



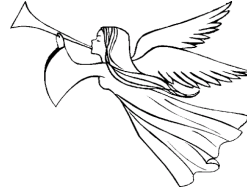
Image by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj

# Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale.

We gather as a community of believers in Jesus, to grow as his disciples, using our gifts, to proclaim the Gospel

## SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, YEAR C

*Mary, you will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus. I bring you news of great joy. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*



As we celebrate, let us pray for peace in our world and homes, for the sick, the grieving, the poor, and the lonely. May we forgive those who have wronged us and work toward healing and reconciliation. Let us especially cherish the love of our family, for it embodies the true spirit of Christmas. God bless. *Fr Philip.*



### Christmas Greetings

On behalf of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, welcome to this celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas! May this holy season bless you with grace, strengthen your faith, renew your family, bring meaning to your work, and fill your heart with hope in God's love.

A special welcome to all family, friends, and visitors—near and far. We are delighted to have you join us. To the children, you are especially welcome, and we thank the families who brought you here. It is a joy to celebrate together as one parish family.

Today, we rejoice in the moment when God entered our world as a baby, born humbly in a stable, greeted first by shepherds. God truly became one of us, sharing our human experience—a profound gift of grace.

### Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday, 18th December 2024, to Tuesday, 7th January 2025.

You may leave a message on the parish answering machine at **8379 1740**, and someone will return your call.

Alternatively, you can email the parish office and I will respond upon my return. For emergencies, please contact Fr. Philip directly on the parish mobile at **0423 279 263**.

### School Holidays

We ask you to be attentive to security issues and ring the parish mobile (0498 026 713) or National Integrated services (1300 240 620 ) if you have any security concerns. During the holidays the gates to the Parish/College site will be locked at 2:30pm most afternoons. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Diocese of Broken Bay  
Ancestral home of the  
Darkinjung people

### Sunday Mass

Sat (Vigil) 5pm,  
Sun 8am, 10am, 5pm

### Family Mass

Every Sunday at 10am  
Includes Children's Liturgy

### Weekday Mass

Mon—Communion Service  
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
9.15am  
Wednesday 8:45am

### Monthly BBQ

4th Sunday of each month  
after 5pm Mass

### Devotions

Rosary after weekday Mass  
Tues 6pm Rosary

### St Joseph's Men's Group

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7pm

### Anointing Mass

3rd Saturday of the Month  
at 9:15am

### Reconciliation

Sat 4pm - 4.45 pm

### Baptisms

Sunday 11.30am Contact the  
Parish Office for details.

### Baptisms Preparation

3rd Tuesday of each month at  
7pm in the church

### Weddings

By appointment

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues to Sat/ 8am to 9am

### Parish Luncheon

2nd Thursday of the month  
12noon at The Ary (Ziva),  
Main Rd, Toukley

### Men's & Women's Breakfast

4th Saturday of the month at  
8am at Warnies Café.

### Syro-Malabar Mass

1st Friday at 6pm  
1st & 3rd Sunday at 7pm

**Priest:** Fr Philip Thottam MSFS, Parish Priest ([philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au))

**Secretary:** Kim McCarthy

**Bookkeeper:** Johnson Mani

**Church:** Cnr Minnesota & Sparks Rd, Woongarrah

**Mail:** PO Box 4367, Lake Haven, 2263

**Telephone:** 8379 1740

**Parish Mobile:** (out of hours) 0423 279 263

**Office email:** [warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:warnervaleparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Web:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/warnervale)

**Office hours:** Tues—Fri 8:30am—3:00pm

**Parent Engagement Co-ordinator:** Lucy Marien Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday ([lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au))

**Safeguarding:**

**When safeguarding is embedded in Parish leadership, governance and culture; members of the Parish recognise that it is a shared responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk.**

**'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'**

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding officer - Bill Mifsud ([bill@earthgold.com.au](mailto:bill@earthgold.com.au)) 0412 051 839

## Christmas Lunch Prayer



Heavenly Father,  
 We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus,  
 Who came to bring peace, hope, and salvation to the world.  
 Bless this meal prepared with love,  
 And bless all those gathered around this table.  
 May our hearts be filled with gratitude for Your many blessings,  
 And may we share the love of Christ with one another,  
 Especially with those who are in need of comfort and care this day.  
 Bless those who prepared this meal,  
 And those who cannot be with us.  
 Unite us in Your love,  
 And guide us to always follow the example of Your Son.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

## The Story of the Candy Cane

There once was a candy maker who noticed that at Christmas time the people around him had become so busy with buying gifts that they had forgotten the real meaning of Christmas – that it was Jesus' birthday.

