

Lakeside Pastoral Region Bulletin

The Catholic Parishes of Boolaroo, Booragul, Toronto and Morisset

Our Lady Help of Christians - 84 Main Road, Speers Point

St Mary's - 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

St Michael the Archangel - 46 Ranclaud Street, Booragul

St Joseph's - 140 Wangi Road, Toronto

Sts Patrick & Brigid - 6 Martinsville Road, Cooranbong

St John Vianney - 60 Yambo Street, Morisset

We acknowledge the Awabakal & Darkinjung people - the traditional custodians of this place

SUNDAY, 15th March 2026

4th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

PARISH TEAM

Emergencies

PH: 0493 969 362

Parish Priest

Fr Darryl Mackie PP, EV

darryl.mackie@mn.catholic.org.au

PH: 0409 611 949

Assistant Priests

Fr Paul Kamau CSSp

Fr Peter Njau CSSp

Fr John Purnell

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

7 Milson Street, Charlestown

60 Yambo Street, Morisset

Phone: 4943 4153

Maryanne Barry

Lisa Christoff

Rosanna Suckling

Email:

lakesideregion@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Parish Hub Office:

Mon - Fri 9:00am - 3:00pm

Morisset Office:

Mon - Fri 9:00am - 2:00pm

Website:

www.boolarocatholicchurch.com

torontoparish.org

www.vianneymorisset.org

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

UPCOMING MASS TIMES:

Sat 14 March

Mass	5:00pm	Cooranbong
Reconciliation	5:00pm	Boolaroo
Mass	5:30pm	Boolaroo

Sun 15 March

Mass	9:00am	Warners Bay
Mass	9:00am	Toronto
Mass	9:30am	Morisset
Mass	6:00pm	Warners Bay

Tue 17 March

Mass	9:00am	Booragul
Mass	9:30am	Morisset

Wed 18 March

Mass	9:00am	Boolaroo
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Thu 19 March

Mass	9:30am	Warners Bay
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Fri 20 March

Mass	9:30am	Toronto
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Dear Parish Family,

“...man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

We continue reflecting on themes that prepare those who are to be baptised at Easter and help all of us as we come to renew our own baptismal promises. Last Sunday we reflected on “water”, this Sunday we focus on “light”.

At Easter, the Paschal Candle stands as a sign of the light of Christ. At our baptism, to remind us that we now share in Christ's light, a candle was lit from that same flame. The words spoken at baptism are: “*Receive the Light of Christ... this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly.*” We are invited to walk our life's journey in that light.

Today's Gospel, tells the story of the man born blind, reminding us of the gift of insight. Though physically blind, he gradually comes to see more clearly who Jesus is before others around him. Jesus doesn't just say he healed or touch his cloak but takes us all the way back to the Creation Story – rubbing dirt into his eyes and his understanding of Jesus unfolding in stages. Initially, when questioned by his neighbours, he describes Jesus as a man who healed him. Later, when questioned by the Pharisees, he declares that Jesus is a prophet. Finally, when he is thrown out of the synagogue and meets Jesus again - “Lord I believe,” and worships Him. Why was this man able to believe when so many others could not? Because he was willing to acknowledge his own blindness. The Pharisees, though physically able to see, refused to recognise who Jesus truly was. Their pride and their inability to think outside their laws and customs prevented them seeing clearly what was in front of them.

At times, our own vision can become clouded because blindness can take many forms – selfishness, pride, prejudice, insensitivity or attachment to material things. Through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we ask God to restore our sight so that we may walk more faithfully in the light of Christ as we journey toward Easter.

Thanks to everyone who has responded to the survey so far regarding future Mass times. An additional section has been added to the online form for notes or further suggestions. Alternatively, if you have already responded and would like to go back and add notes, mark “take 2” or simply send me an email. I am open to other options. After this weekend, I hope to view your suggestions and then see where to from there....no decision will be made without further consultation, we live in a synodal Church.

This weekend we welcome Bishop Michael to the Lakeside Region. The bishop will join us in celebrating the Centenary of the Parish of Boolaroo-Warners Bay. Although there was a Catholic community since the early 1900's serving the sulphide workers, it was not until 1926 that the parish was established being served from the Archdiocese of Sydney. Originally known as the Parish of Lake Macquarie – the boundaries went from Mt Sugarloaf to Redhead, to Catherine Hill Bay, to Dora Creek and back to Mt Sugarloaf. Congratulations OLHC Boolaroo-Warners Bay on 100 years of faith, hope and love to the community of Lake Macquarie and welcome Bishop Michael.

Fr Darryl Mackie
Parish Priest

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 15 Mar 2026

First Reading (1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13)

A reading from the first book of Samuel
The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22 R. v.1)

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast.

The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation (John 8:12)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Review of Mass Times

One of the more challenging responsibilities in parish life is reviewing our Mass times. We are blessed with strong and faithful attendance across all our Mass centres, and your commitment to the Eucharist and our community is a great gift.

At times, however, a priest may be on leave, unwell, assisting another parish, or we may in the future have only two priests available. For this reason, it is time to review our weekend Mass schedule.

Please prayerfully consider what would work best, keeping in mind:

- The safety and wellbeing of the priest travelling between Masses
- The needs of the wider Lakeside region
- The unity and flourishing of our whole parish community

As you respond, please include your *Name, Mass Centre, and Usual Mass Time* on the form.

There will be an **ONLINE FORM** and a hard copy form at all our churches.

To ensure fairness, we ask that each person submit **one vote only**.

Thank you for the faith and love you bring to our parish communities.

2026 Chrism Mass

Tuesday 31 March, 7:00pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral with Bishop Michael Kennedy
Bishop Michael invites you to join him, the clergy and people of the diocese in celebrating this year's Chrism Mass on Tuesday, 31 March at 7:00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Southern Cross Hall.

