

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, 1 February 2026

4th 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.vianneymorisset.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES:

Sat 31 Jan 5:00pm Cooranbong
5:30pm Boolaroo

Sun 1 Feb 9:00am Warners Bay
9:00am Toronto
9:30am Morisset
6:00pm Warners Bay

Mon 2 Feb 9:30am Warners Bay
9:30am Morisset

Tue 3 Feb 9:00am Booragul
9:30am Morisset

Wed 4 Feb 9:00am Boolaroo

Thu 5 Feb 9:30am Warners Bay

Fri 6 Feb 9:30am Toronto

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

Dear Parish Family,

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....

The setting for the Sermon on the Mount follows on from the end of last Sunday's Gospel. Jesus addresses his disciples in the presence of the sick, those suffering from various diseases and pain. With so many gathered around him, Jesus begins to teach the Christian community how it should be shaped and how its life should be characterised. Moses gave the Jewish people the Torah—the first five books of our Old Testament. The Torah shaped the lives of the people in how to live rightly with God and with one another, but it was dominated by rules and regulations, some of which proved difficult for many to follow. As I mentioned last week, the Gospel of Matthew is written to show that Jesus is the new Moses—not to dismiss what Moses taught, but to fulfil it.

The Beatitudes may be the most familiar words of Jesus, and yet they are also among the most challenging. They begin with the word "happy" or "blessed"—the same word in Greek. There are nine Beatitudes, but the first is the most important, as all the others will flow from it: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." This speaks of our approach to God. Those who are poor in spirit are the poor and the powerless—those who acknowledge they need God and place their total trust in God. The next three Beatitudes unfold what this first one looks like in practice: those who mourn, the gentle, and those who hunger and thirst for what is right. Those who mourn are those who love, and loving often comes with sacrifice. The gentle are those who choose kindness, refusing to walk over others. Those who hunger and thirst for what is right are people of standards and values, prepared to live up to them.

The following three Beatitudes show us how we are called to relate to others: to be merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. We are called to show mercy, as we ourselves hope to receive mercy. To be pure in heart is to live single-heartedly—where what we say and what we do are aligned. And we are to be peacemakers: welcoming the stranger, fostering understanding, and working for a more just society. The final two Beatitudes remind us that if we live the way Jesus teaches, we will be counter-cultural, and we may meet opposition along the way. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right... blessed are you when people abuse you and speak all kinds of calumny on my account. This was the experience of Jesus. It was the experience of the early Church as it proclaimed the Good News. And it is often our experience today, as we are challenged by a society that questions what we believe and how we choose to live.

The Beatitudes are not just ideals to admire. They are a portrait of Jesus himself. And they are an invitation. The Beatitudes do not promise an easy life—but they do promise a blessed, a truly happy one. And so, we return to that first Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." What do I need to let go of, to find the true happiness that Jesus promises?

Our Diocese has had a long tradition of priests coming from overseas for whom we are deeply grateful. Many of us have fond memories—and stories—of our Irish priests. Our communities are blessed to have so many parishioners involved working together with the ministry of Fathers Peter, Paul and John. Over the next year or so, with pending retirements and the need to cover sickness and annual leave, the facts are we may be reduced to two priests. How will this affect us? Mass attendance is strong across the parishes and increasing, and some of our communities are growing rapidly. At present, we have six weekend Masses, which can be easily managed with two priests—but not in our current situation. Over the coming weeks, let's pray and discern our Mass times: what best serves the communities, and what ensures there is sufficient time for priests to travel safely between our Mass centres. Stay tuned!

Have a great week everyone!

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

Sunday 1 February 2026

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3)

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1: 26-31)

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

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 5:12)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Lakeside Pastoral Region

Ash Wednesday Masses



Warners Bay
9.30am

Morisset

9.30am and 6.30pm

Toronto

9.30am and 6.30pm

Boolaroo
6.30pm

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February 2026

For Children with Incurable Diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.





LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 1 February 2026

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

The following **safeguarding tips make day-to-day living more manageable** when living with an illness or someone elderly.

- *Leave your most used items out or store them at waist level* rather than putting them away.
- *Prioritise the most important activities* – be prepared to let some things go.
- *Use a bathrobe to dry rather than towel-drying* – let dishes air dry on the kitchen counter.
- *Seek/accept help from others* to allow you to stay independent for longer.
- *Take advantage of community service* such as adult care day programs, meal programs, homecare support, respite care for yourself and a loved one.
- *Use your pharmacy for the preparation and home delivery* of blister pack medication.
- *Use a walking frame/walking stick* to minimise chances of slips and falls.
- *Ask your doctor about aged care services* to which you may be entitled – including laundry, garden maintenance, home modifications, podiatry, physio, meals, wound care, medication management, bathing, grooming, opportunities to enable community participation.
- *You may also be entitled to a parking sticker* permitting access to spots reserved for those with limited mobility.
- *Groceries can be home delivered*, or learn how to use 'click and collect' grocery services.
- *Ensure a healthy, balanced diet.*

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



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.

Word of God Sunday

February 1 2026

This Sunday in Australia we celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God. Pope Francis instituted it seven years ago to promote throughout the Church knowledge of Sacred Scripture and greater attention to the Word of God in the Liturgy and in the life of communities.

Let us pray for the wisdom to discern the various ways in which **God's Word** applies to our lives.



REAL
women

placing value on
womanhood

Placing Value on Womanhood

**"Real Women" is back for 2026
The next REAL WOMEN CAFE NIGHT**

Monday, 23 March 2026

7.30 pm – 9.15 pm

St Mary's Catholic Church Hall

**Booking will open at St Mary's Hall, Warners Bay
on Saturday 28 February 2026 10am to 12pm**

Donation of \$15 per person

**If you would like to do a direct deposit
please contact Sue or Marie.**

**Bookings may also be made by phone
Phone: Sue - 0417 091 255 or
Marie - 0429 191 245**

Palm Leaves Needed

It would be greatly appreciated if anyone in our parishes have any spare palm leaves please bring them in for our parishes to use.

Rite of Election 2026

The Rite of Election on Sunday 22 February 2026 is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil. A catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 1.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to mission@mn.catholic.org.au.

Come and support the catechumens and candidates from our Lakeside communities.

**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 Sneesby, 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.

DEAR LIVING PRAYER FAMILY

As we start the new year please find below our Living Prayer intentions.

We reflect on how we seek God in our everyday life – do we truly believe that we have been chosen by God to make a difference in the life of another. We pray:

- ◆ 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.

God's blessings to all

Maryanne Cartwright-maryanne.cartwright@icloud.com
Declan Conry-declan.conry1@bigpond.com
Giliennne Freeman-gilienne@hotmail.com
Paddy Porteous-paddyport@hotmail.com

Lent 2026 with the Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed.

Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://brucedownes.org/lent-2026-sign-up/>

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Matthew 5:12

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

First Collection supports our priests:

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100003439

Account Name: CBA

Reference: Your Surname.

Second 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



St Joseph's PARISH OF TORONTO

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE