, 'Love not hatred, Compassion not indifference, Forgiveness not vengeance' (Pope Francis).

Peace Be with You.

**Fr Raphael Madukwe**

Assistant Priest

## First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)
2. When he slew them then they would seek him,  
return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. (R.)

3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;  
they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)
4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

## Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.*

The state of Jesus was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.

But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven  
except the one who came down from heaven;  
the Son of Man who is in heaven;  
and the Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have  
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.'

## Universal Prayer

**Presider:** Sisters and brothers, let us pray to the God of light and truth for our needs and those of the world.

**Reader:** For the gift of wisdom and humility.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have been affected by abuse.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the gift of truth and integrity.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the gift of love and compassion.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the gift of courage and forgiveness.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the gift of acceptance and freedom.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who are sick.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died.  
God of mercy ...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Presider:** God of the living and the dead, in Jesus you raise us up to shine your light in the dark places of our world. Hear these prayers and help us to always remember how much we are loved. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. – Mt 11:28**

Come and join us for prayer, reflection, and adoration.

When: Thursdays, 6:30pm

Where: St Michael the Archangel, Booragul



## **Sacramental Program**

Please pray for the children in our sacramental program, as they journey together to deepen their relationship with God, and become fully initiated into our Catholic faith.



## **WE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:**

**Sick List:** James Bennett, Silvi Bennett, Dakai Smith, Scott Massey, Peter Corcoran, Maya Kelly, Paul Whitelaw, Simon Morrice, Victor Andres Guerrero Luhing, Margaret Sheridan, Judy Blissett, Judy Fisher, Jenny Moles, Sarah Hill, Brian Coogans, Graham Sneesvy, Judith Kilburn, Keith Hughes, Kath Brooks, Brett Sulman, Peter Mason, Amanda Sevil, Ella Hammond, Gerry Owen, and Monica LoCascio.

### **Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Donovan Agonovic, Cecilio Songco, Aubrey Forbes, Tony Taylor, and Jacqueline Chatburn

***If you would like a loved one remembered in the Anniversaries, please let the Parish Office know by Thursday morning.***

## **Living Prayer**

With the many entanglements of life, we need Christ's teaching and the gift of the Holy Spirit, with its divine wisdom to show us the way of salvation. We Pray:

- That you forgive our faults and failings and that we forgive others. (Luke 11:3)
- For humility, for the humble find favour with the Lord and the Lord accepts the homage of the humble. (Ecclesiasticus 3:18)
- For wisdom of heart, that we may be filled with God's love and rejoice in that love all our days. (Psalm 89:12-14)
- That we are always worthy, when in the Eucharist we partake of Christ's flesh and blood, whereby Christ lives in us and we live in Christ, for he will raise us to life on the last day. (John 15:4; John 6:55)
- That with the gathering of the nations of every language; we come to witness the Glory of the Lord. (Isaiah 66:18)
- For all fathers, those who are present and those who live in our memories. We ask that you would guide and comfort them always.

Grant that notwithstanding the entanglements of life, Christ's teaching lives in us and imbues us with Christ's message of love, forgiveness and humility.

## **Mass Collection**

### ***Purple Collection supports our Clergy:***

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100003439

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*

### ***Green Collection supports our parish:***

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100003443

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*

Donations to support our parish can also be made via the eftpos machine at the back of the church.

## Safeguarding Promoter

Can you help? As part of our parish's commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, we need a couple of volunteers. How much commitment? Weekly at Mass ensure that our commitment is up on the overheads and the brochures in the Church are accessible. Every 6 months we hold a regional meeting to discuss and raise issues relevant to the region – this can be done online or at the Hub in Charlestown. Yearly the Diocese holds a Safeguarding Promoters networking workshop. If you can help please email the Hub.

## Upcoming Building Works in the Carpark

The primary school are having building works done during the school holidays (from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September—Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October). We have been given the information that the carpark will not be accessible on weekdays during this time. For Mass on a Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Oct), or if you are accessing the church during the week, you will need to park in the Community Centre carpark and walk up. You can also use the carpark near the Columbarium. The carpark *will* be able to be used on the weekends, and for Mass on Sunday.

