



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 30TH MARCH 2025, YEAR C

Readings: Joshua 5:9-12
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

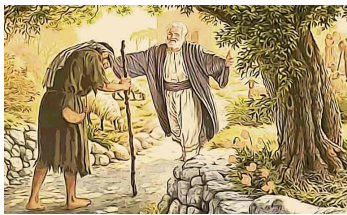
Response:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Reflection

The Parable of the Prodigal Son—A Story About You



Today's Gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) presents one of Jesus' most well-known parables,

often called *The Prodigal Son*. Yet, its title may mislead us. The story is not just about the wayward son but also about the father's mercy and the elder son's resentment. Jesus' storytelling draws us in, allowing us to see ourselves in these characters.

Stories shape how we understand the world. We respond to them emotionally, just as we do with real-life events. This parable invites us to reflect: Do we identify with the repentant son, the forgiving father, or the resentful brother?

The ending remains open—how will you respond? Will you choose self-righteousness, or will you embrace compassion and redemption?

Planned Giving Envelopes

Your new planned giving envelopes are ready for collection at the back of the Church. Thank you for your ongoing generosity; your support means so much. If you prefer to give online, you can do so easily through our website.

Way of the Cross



All welcome to join Fr Philip on Friday evenings at 6:30pm for Stations of the Cross.

24 hours of Adoration and Reconciliation



Commencing Thursday, April 10th, our parish will hold 24 hours of Adoration

and Reconciliation, starting at 10:00am after the morning Mass and concluding with the 9:15am Mass on Friday, April 11th. To help ensure continuous participation, please sign up on the form at the back of the Church to indicate the time you will be attending. We invite everyone to take part in this time of prayer and reflection.

Good Friday—Way of the Cross On Good Friday (18th April) at 10am we will be walking the Way of the Cross with stations of the cross around the outside of the Church (weather permitting). We are asking for 14 families / individuals to volunteer to set up one station each. You will be given a script and prayer. A sign up sheet with the 14 stations is available at the back of the Church.

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 7:30am
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

Parish Priest: Fr Philip Thottam MSFS (philip.thottam@bbcatholic.org.au) **Assistant Priest:** Fr Joshi Naidupeta CFIC

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 **Web:** 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)

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) 0412 051 839

Rosary Prayer Group



Come pray with us for our families, the parish and the world, every **Tuesday at 6pm in the Church.**

Prayer meetings for the month of **April** will be on **Thursday 10th and 24th**, at 7pm at the home of Bill and Dianne at 56 Irving Court, Hamlyn Terrace. For more information, you may contact Dianne on 0413 454 547.

All are welcome to come.

Central Coast Santa Maria Mothers Day Lunch

The **Central Coast Santa Maria Committee** warmly invites you to celebrate **Mother's Day 2025** with a special luncheon!

Date: Sunday, 4th May

Venue: Toukley Golf Club, Toukley

Time: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Cost: \$40 per person

Bookings & Payment Due by 20th April 2025.

For tickets, please contact:

• **Charlie:** 4393 9998
or 0404 194 020

• **Tony & Rita:** 0448 742 591

• **Charlie & Connie:** 4396 3704

Come along and celebrate the wonderful mothers in our lives!

First Holy Communion Dresses

If you're looking for a First Holy Communion dress, Lucy Marien (PEC) has a selection of beautiful dresses available to borrow. For more information, please contact Lucy at lucy.marien@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Join our Parish Ministries Volunteers Needed

Last weekend, Michael Goodway spoke at each Mass about volunteer opportunities in our parish and received an excellent response. If you did not have the chance to speak with him and are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please feel free to contact Michael at 0418 294 034.

Thank you for your support!

Chrism Mass 2025

The **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated at **7.30pm on Tuesday 15 April** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Salesian Thought

If one does not ascend the ladder he must descend; if one does not conquer he will be conquered.

(The Spirit of St. François de Sales, I, 7)

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2025



For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Holy Week Timetable

Holy Thursday (17th April):
7.30pm

Good Friday (18th April)

- Stations of the Cross 10am
- Passion of the Lord 3pm

Holy Saturday (19th April):
7.30pm

Easter Sunday (20th April)

8am, 10am & 5pm

Note: there is **no** 5pm Mass on Holy Saturday. There will be **no** 9:15am Mass on Holy Thursday or Good Friday.



Return and Earn

This week we raised: **\$48.10**



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

Thank you for your continued support!



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Keep up with parish happenings on Facebook at [St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryoftheCrossMacKillopParish), please "like" our page.

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Please remember our sick: Finn McConnon, Judy White, Cecelia Henry, Jacqui, Joset Gatt, Violet Gove, Magdalena Santos, Sheila Marquez, Charity M. Macapagal.

Anniversaries: Archibald Crippin, Patricia Frankham, Maria Lledon, William Sy, Jason Calphy, Magdalena Laka, Nina Gatt, Magdalena Santos, Erma Abucq, Modesto Ramon, Mary and Angelo Spiteri, Mark Weiss.

Recently Deceased: Alijandro Pagarán Jnr, David Ekin, Allan Clark, Louis Sciberras.



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Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading

Book of Joshua 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **R**

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **R**

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

Second Reading

St Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.