

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, 3rd MAY 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 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

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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 02 May

Mass 5:30pm Boolaroo
5:00pm Cooranbong

Sun 03 May

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

Tue 05 May

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

Wed 06 May

Mass 10:00am Boolaroo

Thu 07 May

Mass 9:30am Warners Bay

Fri 08 May

Mass 9:30am Toronto

Dear Parish Family,

Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God still and trust in me...

There's a saying "home is where the heart is" and how true is that saying this Sunday when Jesus talks about going home. For many people when we speak about home, it usually means a return to comfort and security. In most homes children are unafraid, they know that their home is protection against some harsh realities beyond the door. As adults we carry that desire for comfort and security in the homes that we live. In fact, the great Australian dream as I was growing up was to have your own home. A much harder reality in today's economic times.

Home was the first place most of us learnt about "the way", Jesus' way of life. The earliest Christians were called people of "the Way" which was an image which highlighted that Christianity is more than an idea, it's a way of living and a path to follow.

Another feature of most of our homes is that it's also where we are told "the truth". Sometimes we hear things that we would rather not listen to but hopefully the comfort and love which often accompanies this truth tellings comes from care in the relationships at home. Families often don't pull any punches with the truth because they know us too well and love us too much. Most houses are lively, "the life" in our homes is about the constant activity of children going to and from school, friends calling in, lounges claimed and defended and often drama is never too far away...around those you love life is lived to the full.

Home and going home is important.

In the coming Sundays leading to the Ascension and Pentecost we will have Jesus speaking about going home. The direction that we should always be looking towards. For the disciples this causes stress...What's life going to look like if Jesus is not physically present? So, Jesus begins the long preparation that he will always be with them, and they/we are called to live the way, the truth and the life and what that might look like.

This is one of the passages that I love at funerals. For me and for many of our mourning families, it really is quite comforting to hear Jesus' words that I am preparing a place for us and will come and take us with him when the time comes...the Jewish idea of preparing a place was this large tent and they would keep building more annexes...so it will never end. I do hope you like camping.

At our Lakeside Pastoral Council meeting this week we elected our Officers...I am pleased to announce:

Chairperson: John Owens
Deputy Chair: Bernard Leslie
Secretary: Ian Ross-Gowan.

Congratulations and thank you for taking on these rolls. Also, at our Pastoral Council meeting we discussed our survey around changing the Mass times and looked at what are the best options that will assist our priests and our communities. A letter is attached explaining the outcome. Whilst I know some may feel somewhat disappointed, let's give it a trial from Pentecost (23rd/24th May) and then review in six months. I ask that we approach this in the spirit of Easter – with patience, openness, and care for one another and be comforted with the words of today...do not let your hearts be troubled...trust in God!

Have a good week everyone....Happy Easter!

Fr Darryl Mackie
Parish Priest

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A Sunday 03 May 2026

First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, R. v.22)

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading (1 Peter 2:4-9)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation (John 14:6)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel (John 14:1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for May 2026

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Change of Mass Times across the Lakeside Pastoral Region

Last Sunday we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday also known as Vocation Sunday where we remember the vocation of all of us being single, married, religious or priest through our baptismal call. As Catholics, we are aware that we have had a decrease in young men choosing the priestly vocation in recent years. As a consequence, the availability of priests to celebrate mass in their communities has become constrained, despite the generosity of those priests – like Fr John and Fr's Paul and Peter – who have left their own countries and families to minister to us.

Against this backdrop, recent changes in the Mt Sugarloaf Parish have further increased the demands on our local clergy. These demands mean that we cannot maintain the current mass time arrangements across the pastoral region. In respect to the vigil Masses at Cooranbong (5.00pm) and Boolaroo (5.30pm) and soon to be replaced by Booragul, having a Mass at either side of the region works! On a Sunday morning Masses are at Warners Bay and Toronto (9.00am) and Morisset (9.30am). With the large congregation and ability to take greater numbers, as well as the number of baptisms each week at Warners Bay the times will continue at 9.00am and evening Mass at 6.00pm.

Due to their closer proximity and the ease of travel between Morisset and Toronto, it seemed a better option for discussing changing times that would allow one priest to celebrate both these masses. And, to move between the churches safely.

Several rounds of consultation took place with parishioners on the options available to solve this challenge. The results of these consultations were discussed at length by your Lakeside Pastoral Council (the LPC) at its meeting on 27 April 2026. The LPC – which includes the parish clergy – are aware that this is a sensitive issue. We are also aware of the flow-on issues, such as baptism times and the availability of clergy for pastoral and community activities like the after-mass 'cuppa'.

After much consideration, the LPC agreed that the most appropriate arrangement would be for mass to be held at 8:30 am at Toronto followed by mass at 10:00 am in Morisset. In effect, each community would move its mass time by 30 minutes – earlier in the case of Toronto, and later in the case of Morisset.

Therefore, as of the Pentecost Weekend (23/24th May) Masses in the Lakeside Region will be as follows:

Saturday Vigil: Cooranbong (5.00pm)
 Booragul (5.30pm)

Sunday:
 Toronto (8.30am)
 Warners Bay (9.00am)
 Morisset (10.00am)
 Warners Bay (6.00pm)

At Fr Darryl's suggestion, the LPC decided that we would trial this arrangement for a period of six months, at which time we would review it to determine whether it should become permanent, or further revised.