## Parish Pastoral Council Nominations

Before I left for holidays, I was given the details of all our nominees for the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC).... WOW! Thank you all for those accepting your nomination....and to those who nominated.

As per our Statutes, its time now to call an election which will be held on the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup>/ 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025. How will the election work?

From next weekend (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Sept) those who were nominated will provide a short biography of themselves, together with a picture and an answer to the question – “How do you see yourself contributing to the Parish Pastoral Council?”

On voting day, a single ballot paper will be provided to you to number your preferences on who you would like to see as your representative on the PPC...you will then be asked to place it in the locked ballot box.

If you are in the parishes of Boolaroo and Booragul your nominees to vote for are:

Penny Bannister	Jo Turner
Joseph Beath	Peta Landers
Elaine Rooney	Ian Ross-Gowan

If you are in the parish of Morisset your nominees to vote for are:

Joe Lawandos	Uta France
Humphrey Karanja	Charlie Lawandos

If you are in the parish of Toronto your nominees to vote for are:

Bernard Leslie	Margo Lowe
Louise Mahon	John Owens
Patty Porteous	

When voting I invite you to consider the following:

### PPC statute....

*4.1 Every effort should be made to ensure the Pastoral Council is truly representative of the whole group of parishes, particularly in terms of localities, age, and gender.*

### Assembly points...

- Grow and develop ministry to our young people
- Faith formation
- Parish viability – not just financial but a community of disciples.

Thanks everyone and I will see you in a few weeks.

Fr Darryl  
Parish Priest



# MN KIDS Holiday Program! Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025





The Maitland-Newcastle Diocese invites children aged 6-12 to our MN KIDS Holiday Program on *Tuesday 7 October*, 9am-3pm at the Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle West.

Activities include team games, pilgrim challenges, craft, bible stories, music, and delicious food. Morning tea and lunch provided. Child minding available from 8:30am–4:00pm.

**Cost** \$10 per child.

**Register by:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept  
—places are limited!

Contact Mary (0409 033 449) or  
Nicki (0417 773 444) for details.

To register, scan here



Come celebrate Jubilee with hope and joy!



## MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON

*Tuesday 4th November 2025*

**Ticket Price: \$50.00 per person**

**Ticket Price includes:**

**Glass of bubbles or punch**

**2 course meal with nibbles  
(Main and Dessert)**

**Can bring your own alcohol**

**Large screen to watch the race  
Raffle, Fashion, Sweeps  
and Lucky Door Prizes**

**Starting from 11.30am**

**St Mary's Church Hall Warners Bay**

**RSVP**

**SUE CAMPBELL - 0417 091 255**

**MARIE OSBORNE - 0429 191 245**

**JOAN WILSON - 0487 813 297**

**ROBYN SPINKS - 0412 234 435**

### **Children's Ministry Network Meeting**

All those involved in children's ministry and those interested in joining the team are warmly invited to gather for an afternoon of inspiration and connection. Join us at 3:30pm on Saturday 27th September in the St Philip's Church Hall, Kotara. Come along to share ideas, explore new resources, and help promote this vital ministry. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, your voice and experience is valued. Let's grow together in faith and creativity! Contact Nicki Graham Ph: 0417 773 444 Email: nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au.

### **FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE WINNERS**

1st Prize—Bev McWilliam

2nd Prize—Barry Poor

3rd Prize—John Christensen



### **LOTTERY WINNERS FOR AUGUST**

1st Prize—\$140—Marie Sevil

2nd Prize—\$110—Marie Heathcote

## **St Anne's Nature Playgroup**

Monday's during School Term

9:30am to 11:30am

St Joseph's Community Centre

Killabean Bay

Gold coin donation

Join us to spend time outdoors, play games, share stories, enjoy nature and people's company

### **What to bring**

Hat, water bottle, suncream, insect repellent, morning tea, spare clothes, rain gear if needed.

