

Lakeside Pastoral Region Bulletin

The Catholic Parishes of Boolaroo, Booragul, Toronto and Morisset

Our Lady Help of Christians - 84 Main Road, Speers Point

St Mary's - 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

St Michael the Archangel - 46 Ranclaud Street, Booragul

St Joseph's - 140 Wangi Road, Toronto

Sts Patrick & Brigid - 6 Martinsville Road, Cooranbong

St John Vianney - 60 Yambo Street, Morisset

We acknowledge the Awabakal & Darkinjung people - the traditional custodians of this place

SUNDAY, 25 January 2026

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

PARISH TEAM

Emergencies

PH: 0493 969 362

Parish Priest

Fr Darryl Mackie PP, EV

darryl.mackie@mn.catholic.org.au

PH: 0409 611 949

Assistant Priests

Fr Paul Kamau CSSp

paul.kamau@mn.catholic.org.au

Fr Peter Njau CSSp

peter.njau@mn.catholic.org.au

Fr John Purnell

john.purnell@mn.catholic.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

7 Milson Street, Charlestown

Phone: 4943 4153

60 Yambo Street, Morisset

Phone: 4973 6859

**Maryanne Barry
Rosanna Suckling**

Email:

lakesideregion@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Parish Hub Office:

Mon - Fri 9:00am - 3:00pm

Morisset Office: Mon - Fri

9:00am - 2:00pm (Changes are coming)

Website:

www.boolarocatholicchurch.com

torontoparish.org

www.vianeymorisset.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES:

Sat 24 Jan 5:00pm Cooranbong
5:30pm Boolaroo

Sun 25 Jan 9:00am Warners Bay
9:00am Toronto
9:30am Morisset
6:00pm Warners Bay

Mon 26 Jan 9:30am Warners Bay
9:30am Morisset

Tue 27 Jan 9:00am Booragul
9:30am Morisset

Wed 28 Jan 9:00am Boolaroo

Thu 29 Jan 9:30am Warners Bay

Fri 30 Jan 9:30am Toronto

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

Dear Parish Family,

...Come follow me.....

We have begun our journey through the Gospel of Matthew. It is helpful to remember that this Gospel was probably written between 80–90 AD and presents Jesus as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy—revealed most fully in his resurrection and in his mission to the world.

Scripture scholars say that Matthew's Gospel is shaped around five major sermons of Jesus. The first, which we will hear next weekend, is the well-known Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7), focusing on Christian living. The second sermon (chapter 10) gives instructions on how to live out the mission—to preach and to heal the world. The third (chapter 13) is a collection of parables explaining the Kingdom of God, where all are invited to belong. The fourth sermon (chapter 18) is about life within the community of faith—humility, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The fifth (chapters 24–25) speaks about the end of time and the call to remain always watchful and ready. I would even suggest a sixth sermon, the greatest teaching of all: Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection (chapter 27). Here, love lived out in total self-giving—loving neighbour and enemy, forgiving without limits, serving others, and trusting completely in God. This is the model for all.

As we prepare for next week's Sermon on the Mount, today's Gospel brings us to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry with a simple but powerful message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." To repent does not simply mean to feel sorry for doing wrong. It means a willingness to change direction—to turn our lives toward God because something new has arrived. Matthew tells us that Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, a place many would have considered ordinary, even insignificant. It had no major city of importance. And yet it is here that, as the prophet says, "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." God does not wait for perfect people or perfect situations. God enters ordinary lives—our lives—right where we are.

The second part of today's Gospel shows Jesus' walking along the Sea of Galilee, where he calls his first disciples: Simon, Andrew, James, and John. They are not scholars or religious leaders, but working-class fishermen—men likely living hand to mouth, burdened by Roman taxes and the struggle to make ends meet. Jesus simply says, "Come, follow me." What is always striking is their response. They leave their nets and follow him. No questions. No delay. Just trust.

Those nets represent security, income, routine, comfort and familiarity—the things that made sense in their lives.

So, what can we learn from today's readings?

Discipleship is not about knowing everything; it is about trusting Jesus enough to take the next step. His call invites us to change, to grow, and to become witnesses of his love. We all have our own "nets." Habits we're stuck in. Attachments we rely on too much. Fears that hold us back. As we reflect on these readings during the week ahead, let's pray for the courage to follow—to leave behind whatever keeps us from loving more fully, trusting more deeply, and living more freely. Because the kingdom of heaven isn't far away. It's very much close at hand.

We celebrate Australia Day this week, over the past weeks we have been reflecting upon the Bondi tragedy, what is has highlighted is the Australian spirit to support each other in the good and the sad times. As we acknowledge our past, may we celebrate this land under the guidance of the Southern Cross.

Have a great week everyone!

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

Sunday 25 January 2026
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading (Isaiah 8: 23 - 9:3)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 26: 1. 4. 13-14. R.v.1)

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. **(R.)**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading
(1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 4: 23)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 4: 12-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the
land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.