He made a piece of candy in the shape of a "J". He made it white with red stripes. The white reminding the people that Jesus was perfect and the red to remind them that Jesus died for them.

Every time you see a candy cane give thanks to God for His indescribable gift of His Son Jesus Christ, who came so that we may live.

May the Christmas Story bring its peace to you and may its special message bless your New Year too. May the JOY of LOVE and PEACE be with you and your family

Jesus

this Christmas.

## 31st December Adoration & New Years Mass



Celebrate the New Year with us!

On 31st December, Fr. Philip will lead us in a beautiful evening of prayer, beginning with Adoration from 11:00pm to Midnight, followed by a special Midnight Mass to welcome 2025 with the solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God. Come and start the year in the presence of the Lord. All are warmly invited to join!



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

### For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

### Salesian Thought

*If the soul is a kingdom, where the Holy Spirit reigns as king, then charity is the queen, standing at his right hand.*

*(Treatise on the Love of God, Book 2, Chapter 22)*

## Catechist News

Our team has grown this year. We have been blessed with new volunteers. Come and join us. You won't regret it. We'll look after you.

The angel said to Mary "Be not Afraid". For information please contact Kerrie 0402 815 633,

Our team of catechists and assistants wish you many Christmas blessings and a happy New Year.



## SAINTS DAYS

**Monday 23 December**

**Tuesday 24 December**

**Wednesday 25 December**  
 The Nativity of the Lord

**Thursday 26 December**  
 St Stephen

**Friday 27 December**  
 St John

**Saturday 28 December**  
 The Holy Innocents

## Return and Earn



Thank you to everyone who continually supports our Return and Earn fundraising project and commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility for our community.

### Please remember:

- ♦ containers need to be empty of all liquid;
- ♦ not crushed or broken;
- ♦ labels must be on the containers;
- ♦ cans and bottles must have 10c refund logo.
- ♦ Please place glass bottles in crates



**Thank you for your continued support!**

## Find us on Facebook



Keep up with parish happenings on Facebook at [St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale](#), please "like" our page.

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**Please remember our sick:** Allan Clark, Finn McConnon, Charity M. Macapagal, Frances Glanz, Ruby Huerto, John Draper, Lisa Jackson, John Burgess, Abigail Aquilos.

**Anniversaries:** Victor Gatt, Nicholas Gatt, Michael McQueen (Snr), Mike McQueen, Alwyn O'Connor, Sandra O'Connor, Jason Davis, Peter Conneely, Sheila & Michael, Charlie Gatt, Chelsea Gatt.

**Recently Deceased:** Marie Beal, Robert Walker, Fr Michael O'Toole, Laurence Dummett (known as Wal), Ray Butterfield.



# The Nativity of the Lord

## Vigil Mass, Year C

### First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

#### The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch.  
The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your  
God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded';  
for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding.  
Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.  
The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

#### For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R**

'He will say to me: "You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me."  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure.' **R**

# The Nativity of the Lord

## Vigil Mass, Year C

### Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

#### Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:  
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

#### Alleluia

# The Nativity of the Lord

## Vigil Mass, Year C

### Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25

### A genealogy of Jesus Christ, Son of David.

A genealogy of Jesus Christ son of David, son of Abraham:  
Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers,  
Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,  
Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,  
Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,  
Obed was the father of Jesse;  
and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,  
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam was the father of Abijah,  
Abijah was the father of Asa, Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram, Joram was the father of Azariah,  
Azariah was the father of Jotham, Jotham was the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,  
and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.  
Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:

Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor was the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob; and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was  
born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore : fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the  
Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before  
they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband  
Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her infor-  
mally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream  
and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has  
conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him  
Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to  
fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which  
means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do:  
he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a  
son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

# The Nativity of the Lord

## Mass during the Day, Year C

### First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

**All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of God.**

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchman raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

**All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out for joy. **R**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R**

# The Nativity of the Lord

## Mass during the Day, Year C

### Second Reading

Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-6

**In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth

**Alleluia**

### Gospel

John 1:1-18

**The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory .**

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received—yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.