Call Parish office  
for information 4943 4153



### **Daily Mass Book 2026**

If you would like to purchase a copy of the 2026 Daily Mass Book, please contact the parish office via email or phone by **Sunday 28 September 2025.**

2026 DAILY MASS BOOK



*Yet he who was full of compassion  
Forgave their sin and spared them.*

### **Pilgrims of Hope – A Reflection Day with Fr Kevin Dance CP 30 September**

Let us take time in this Jubilee Year to reflect on our faith journey and how we extend hope to others in our family and community during these challenging times. All are welcome!

**Date:** Tuesday 30 September 2025

**Time:** 9.00am – 4.30pm

**Contact:** Jan 0438 252 657 (Registration)

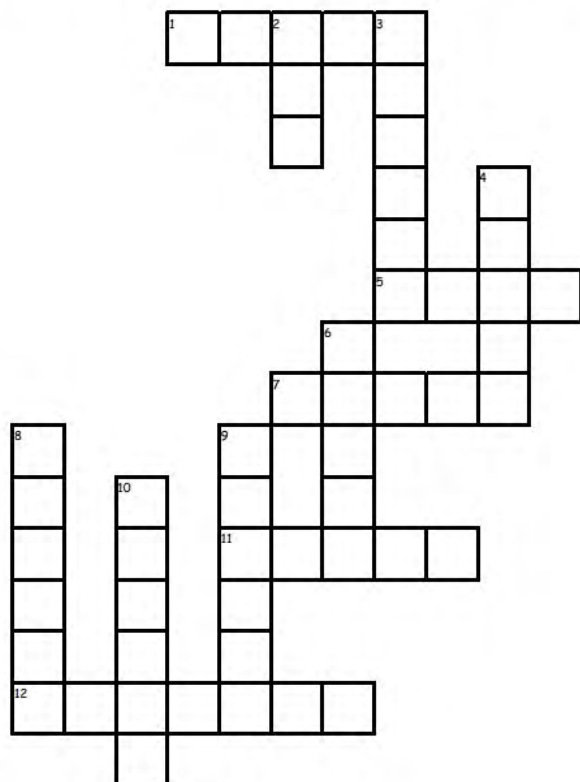
**Venue:** Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish St Francis Xavier Hall  
40 Ernest Street Belmont (parking is available on the church grounds)

**Enquiries:** elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au

## CROSSWORD

# Have faith and the Lord will keep you safe

Nm 21:4b-9  
Ps 88:4-5, 14-15abc, R. v.7a  
Jn 3:13-17



### Across

- 1: this man lifted up the metal snake in the desert  
5: God sent his Son to \_\_\_\_\_ people, not to condemn them  
7: there was no \_\_\_\_\_ or water in the desert, and this made the people angry  
11: the people of Israel started to feel this way about being in the desert  
12: never ending

### Down

- 2: the opposite of daughter  
3: the Lord sent these to attack the people who had insulted him and Moses  
4: everyone who looked at the bronze snake \_\_\_\_\_ after being bitten  
6: the people realised they were \_\_\_\_\_ to insult Moses and the Lord and began to pray  
8: the Lord told Moses to make a snake out of this and put it on a pole  
9: the Son of Man came down from this place  
10: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'the Son of Man must be \_\_\_\_\_ up'

## The Son of Man must be lifted up

Jn 3:13-17

O V K N P G N E P D Z B X M S  
M Q H S H N Q I G R S T O J O  
Y X D L I B D T V V F M R W E  
U L I F T E D J V I H F F O I  
F D I E M L C X Z X L J J R E  
A B U O F Y G U S A V E U L V  
E T E R N A L B N X D I O D E  
Z M O X A Q R K K O I Z N Z R  
A O W N I C O D E M U S L N Y  
B T R A M A N Q G O X O Y C O  
W Q F K L V V S P Y R L T D N  
M I T L D S O N R H B W E S E  
D W M N V T C G C N X Y V L D  
H G E T T E H E A V E N N F Z  
H U M O S E S R T J A N K M I

Try to find these words:

die  
eternal  
everyone  
heaven  
lifted  
Man  
Moses  
Nicodemus  
only  
save  
Son  
world