**Pope Leo's
Prayer Intention
for January 2026**

**For Prayer With
The Word Of God**

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 25 JANUARY 2026

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish.

Here are key ways to **safeguard children returning to or commencing school** – focusing on *physical safety, travel, and online protection*:

- Safe travel to and from school** - Plan and practise the route with your child. Always use pedestrian crossings, hold hands with younger children, and model safe road behaviour. *Meet children on the school side of the road and don't call them across traffic.* Check pick-up/drop-off routines with teachers to avoid confusion.
- Communication and awareness** - Talk with your child about *road safety, staying with friends*, and telling you if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know who will meet them after school and where.
- Online and social media safety** - Parents should be cautious about *posting back-to-school photos*. Avoid sharing identifiable information like full names, school logos, locations or ages, and tighten privacy settings to *trusted contacts only*.
- Engage with school safety policies** - Stay in touch with teachers and administrators about safety plans, emergency drills, and behaviour policies. Open communication helps address issues like bullying or harassment early.

A calm, informed approach helps children feel secure and supports a safer start to the school year.

Single Electric Bed for Free

Bed description: " I-Care IC222 High-Low Deluxe Long"

Width: 96cm x Length: 215cm

Weight: > 100kgs

Excellent condition, used for 14months only.

Enquiries to Julie Ph: 0434 905 927

No purchase cost but people would need to be able to transport themselves.

Needs to be picked up by 24th / 25th Jan, as home is being sold.

Location Warners Bay

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



UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESS

As we are now known as Lakeside Pastoral Region, our email address for communication has changed to lakesideregion@mn.catholic.org.au

Parish Administrative Assistant Job Vacancy

St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub office at Charlestown is looking for a Casual Parish Administrative Assistant.

This role is the first point of contact for callers and visitors and involves a broad range of administrative, records, finance, and website support duties.

If you feel drawn to faith-based work, have relevant experience, or would value the opportunity to serve and bring hope to the community, we encourage you to apply.

Please follow the below link to apply for the role.

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/89634455>

LAKESIDE PASTORAL REGION

AUSTRALIA DAY MASSES

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2026

ST MARY'S WARNERS BAY 9.30AM

ST JOHN VIANNEY MORISSET 9.30AM



**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, Kath Brooks, Brett Sulman, Richard Tooker, Roz Wood, Peter Mason, Amanda Sevil, Ella Hammond, Theresa Shahinian, Barrie Jenkins, Dianne Close, Michael Burke, and Monica LoCascio.

Recently Deceased: Patricia 'Trish' Smith

Anniversaries: Julie Moylan

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

Updated Audio-Visual (AV) System

In case you didn't notice, over the Christmas break the AV system was upgraded to the latest technology (HDMI).

This will allow for a clearer picture and no longer the need for use of the expensive projector.

The funding for this project came from the 100 Club. There were 76 tickets sold and over \$3240 given in prize money.

The total raised was \$6030 which goes directly towards the new AV system which cost \$11,000.

A big thank you for all those who organised the 100 Club and especially all those who participated – a mighty big thank you! This is an annual event that is extremely popular in our faith community. Tickets are \$35.

Fr Darryl

Living Prayer Intentions

- ◆ That each of us recognise that we have been called to take part in God's plan
- ◆ That if we have confusion in our lives, that Christ calls us from sadness to joy and from darkness into light.
- ◆ For the skills with which we have been blessed, we recognise that all our gifts come from God
- ◆ That the peace of Christ inhabits the hearts of political and civil leaders.
- ◆ God our Father help us to be salt and light in the world.

Anointing Mass

St Joseph's Church Toronto

140 Wangi Road, Toronto

Thursday 26 February 2026

11:00 am

An anointing with the 'Oil of the Sick' for the sick, frail, elderly or anyone in need of healing

You are invited to stay for some light refreshments after this special Mass.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Mary's Primary School K-6

2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

Ph: 02 4948 8770

E:admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au

W:www.warnersbay.catholic.edu.au/

Principal: Liz Starling

St Joseph's Primary School K-6

140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay

P: 02 4959 1355

E:admin@kilabenbay.catholic.edu.au

W:www.kilabenbay.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Nikki Norley

St John Vianney Primary School K-6

60-66 Yambo Street, Morisset

P: 02 4973 4073

E:admin@morisset.catholic.edu.au

W:www.morisset.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Konik

St Paul's Catholic College 7-12

70 Primrose Street, Booragul

P: 02 4958 6711

E:admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au

W:www.booragul.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Nick Wickham

PARISH GROUPS

Finance Committee

TBA,

Parish Council Meeting

TBA

Promotion of Safeguarding

Please contact the office

Mass Collection - Thank you

First Collection supports our priests:

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014920

Account Name: CBA

Reference: Your Surname.

Second Collection supports our parish:

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014918

Account Name: CBA

Reference: Your Surname.



Encounter Jesus

St Joseph's PARISH OF TORONTO

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE