



Third Sunday of Advent Year A 14th 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 | 14 th : | Mass - Toronto | 9:00am |
| Tue | 16 th : | Mass - Booragul | 9:00am |
| | | Mass - Morisset | 9:30am |
| Wed | 17 th : | Mass - Boolaroo | 9:00am |
| Thu | 18 th : | Mass - W/Bay | 9:30am |
| Fri | 19 th : | Mass - Toronto | 9:30am |
| Sun | 21 st : | Mass - Toronto | 9:00am |

The Church will be open from
8:30am to 4:00pm Mon-Fri.

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,

Everlasting joy on their faces...

In this third week of Advent, we light candle number three – the pink candle representing joy! Halfway through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudette Sunday, a Sunday of joy. As I mentioned last weekend, the people of Isaiah's time had only known war, having been taken over by the Assyrians and by Jesus' time, it was another enemy, the Romans. Between being in captivity and heavy taxes on the people it was Isaiah's vision of what life might look like when the Messiah finally comes. Isaiah paints this as a picture of regeneration where the desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight can now see; ears incapable of hearing can now hear; limbs without strength shall leap; and tongues not able to speak will speak - all are given new life.

Let's set the scene of the Gospel – it opens in the darkness of a dungeon. John openly denounced Herod for divorcing his wife and marrying his brother's wife (forbidden in Jewish Law). Herod was always nervous because there was always political unrest and his appointment was by the Romans. Therefore, no one respected him. Do you think John was a bit confused? John's idea of the Messiah if you remember from last week's Gospel, was the strict judge, who will bring fiery judgement ...maybe even break him out of prison! So, he sends out his disciples to ask Jesus, "*are you the one who is to come?*". All he has heard about this Jesus is that he heals the sick; blesses the gentle and the peacemakers and calls everyone not to judge one another and even to love your enemies! Isn't that the fulfilment of Isaiah's vision, all the things that are to happen when the Messiah comes are happening with me – that's your answer!

As we enter this third week we build on the Advent themes of anticipation, being prepared, people of hope, peace and now we add joy to the list. What areas of my life need some joy - be it in myself, my family, my work, school or community? How can I bring joy to others? As things ramp up closer to Christmas, it's always a reminder to not lose sight of the why we are celebrating.

As we light the third candle this weekend of our Advent wreaths...we light the candle of joy! Through our baptism, Jesus is born in us, we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the joy we find in each other and in Jesus Christ.

This week, our schools will begin finishing up for this year of 2025. What a great year to journey together! We wish our young people a safe and rest filled break. To our school teams led by Mark (St John Vianney, Morisset), Nikki (St Josephs, Kilaben Bay), Nick (St Paul's, Booragul) and Liz (St Mary's Warners Bay) thank you for your commitment to our young people through Catholic education and in supporting our parishes' vision of mission together. Wishing you also a safe and rest filled break and look forward to furthering our mission together in 2026 with blessings of this coming season of Christmas.

I will be back from this weekend on a limited return to work schedule. I'm feeling fine but my body is taking its time....and again thanks for all the prayers and good wishes.

Happy Advent everyone!

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
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

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Universal Prayer

Presider: In these times of joyful expectation let us bring our needs before the God of hope and salvation.

Reader: We pray that our Holy Father Pope Leo, will instil trust and patience in Catholics all over the world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that leaders of nations and governments will work for justice and peace. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that nations who yearn for peace will have their longing fulfilled. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that those who are plagued by doubt and questions will find in Christ a renewed sense of hope and confidence. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that those who are sick will be blessed with patience and healing. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray that those who have died will rejoice 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: Lord God, the coming of your Son is near. Hear our prayers, and guide us with patience and renewed faith as we wait in joyful hope. 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:

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



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!



LOTTERY WINNERS FOR DECEMBER

1st Prize—\$140—Mary Brissenden

2nd Prize—\$110—Peter Ryder

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.



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.

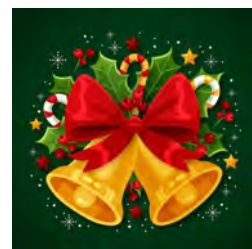
Thank you for generously supporting our parish.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

ST MARY OF THE CROSS PARISH HUB WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM 25 DECEMBER 2025 TIL 01 JANUARY 2026.

YOU WILL STILL BE ABLE TO CONTACT US VIA EMAIL.



WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Stay safe and 'elfy over the summer holidays



You might be a decorating machine or just wanting to pop a few lights on the tree. Either way, make sure you're following basic safety steps. To decorate safely, ensure you're following manufacturer's instructions and have power points turned off before plugging in lights.



Chuck a few prawns on the barbie this summer, but don't forget the golden rules: find a flat spot and steer clear of anything flammable; have a bucket of water or fire extinguisher ready to spring into action; avoid wearing loose clothing; and keep children and pets away from the BBQ area.

'Know the Drill, before you Grill'. Be sure to check your gas connection before you BBQ - get into the habit of doing a soapy water check. Squirt your gas connection with soapy water to make sure there are no leaks. If no bubbles appear, you're safe to use.



December and January are traditionally the months the highest number of recorded road accidents. Avoid rushing when travelling to Christmas lunch and other social occasions. Plan your route ahead of time and allow plenty of time to get there.



During the hot weather over summer, it's important to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Sugary drinks and alcohol can cause dehydration, so it's best to avoid them.

Check on elderly friends and family to ensure they are staying cool and hydrated.



Never travel into any high-risk bushfire area where a Catastrophic day has been declared. If you're staying in a high-risk bushfire area, the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the day on which Catastrophic has been declared. Before you travel, make sure you download the relevant emergency app for your state and check the fire danger rating for your destination. While you're away, listen to local radio for warnings and advice when you're on the road. Always follow the advice of emergency services.



We all know how the Australian sun can be incredibly intense. Protect yourself by wearing a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen with a high SPF. Stay in the shade as much as possible, especially during the hottest part of the day where UV rays are highest (between 11am and 3pm).



Over Christmas, some services may be closed or limited. Being prepared will avoid unnecessary issues.

- Check if you have enough scripts and medications to get you through the public holidays?
- If you are going away, do you have an up to date list of your medications?
- Christmas can be stressful or lonely. **The Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 or Lifeline 13 11 14** can offer support.
- If you have a health concern but your GP is closed, you can call **Health Direct** for trustworthy health advice on **1800 022 222**.
- Avoid hurting yourself or others, drink safely this Christmas. Maybe try to schedule alcohol-free days each week.