



Second Sunday of Advent Year A 7th December 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 7th: Mass - Toronto 9:00am
Tue 9th: Mass ☒ Booragul 9:00am
 Mass ☒ Morisset 9:30am
Wed 10th: Mass ☒ Boolaroo 9:00am
Thu 11th: Mass ☒ W/Bay 9:30am
Fri 12th: Mass - Toronto 9:30am
Sun 14th: Mass - Toronto 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 3pm.

7 Milson Street, Charlestown.

Emergency after hours:

0493 969 362

Parish Priest:

Fr Darryl Mackie

Assistant Priests:

Fr Paul Kamau CSSp

Fr Peter Njau CSSp

Fr John Purnell

Parish Administration:

Maryanne Barry

Vimal Valiyaveetil

Bridget Voigt

Rosanna Suckling



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

Dear Parish Family,

Prepare a way for the Lord.....

In the second week of Advent, we light candle number two – the Peace Candle sometimes also called the Prophet Candle! The prophets throughout the ages spoke of the coming of the messiah, of one born a king in the line of David. Isaiah in the first reading foretold a time of peace was coming. What did this mean for the people of Isaiah's time who were living more than 600 years before the birth of Jesus. All they had known was war. They had been taken from their country in captivity. They had felt God had been silent, but Isaiah speaks of someone from the *stock of Jesse*. Who was Jesse? Jesse was the father of King David. There was a sense with the coming of the messiah, a return to the natural or let's say peaceful order of things...*the wolf lives with the lamb...*

One of the most haunting songs in the musical, Jesus Christ Superstar is John the Baptist singing *...Prepare ye the way of the Lord...*(you're probably singing it in your head right now!) It's haunting because it's the call to a change of heart, he knew who was about to come next. The central figure of Advent is John the Baptist. His address is c/o the wilderness... why there? That is the traditional place associated with growth of Israel's religions. It was in the desert that the people of Israel first met God and it's in the desert they could hear God closely. So, it's appropriate that the last great prophet who links both the Old and the New Testament comes from the wilderness. John begins his ministry by baptising, and his message is clear *...prepare a way for the Lord, make his path straight*. What is it that we may need to make straight be it at work, at school, at home or with my family?

As we draw closer to Christmas, we are called to a change of heart. We are all aware of areas in our life that might need to be challenged, that might need to be changed. Advent is the time of change; may we be found at Christmas time to not be like the Inn that had no room left.

As we light the second candle this weekend of our Advent wreaths...we light the candle of peace! Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of the candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Welcome back Fr Paul, it's good to have you home again, well rested and recreated! You were missed by us all. As for me, I'm hoping to return next weekend 13/14th December after the surgery all went well. I am recovering slowly with a long list from the doctor of don't do's and that means long walks, stairs or driving. And yes, I am trying to be a good patient. Anyway, thanks for all the prayers and good wishes they are much appreciated and I will be back in action again soon.

Happy Advent everyone!

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest



First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Universal Prayer

Presider: Let us bring our prayer before God who shows mercy to all who pray.

Reader: We pray that the Holy Church will be a sign of justice and peace in the world today. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that basic rights and respect for all people be established in all nations. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that the poor and afflicted will find us generous, compassionate and responsive. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that those who are sick will find the fullness of peace in Christ. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that those who have died will dwell in the house of God. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We offer up the prayers of this faith community: May we be comforted by the knowledge that our petitions are always heard by God. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: God of justice and peace, your prophets challenge us and confront our complacency. Hear our prayers and teach us to heed the words of John the Baptist and bear good fruit. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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, Gerry Owen, and Monica LoCascio.

Recently Deceased: Rosaleen Doherty

Anniversaries: Teresa McGinlay

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

Living Prayer

In this season of Advent as we eagerly anticipate the birth of Jesus, we pray:

- that we discover how Jesus calls us to be a united community showing love, gentleness and patience at all times and particularly for the continued success of the community kitchen.
- for all those who generously give of their time to support those experiencing considerable upheaval in their lives.
- in this jubilee year that everyone in our community feels sought after, loved and forgiven by God.
- in this special time may we reach out to our sick, elderly and lonely as our witness of Christ's love.
- that we guard against excessive distraction, busyness and stress so that when the Infant Jesus arrives, He may find a serene and peaceful dwelling place in our hearts.
- for our parish HSC students and their future pathways
- that our school and parish families will have a peaceful, safe and joy filled Christmas and holiday period.