Lakeside Pastoral Region

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 22nd March St Josephs Toronto 2pm
(after Way of the Cross)

Wednesday 25th March St John Vianney 6.30pm
(after Way of the Cross)

Wednesday 1st April St Mary's Warners Bay 6.30pm

Friday 3rd April Our Lady Help of Christians
(after Way of the Cross)

LAKESIDE PASTORAL REGION

EASTER MASSES 2026

Holy Thursday (2 April):

6:00pm Our Lady Help of Christians Boolaroo
6:00pm St Joseph's Toronto
6:30pm St Mary's Warners Bay
7:00pm St John Vianney Morisset

Good Friday (Stations of the Cross 3 April):

10:00am Our Lady Help of Christians Boolaroo

Good Friday (3 April):

3:00pm Our Lady Help of Christians Boolaroo
3:00pm St Mary's Warners Bay
3:00pm St Joseph's Toronto
3:00pm St John Vianney Morisset

Easter Vigil (4 April):

6:30pm Our Lady Help of Christians Boolaroo
6:30pm St Mary's Warners Bay
6:30pm St Joseph's Toronto
6:30pm St John Vianney Morisset

Easter Sunday (5 April):

8:00am St Michael the Archangel Booragul
9:00am St Mary's Warners Bay
9:00am St Joseph's Toronto
9:30am St John Vianney Morisset



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fourth Sunday of Lent
14-15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we
Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

Way of the Cross 2026
Sunday 22nd March



The Parish Community of
St Joseph's Toronto
warmly invites you to our
Annual Way of the Cross.

Time
2pm

Where

St Joseph's Toronto
140 Wangi Road

This year, as we allow our grounds to be "fallowed", the Way of the Cross will be held inside the St Joseph's Church. At the end of the Way of the Cross, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

All are warmly welcome to join us in prayer and reflection.



www.torontoparish.org



**REAL
women**

placing value on
womanhood

Placing Value on Womanhood

"Real Women" is back for 2026
The next REAL WOMEN CAFE NIGHT

Monday, 23 March 2026
7.30 pm - 9.15 pm

St Mary's Catholic Church Hall

Donation of \$15 per person

**If you would like to do a direct deposit
please contact Sue or Marie.**

Bookings may also be made by phone
Phone: Sue - 0417 091 255 or
Marie - 0429 191 245

**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



Name Badges

If people are interested in wearing a 'name badge', a 'sign up' sheet is at the back door for you to add your name.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH AT 7PM
ALL WELCOME



ST JOHN VIANNEY
CHURCH
60 YAMBO ST
MORISSET

Holy Week

An Easter 'sign up' sheet for liturgical ministries, will be at the back of the church this weekend for your consideration.

All the Easter Liturgies will be held in the Morisset Church, including the Easter Saturday Vigil.

Anointing Mass

Tuesday 17th March at 9.30am St John Vianney Church
60 Yambo St Morisset

An anointing with the "Oil of the Sick" for those who are sick, frail, elderly or in need of healing.



Lent

Lent is a time to examine our ways, repent our failings and imitate God's love and mercy. The season culminates in the Easter liturgies, the Triduum, as the church recalls the paschal mystery. With hope and grace, we welcome this season of repentance and renewal.

WAY OF THE CROSS

AND RECONCILIATION

ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 2026 AT 6.30PM
ST JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH 60 YAMBO ST MORISSET

With a Light Heart SCARY GPS

A friend visiting another town wanted to pay respects at the gravesite of a relative whose funeral he had not been able to attend. He used his smart-phone's GPS navigation system to find the cemetery. As he drove into the peaceful place, the female voice on the GPS announced, "You have arrived at your final destination"!

Please pray for all those who are sick: in hospital or at home, especially those living with a life threatening disease, may they know the healing presence of Christ:

Jackie Purnell, Miriam English, Jennene Mallett, June Gillett, Bill Fenton, Jayden Sanders, Zayne Peterson, Mary Maloney, Steve McKay, Nancy Overton, Ross Dickson, Mary Monaghan, Clare Wallington, Donna Hazzard, Pam Mullaly, Tintumol Thomas, and Peter Martyn.

Please contact the office once a person is well again.

Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.

Recently Deceased: Maureen Luxford

Remembrance: Phillip Fenech, Daniel Omand, Haydn Omand and Armando Gamba .

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Mary's Primary School K-6

2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

Ph: 02 4948 8770

E:admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au

W:www.warnersbay.catholic.edu.au/

Principal: Liz Starling

St Joseph's Primary School K-6

140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay

P: 02 4959 1355

E:admin@kilabenbay.catholic.edu.au

W: www.kilabenbay.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Nikki Norley

St John Vianney Primary School K-6

60-66 Yambo Street, Morisset

P: 02 4973 4073

E:admin@morisset.catholic.edu.au

W: www.morisset.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mark Konik

St Paul's Catholic College 7-12

70 Primrose Street, Booragul

P: 02 4958 6711

E:admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au

W: www.booragul.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Nick Wickham

PARISH GROUPS

Finance Committee

Thursday 16 April 2026 - 6:00pm

St Michael's Booragul

Pastoral Council Meeting

Monday 27 April 2026 - 6:30pm

St Michael's Booragul

Promotion of Safeguarding

Please contact the office

Mass Collection - Thank you

First Collection supports our priests:

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100004062

Account Name: Morisset Parish

Presbytery

Reference: *Your Surname.*

Second Collection supports our parish:

BSB:066 739

Account Number: 100004064

Account Name: Morisset Parish Church

Reference: PG# + *Surname or Surname*

Donations to support our parish can also be made via the EFTPOS machines



St John
Vianney
Parish Morisset

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