



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

☎ 4959 2777

@ torparish@mn.catholic.org.au

🌐 www.torontoparish.org

Weekend Mass Times: Sunday 9am

Reconciliation:

Before Mass on Sundays

This Week at St Joseph's

Sun 28th: Mass - 9:00am

Tues 30th: Mass (Booragul) - 9:00am

Wed 1st: Mass (Boolaroo) - 9:00am

Thur 2nd: Mass (Warn/Bay) - 9:30am

Fri 3rd: Mass - 9:00am

Playgroup - 10:00am

Sun 5th Mass - 9:00am

The Church will be open from
8:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is currently
operating from the

Warners Bay Parish Office site
(Shop 2, 24 Lake St, Warners Bay).

Parish Administrator: Greg Barker
0417321209

Administration : Leanne Hamilton
49592777

Accounts: Maryanne Barry
49473301

Emergency after hours
0493969362

The Office at Warners Bay is open
from 9am to 3pm, Mon - Fri.

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

Dear Parish Family,

Last weekend of the school holidays – where has that time flown? Hopefully everyone will return to schools feeling uplifted, refreshed and invigorated, ready! From conversations I've had it feels like they were just the right length, but it is now time to get back into learning. Would that be a good assessment?

Last week I attended a forum hosted by Dr Hannah Tonkin, the newly appointed NSW Women's Safety Commissioner. The forum 'Working together to address domestic, family and sexual violence' drew religious and community leaders from across our region. It was great to have conversations with leaders from our multicultural and refugee hubs as well as church leaders. All front-line workers hearing and seeing vulnerable people in need.

As we know domestic violence is on the rise. 30 women this year alone have lost their lives to partners or Ex partners. Abuse takes many forms including behaviours such as isolating another, depriving someone access to independent financial support, taking their financial support away, degrading language (especially around body image or skills) as abuse or domestic violence. It's a short step for some to acts of violence.

The definition includes those who share a domestic situation e.g. people living in a share house. Our teenagers, people with a disability or the elderly can be at risk in these circumstances. Most of us probably wouldn't think about Domestic Violence as something inflicted on an individual by an individual not related by blood or marriage. And it is not experienced by one socio economic group, ethnic background, educational level, or area of society.

I was really taken by a speaker from the Saving FACE initiative undertaken by Muslim Women Australia. It is a hoping to deliver key preventive measures amongst Muslim men who use violence and other forms of abuse against women and children. I have a copy of their project 'Saving FACE – faith and cultural empowerment – a guide for reframing the way forward'. You can get your own copy by making contact with them at <https://mwa.org.au/contact-us/> There are great initiatives in it for us.

The police presented a mobile phone app called '**Empower you**'. *Empower you* is an app developed by NSW Police to support people experiencing domestic and family violence. It is designed for victim-survivors of domestic violence to discreetly record evidence that can be used in court. Any of us can discreetly record data that concerns us about our brothers and sisters in need of protection potentially.

One aspect of our own Safeguarding policy and the many programs on offer is empowering good people like yourselves to be aware and then to be empowered to speak out when we see things or hear things that just aren't right. It can be subtle, as simple as someone who would normally attend Mass or an event who stops coming. It is more than bruises. Relationships that seek to isolate are not healthy ones. Asking simple questions like 'Are you Ok?', can be the most important step to assisting someone get out of a harmful situation. Religious communities like ours have a significant part to play in keeping each other and our neighbours safe.

Regards,

Greg

Parish Administrator

WE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Sick List: James Bennett, Silvi Bennett, Dakai Smith, Scott Massey, Lorraine Caldwell, Mary Anne Aganovic, Alec Aganovic, Ale Aganovic, Penny Jordan, Christopher Murray, Tamika Murray, Taylor Whalen, Brigitte Aganovic.

Recently Deceased: Ellen Normoyle

Anniversaries: Mona Nelson

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

New Life in God's Spirit Seminar

Are you open to allowing God to activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you received in Baptism? The Immaculate Conception of Mary, Charismatic Prayer Group have been gathering for more than 40 years. They eagerly invite you to experience a six-week, 'New life in the Spirit Seminar'. This is an opportunity for you to journey with others to encounter Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. There will be music for Praise and Worship, guest speakers and discussion groups.

Location: Diocesan Resource Centre 12 Tudor Street (corner of Tudor and Parry Street), Newcastle West-adjacent to the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Start date: Monday 20 May

Cost: Free. Simply register your name and contact details by calling or texting Bernadette Barlow on 0425 270 613. You can also register on the night. All are welcome!

BBI Short Course: Ethical Foundations: Human Dignity Mondays 20 & 27 May, 4pm -5:30pm

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at <https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>



Sacrament Information Evening

We are inviting families to an information evening to begin the next part of the sacramental journey

Wednesday 1st May 2024 - 7.00pm

St Mary's Church Warners Bay

Thursday 2nd May 2024 - 7.00pm

St Mary's Church Warners Bay

Tuesday 7th May 2024 - 7.00pm

St Joseph's Church Toronto



Finance

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Sunday Collections at Mass

Purple Collection Bags are for the support of the Clergy.

Green Collection Bags are for the support of the Parish.

Donations to the Parish

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Parish bank details: | Account Name: | Toronto Parish |
| | BSB: | 062 815 |
| | Account Number: | 0032 8161 |

Reference: (please use your initial and surname as a reference).



'Alpha is a friendly, informal environment for people with various beliefs to explore the meaning of life, faith and God. The program is simple: we start with dinner, watch a thought-provoking video exploring life from a Christian perspective, and then have time for sharing our perspectives in small groups. No cost, no pressure, no judgment. Feel free to invite your friends and family. All are most welcome.