May God's love envelope you and your families and may His Holy Blessings and Peace be with you all.

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.

LAKE SIDE

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

Christmas Eve	5:30pm	St Mary's Warners Bay
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	St Joseph's Toronto
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	Morisset Showground
Christmas Eve	7:00pm	Our Lady Help Boolaroo
Christmas Day	8:00am	St Michael's Booragul
Christmas Day	9:00am	St Mary's Warners Bay
Christmas Day	9:00am	St Joseph's Toronto
Christmas Day	9:30am	St John Vianney Morisset

**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





Join with us and contribute to the Mission of the Church

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is seeking expressions of interest from people across our Diocese who feel called to contribute their wisdom, skills and passion on one of our new Boards or Councils.

With a refreshed governance structure that honours both civil and Church law, we are creating new Councils, Boards, and Committees that remain faithful to the teachings and mission of the Church as well as help shape the future of our Diocese.

[Details about each of the Councils, Boards and Committees can be found on the Diocesan Website.](#)

Expressions of interest will close on 8 December 2025.



LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 7 November 2025

Safeguarding children during Christmas is crucial due to increased risks of abuse, neglect, and emotional distress, necessitating vigilance and support from adults. Increased risks include:

- 1. Domestic Abuse:** The festive period often sees a rise in domestic violence, with children trapped in unsafe environments. Schools, which typically provide a support network, are closed, leaving vulnerable children without access to trusted adults.
- 2. Financial Strain:** The pressure to provide a "perfect" Christmas can lead to financial difficulties, exacerbating family tensions and increasing the risk of neglect or abuse. Families may struggle with the costs of gifts and celebrations, leading to stress and conflict.
- 3. Isolation and Loneliness:** With schools closed, children may lose contact with their support networks, leading to feelings of isolation. This can be particularly harmful for those already experiencing neglect or abuse, as they may feel trapped and unable to seek help.
- 4. Increased Supervision Needs:** Children may be left unsupervised for extended periods, especially if adults are preoccupied with holiday preparations or socialising. This lack of supervision can expose them to various risks, including accidents and online dangers.
- 5. Proactive safeguarding** of children can help ensure that the holiday season is a time of joy and safety rather than distress and danger.



St Joseph's Name Badges

For those wanting a new St Joseph's name badge, names will be collected and another batch printed soon. Please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the church by Sunday 14 December.

Money (\$12) will be collected when the badges are issued.



A member of our community needs help with some small tasks, are you able to assist?

A member of our parish community is looking for someone to come twice a week to assist with reading emails, glitches with technology, and other small problems associated with her poor sight.

If you think you can help—and would like some more information. Please contact the parish office.

CatholicCare Christmas Hamper Drive

CatholicCare are once again hoping to distribute Christmas hampers to those in need this year. You can help by donating any of the items listed below:

- Christmas pudding/fruit cake
- Long life custard
- Fruit mince pies
- Shortbread / other sweet biscuits
- Chips, popcorn, savoury biscuits
- Chocolates, lollies, sweet treats
- Bon bons
- Candy canes

Please place donations in the basket at the rear of the church.

Christmas Masses volunteers

If you will be attending our Christmas celebrations and would like to volunteer for the various ministries needed for Mass, please add your name to the list on the back table of the church.



Volunteers Needed!

Christmas Fundraising

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we have a few things on sale that you might be interested in:

- Tickets in the St Joseph's 2026 Lottery. This is our major fundraiser—we have sold 35 tickets and need to sell at least 60.
- A Christmas Seafood Hamper raffle for seafood lovers valued at \$150 (drawn Sunday 21st December). Generously donated by Shane's Seafood at Carey Bay.
- Caribbean Steel Pans Music CDs. Lovely music! Great rhythm!

All would make great Christmas Presents.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.