We are aware that these changes may cause disruptions to parishioners' Sunday schedules, but we ask everyone in both communities to accept them with good grace, grateful for the continuing ability to participate in Sunday mass within our communities, and mindful of the need for safety of our priests. As St. Pius X observed, "the Mass is the centre of the Christian life and the nourishment of the soul", and we are so fortunate to have the dedicated and devoted clergy that we have in our pastoral region to celebrate it with us. We pray the Good Shepherd will send us more pastors like them.

Rev Darryl Mackie, PP
Parish Priest
Lakeside Pastoral Region

John Owens
Chair, LPC
Lakeside Pastoral Region



THE LATEST FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 03 MAY 2026

Looking around our churches, it is wonderful to see what a diverse and inclusive parish we have—a truly catholic (universal and welcoming) congregation. We are blessed with so many culturally diverse families, including our priests, and it is heartening to see this richness reflected in readers and those serving in various roles during Mass.

The care shown to our older parishioners, especially those with mobility or other challenges, clearly demonstrates the compassion and attentiveness within our community. For parents bringing babies and young children to Mass, we understand it can be difficult at times to keep them settled and quiet—but their presence often brings a smile. Watching children grow, develop, and mature in faith is something truly special.

We should also mention the canines who accompany their owners to Mass—they are wonderfully well-behaved and clearly enjoy the affection and attention they receive.

Our parish will continue to grow stronger as we remain inclusive and welcoming. As Robin Williams once said, “Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.” It’s a powerful reminder that we can never fully understand the struggles others face, and that even the smallest gesture of kindness can mean more than we realise.

Anointing Mass

Thursday 21st May 2026 at 11am
St Joseph’s Church
140 Wangi Rd Toronto

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



Diocesan Cursillo 3-day Course

Do you wonder how to be more fully alive?

If so, then you may like to consider attending our Cursillo 3-day course. The annual Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle 2025 Cursillo 3 days will be held from 11-14th June at Rathmines with the theme “Joy of the Lord is my strength”. Cursillo is a short course which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values and will be asking each participant “How can I BE Christian in my many everyday environments?”

Learn More: **Diocesan Cursillo 3-Day Course - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

If you are interested in joining the Cursillo Movement, enrolling for the Cursillo 3 days, or just wishing to learn more about Cursillo, please feel free to contact either of the following:

DAVID McGOVERN:
0493 394 323 or via email: livedogster@gmail.com

JOANNE STANDING:
0401 438 967 or via Email: joannestanding@gmail.com



Behold Your Mother: Explaining and Defending the 4 Marian Dogmas

Nationally known speaker Simon Carrington, from Fire Up Ministries, will lead us in looking at:

Mary, Mother Of God, The Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary's Perpetual Virginity, Mary's Bodily Assumption.

Sessions will be at MacKillop Parish on Fridays commencing with Holy Rosary at 6:30pm and the Talk at 7:00pm: 8 May , 15 May, 22 May, 29 May

Each session is self-contained, so you can attend any number of sessions.

While not compulsory, a donation of \$20 per talk would be appreciated to help cover the donation to the presenter and refreshments.

Register at:
<https://fireup.kartra.com/page/MarianNewcastle>

Called to Know More: Year of St Francis

Tuesday 19 May | 12pm | Diocesan Resource Centre

May Pope Leo XIV has named 2026 a special year to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's death. Who was St Francis? Why are so many people within and beyond the Church, moved and inspired by him? This event will explore what his life story can teach us about our relationship to each other, the church and the world. Through story and conversation, we will discover the person beneath the plaster saint.

All Welcome. **Called to Know More - Year of St Francis - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch

Pentecost Sunday | 24 May, 2-5pm | The Factory Theatre, Trinity College Adamstown

Witness how the Holy Spirit is moving in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as we launch ALIVE - a dynamic and exciting event that will showcase a new diocesan identity for young people that seeks to draw them into a personal relationship with Christ they feel confident to share with others. Music will be led by a nationally acclaimed worship team and a number of exciting plans will be announced alongside some good news stories of where ALIVE is already taking shape in schools and parishes. Please visit the Diocesan events page to secure your free seat. All ages are welcome - **Events - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.**



2026
National Count of Attendance
YOU ARE COUNTED ON

This May, the Australian Catholic Church participates in the National Count of Attendance.

Every Parish, every Mass, every body.
Help us accurately plan for the future.

Easy Access Ramp

Parishioners with mobility issues, are encouraged to use the 'easy access' ramp when entering or leaving the Morisset Church.

What's RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. - RCIA is a type of journey or pilgrimage; the process does not run as an academic year and will not proceed at the same pace for all people. As in most pilgrimages, some move forward with speedy decisiveness, others move more slowly. There are three stages: becoming a catechumenate, or a learner; participating in the rite of election or enrolment; and, finally, celebrating the three sacraments of initiation, which are baptism, eucharist, and confirmation. We have several people in our parish, who meet on a Wednesday evening, who are on this RCIA journey.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST



This weekend Tullulah Hodgekiss will receive a New Life in Christ through the gift of baptism may she bear witness to the joy of the Gospel and live her life as a child of God with us.

Please remember the Hodgekiss family in your prayers.

With a Light Heart

A toddler can do more in one unsupervised minute than most people can do in a day.

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



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:

Irene Purcell, Carole Groenwoud, Dianne Whitten, Jackie Purnell, Miriam English, Jennene Mallett, June Gillett, Bill Fenton, 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 if there are any changes

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

Recently Deceased:

Remembrance: Betty Smith, Leslie Fowler, Grace Lyons, Cornelius Lyons, Emily Williams, Carmel Brereton, Jason Wismer, Michael Ige, Anthonia Ige.

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 18 June 2026 - 6:00pm

St Michael's Booragul

Pastoral Council Meeting

Monday 22nd June 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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