

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, 11 January 2026

The Baptism of the Lord 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

frpaul.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

Vimal Valiyaveetil

Bridget Voigt

Rosanna Suckling

Email:

stmarythecross@mn.catholic.org.au

morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

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

Website:

www.boolarocatholicchurch.com

torontoparish.org

www.vianneymorisset.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES:

Sat 10 Jan 5:00pm Cooranbong
5:30pm Boolaroo

Sun 11 Jan 9:00am Warners Bay
9:00am Toronto
9:30am Morisset
6:00pm Warners Bay

Tue 13 Jan 9:00am Booragul
9:30am Morisset

Wed 14 Jan 9:00am Boolaroo

Thu 15 Jan 9:30am Warners Bay

Fri 16 Jan 9:00am Toronto

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

Dear Parish Family,

...This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.

At the very heart of our being is the need to belong, whether it be family, friends, school, sports or even church. During my convalesce, I managed to catchup on some reading. I've always been an admirer of the work of Professor Brene Brown. She is an author, speaker and researcher who studies life in society today. Her book: *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone* speaks about the difference between belonging and its opposite she sees, fitting in. She writes that *true belonging doesn't require you to change who you are; it requires you to be who you are*. The opposite to this is "fitting in" which means *shaping ourselves to resemble what we think other people want, which isn't true to who we are*. Belonging then requires us to be courageous against the realities of the world today that often tries pulling us one way or another – you should be this or you should be that; and then significantly trying to draw us away from caring for each other. I think it's something to think about when we ask ourselves- what does it mean to be baptised in the world today?

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. Have you ever wondered if Jesus wasn't born with original sin, then why did he need to be baptised? How did the gospel writers address this question...well John leaves it out; Mark and Luke just simply state that he was baptised, but Matthew has John the Baptist ask the same question; with Jesus replying to "*fulfil all righteousness*". In other words, identifying himself with you and me. I've always struggled with the question about Jesus' Baptism until my retreat last year with Bishop Greg Homing of the Lismore Diocese. His answer is that it goes back to the question of belonging. Jesus' Baptism was about Jesus' making sense of his life. How so? There is no doubt that Mary and Joseph would have spoken to Jesus about his birth and there is no doubt there would have still been some talk around Mary's pregnancy. He lived in a small village! He would have known about all the prophecies about him; he also knew the scriptures well. What would have been going on in his mind?

Something changes at the baptism. All those thoughts of who he was, where he was from, the prophecies about his life would now make sense when the skies open and God speaks *"This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."* Confirmation that he is the Son of God, God made man. He is the beloved, ie. he is loved! God's favour rests on him, he knows now he has a mission, a task ahead of him. He belongs! Jesus' baptism helps us to make sense about our own baptism – we are God's sons and daughters; we are loved; and we too have a mission of being good news to all who we meet. Through Baptism we are part of the Christian community, the Church. Belonging to the Church means that we are called to be who we are and not merely fitting into the crowd. We are here to make a difference and to make the world a better place. May we always celebrate the gift of baptism in each and every one of us.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and start to the New Year of 2026. Again, many thanks to all those whose ministries supported our wonderful celebrations of Christmas and New Years...thank you!! This weekend, you will have noticed some changes: we are now known collectively as the Lakeside Pastoral Region (this doesn't change the canonical status of any of the parishes - that remains the same). Also, the bulletin is now condensed to try and reduce admin time which will assist the admin team to better support the parishes and myself. Finally, in the next week, I will be announcing some changes within the parish offices. Stay tuned.

Have a good week everyone.

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

Sunday 11 January 2026
The Baptism of the Lord Year A

First Reading
(Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of
right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people
and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm
(Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11)

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with
peace.**

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord
glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his
name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the
Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the
Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of
splendour. **(R.)**

3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all
cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading
(Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The
truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that
God does not have favourites, but that anybody of
any nationality who fears God and does what is
right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel,
and it was to them that the good news of peace was
brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord
of all men. You must have heard about the recent
happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth
and how he began in Galilee, after John had been
preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the
Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was
with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing
all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation (See Mark 9:8)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice
was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be
baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is
I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you
come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this
for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in
this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At
this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the
water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he
saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and
coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven,
'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on
him.'





LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 11 January 2026



The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish. This week our focus is on Working With Children Check (WWCC)

In New South Wales (NSW), a Working With Children Check (WWCC) is not generally required for working with vulnerable adults, unless the role also involves working with children. The WWCC is specifically designed to protect children under 18 and is mandatory only for jobs or volunteering that involve child-related work such as teachers (school, pre-school, music, dance), sports coaches, tutors, nannies, faith leaders and children's entertainers.

For roles that involve working with vulnerable adults, different background checks may apply, depending on the sector. For example, workers in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) are required to have an NDIS Worker Check, which assesses whether a person poses a risk to people with disability. Similarly, those working in aged care may need to complete an Aged Care Worker Screening Check, which focuses on protecting older people from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

In New South Wales (NSW), a National Police Check is often required for people working with vulnerable adults, but whether it is legally mandatory depends on the role, industry, and employer.

Even when not legally required, employers may request a police check as part of their duty of care and risk management, especially when workers have close, unsupervised, or ongoing contact with vulnerable adults.

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.



Funeral & Bereavement Team

Across the pastoral region we hold several funerals a year.

To assist in the ongoing ministry of supporting in the planning of funerals together with the ongoing pastoral support to those who have lost loved ones...I'm inviting anyone interested in this ministry to attend an information morning at the **St Joseph's Church Toronto on Thursday 22nd January at 2:00pm**.

Training will be provided.

If you are unable to attend, please email me.

SRE Expo Save the Date!

MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2026

Time: 9:30AM-2PM

Location: Maryland (Newcastle)

For current & prospective SRE teachers & helpers.

Keynote Speaker:
Member of ICCOREIS Team

FREE ENTRY!
(Thanks to generous local donors)



PLUS lots of workshop options:
Creative (Puppets, storytelling etc.)
Classroom Management
Special Needs

For all enquiries email
mission@mn.catholic.org.au
OR phone Nicki Graham on
0417 773 444



2026 Introductory Course in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

The CPE Introductory course is run over a period of five weeks (each Monday), commencing on **Monday, 2 February 2026** at Mackillop Parish, Charlestown from **9:00am to 4:00pm**.

Topics covered include Pastoral Care, Listening, Self-Awareness, Grief, Healing & Illness and Community. The course is also a pre-requisite for anyone considering a role in hospital chaplaincy.

Enquiries for this course can be directed to Fr. Roger Zohrab at rzohrab@bigpond.com

**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, Peter Mason, Amanda Sevil, Ella Hammond, Barrie Jenkins, Michael Burke, and Monica LoCascio.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Barbara O'Neill

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

Thank You

On behalf of Jim and the family of Mary Ooi, we would like to thank you and The Team of St Joseph's at Toronto for a good send off for my sister.

The friendly gals did a fantastic, tasty spread, which Mary often boasted to me about the well-known Sunday cuppa after Mass.

The dedication of the 'Funeral Team' to assist us in all aspects were admirable. The fellows like Andrew and David were friendly and helpful.

Also special thanks to Vee and you, Fr. Darryl to make the Day an easier one for us, family and friends.

Much appreciated. Thank You.

Teresa

Household Items for Sale

A parishioner is trying to get rid of varying items from her home, including some tools, car parts, kitchen appliances and utensils, furniture etc at reasonable prices.

If you are interested and would like more details, please contact Therese on 0428 658 696.

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.



**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.

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
Contact Maryanne, Joy, Peta or Nathan
Via 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