Event Start Date & Time: Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, 18:30 - 20:30

Location: Mackillop Function Room - 7 Milson St, Charlestown NSW 2290.

RSVP: Please scan the QR code to register.

Feel free to contact Yvonne Rego, if you need assistance with registration or if you have any questions. Mobile: 0450 323 206 Email:

yvonne_rego@hotmail.com

Fishing Weekend: God for Blokes

If you're looking for an opportunity to think about God, hear from other men, do some fishing, and relax you should attend the God for Blokes Fishing Weekend from 3 to 5 May. You will travel from Newcastle to Forster, food and accommodation are included in the cost. For more information or to book, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1092382> or call Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394.

Sing to the Lord

Sing to the Lord is a cantor training and formation opportunity for all members of the faithful. We are looking for everyone who loves to sing and would like to have a go. To find out more and express Interest use the following link or QR Code: <https://forms.office.com/r/7CGYdeXGZw>

Music teachers and musical teachers in our school system use this link or QR code: <https://forms.office.com/r/kNi51xLrsb>

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Open Days

Have you heard of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Operating out of the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield in the Chisholm Parish region, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers a child-focused program that meets in the specially prepared environment called "The Atrium". Following the Montessori philosophy, The Atrium is currently open on Wednesdays during the school term, with sessions for 3–6-year-olds in the morning and 6–12-year-olds in the afternoon after school. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are holding open days during Term 2. If you would like the opportunity to visit and learn more, please register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/9KMf55C5nz>

DoMN Library Events

Check out the events that are happening at our library next month! Everyone is welcome to attend, our address is Diocesan Resource Centre Library – 12 Tudor Street – Newcastle West (Cnr Parry Street).

· Friday 3 May – Children's Storytime

Let's have some fun with Eric Carle's Very Hungry Caterpillar – 10.15am – register email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

Friday 3 May – Formation Friday

Meet with other community members in the Diocesan Resource Centre Library for a chance to reflect and discuss seasons, moments and mysteries of the church and our faith – 1pm – register or email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

Saturday 4 May – Formation Films

Join us as we watch and discuss the 2020 film Fatima. Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided – 11am – register email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

3. "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project." Zoom Discussion.

The last 2 sessions for Tilling the church will be:

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 19 June: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and Conclusion To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087>



Standing on the Shoulders: The Official Opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library and the 2024 TWEC Dinner – Friday 31 May

It is with much excitement that you are invited to join us for the official opening of the Diocesan Resource Centre and Library. The Library, which stands on the site of the original Newcastle Central Catholic Library, offers our community access to resources relating to Religious Education, Scripture, Theology, Liturgy and more.

Following on from the official opening, the celebration continues with the reimagining of the TWEC dinner with guest speaker Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Director of Mission at the Diocese of Broken Bay. Kelly was amongst five Australians chosen personally by the Holy Father to participate in the General Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Library Opening – 4.30 PM

Free entry. All welcome

Dinner & Speaker – 5.30 PM

\$40 pp includes buffet meal and guest speaker presentation.
Dinner Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/twec-dinner-library-opening-tickets-872278206597>

The Padgets are attending the TWEC Dinner and they have 2 seats available in their car. If you would like to attend, they will be leaving Toronto at 3:30pm.

Please call the office 49592777 for a lift.

SSEC's Annual Conference: Paul, People and Places – Saturday 4 May, 8.30 to 5pm

Join the Society for the Study of Early Christianity (SSEC) for an enlightening journey into the world of Paul the Apostle at our upcoming conference, delving into the fascinating places Paul visited and the diverse array of people he encountered. Paul's letters are filled with people and allusions to their households and cities set tantalizing in the background. How did these people come to be the early church? And what was Paul's role in shaping the house churches in so many cities across the Mediterranean? Whether you're a scholar, a history enthusiast, or simply curious about the life and travels of Paul, this conference promises to be an immersive and enlightening experience. Don't miss this opportunity to uncover the enduring legacy of one of history's most influential figures.

Registration link: <https://mq-ssec.org/2024-annual-conference>

MGL Sisters: Banquet – Pentecost Intensive at Carmel House

Discover the depths of God's love through our Banquet Intensive as we accept the invitation to radical intimacy with the Trinity. Feast on God's powerful love for you, open up to the gifts of the Spirit, savour times of powerful input, prayer, and practical workshops, and find the charismatic generosity of God unleashed in your own life of mission and discipleship.

Friday 17 May (6pm) to Wednesday 2 May (2pm) at Carmel House (345 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW) Single room (\$580pp) Bunk share (\$530pp) Student (\$500pp) Day Rate (\$420pp)

We would love financial means to never be a barrier to someone attending our retreats. Contact us about sponsorship options.

For more information, visit www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1155206

Living Prayer

As we journey through Lent inspired by the love of Jesus, we look forward to a change of heart that deepens our compassion for others, as we pray for:

Our parish Lenten groups, that participants can work at deepening their relationship with God and each other.

All members of our Parish that we have the generosity to share what we can with those in need, and for Project Compassion.

Families that they can continue to find ways to deepen relationships and to reconcile with each other.

Those who are sick or discouraged with life, that they may find faith and healing with a life in Christ.

All those who are grieving the loss of family and friends, and for people living in areas of conflict, that they can be comforted in their sorrow.

The survivors of abuse, that we hold them in prayer and walk with them.

We thank you Lord, for the wonderful response to Gifting Sunday in our Parish and for all the great works that are already happening in the various