



# Lakeside Bulletin

**The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parishes of  
Boolaroo, Warners Bay and Booragul**

*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*



**We acknowledge the Awabakal people - the traditional custodians of this place**

**THURSDAY, 25 December 2025**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day**

## PARISH TEAM

### Emergencies

PH: 0493 969 362

### Parish Priest

**Fr Darryl Mackie**

darryl.mackie@mn.catholic.org.au

0409611 949

### Assistant Priests

**Fr Paul Kamau CSSp**

paul.kamau@mn.catholic.org.au

**Fr Peter Njau CSSp**

peter.njau@mn.catholic.org.au

**Fr John Purnell**

john.purnell@mn.catholic.org.au

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

7 Milson Street, Charlestown

Phone: 4943 4153

**Maryanne Barry**

**Vimal Valiyaveetil**

**Bridget Voigt**

**Rosanna Suckling**

### Email:

stmarythecross@mn.catholic.org.au

### Office Hours:

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

### Website:

[www.boolaroocatholicchurch.com](http://www.boolaroocatholicchurch.com)

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Our Lady Help, Boolaroo - Sat 5:30pm

St Mary's, Warners Bay - Sun 9:00am

St Mary's, Warners Bay - Sun 6:00pm

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

St Michael's, Booragul - Tue 9:00am

Our Lady Help, Boolaroo - Wed 9:00am

St Mary's, Warners Bay - Thu 9:30am

## RECONCILIATION

5:00-5:15pm Saturday

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

## BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking/Enrolment via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

## MARRIAGE

Celebrated by arrangement with at least  
3 months notice.

Contact the Parish Office

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA) Parish Office 4943 4153



Dear Parish Family,

*The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light!*

As we celebrate Christmas this year, it's a very different world and indeed a very different country from a couple of weeks ago. Over the past week we have been saddened by the attacks on our Jewish brothers and sisters at Bondi. We witnessed the events on our television screens of those who were killed and of those who were injured. Amongst that pain has also come the stories of hope, the stories of bravery of those who took a stand to try and stop the violence or to protect others.

Amongst this we remember the Christmas story, it is the story of hope! The birth of a first child to poor parents with an uncertain future. The generous love in the story of God who wants to be close to us by becoming human like us. The creator who cares deeply for each of us as we deal with the joys and the sorrows, the hopes and the disappointments of everyday life. I read this quote once - "some of the most glorious messes in the world is mess created in the living room on Christmas day, or the dishes piled up after an amazing family get together...don't clean it up too quickly but ponder it...I want to propose that Jesus came at Christmas to clean up our mess that we can sometimes make...." In and through the birth of Jesus, let's make this world a better place.

This Christmas we remember God's gift of the Prince of Peace, and I thank everyone for making Christ present to our world - God with us! Emmanuel! I pray this blessing for you and your families.

During these days of Christmas -

May you be blessed with the spirit of the season which is peace.

The gladness of the season which is hope

And the heart of the season which is love.

Merry Christmas!

**Fr Darryl Mackie**

Parish Priest

Dear Parish Family,

Christmas celebration is here again.

During my childhood the feast of the birth of Christ was more favourable than Easter. It happened during the coffee harvesting season. It was the only time when kids were assured of new Christmas clothes, and special and most desirable foods like. Rice, meat and bread Families could visit each other and celebrate without any discrimination, friends and enemies alike. The poor families and individuals could taste from their neighbours what they couldn't afford. This reminds me of Prophet Isaiah 25:6- 9 "On this mountain, the Lord will prepare rich food..... will wipe away tears from every face.... This is the Lord we have waited" The birth of Christ, Emmanuel, became more meaningful and so were the Christmas carols chanted by all, so real as happening right there. We visited the Christmas crib with the baby Jesus lying in the manger and gave him our gifts. We're zealous enough to continue attending the octave Masses again and again so as to perpetuate the season sentiment. It gave us a lot of peace. If I want to enjoy Christmas, I normally revisit the Emmanuel of my childhood, the real baby Jesus, and converse with him in my/our needs and offer him gratitude for his love for me and all.

May the baby Jesus, the Emmanuel, come to all so that we may all sing the Christmas 'Gloria' in a meaningful way in order to wish one another a joyful Merry Christmas. Happy Christmas Christmas to Frs. Darryl, John, Paul and all our parishioners.

**Fr Peter Njau CSSp.**

Parish Assistant Priest

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Recently Deceased:** Rev Fr Paul Foley, Rev Fr Kenneth Sargent, Rev Fr Anthony Sahade

**Anniversaries:** Harold Connell

***We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ:*** Jo Turner, Robyn Williams, Helen Sligar, Terry Clancy, Leslie Henry, Andrew Regan, Eileen Brooks, Vince Abdilla, Paul Tobin, Margaret Ryan, Mark Saesar, John Osborne, Yvonne Selby, Andrew Garvie, Ariane Hampton, Bernadette Gill, Patricia Neilson, Peter O'Neil, Eoin O'Connor, Brian Coogans, Pat Casey, Ann Moore, Rianna MacKaway, Joan Bain, Eva Newton, Billy Eckersley, Andrew Carr, Lewis Carr, Leah Scott, Darren Heaton, Glenda Noble, Keely Heaton, Marie Ryan, Greham Taylor, Nancy Tooney, Joy Dixon, Pat, Enid, Rebecca, Riley, Dot, Suzan Aslin and Adrian Van Bellan.

**Please contact the office once a person is well again.**

## **Thursday 25 December 2025 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

### **First Reading (Isaiah 9: 1-7)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm (Ps 95: 1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11)**

**(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading (Titus 2: 11-14)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of

the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation (Luke 2: 10-11)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel (Luke 2: 1-14)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



"We saw his glory,  
the glory that is his  
as the only  
Son of the Father."

John 1:14



**Universal Prayer**  
**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**  
**Thursday, 25 December 2025**

**Presider:** On this holy day God has appeared among us. Let us join with all peoples and bring our prayer before the Lord of light.

**Reader:** That the Church will serve the world by its universal ministry of compassion and love.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That Christ's coming will bring peace to nations on earth.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all families will see themselves as holy.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Christ, born in a lowly manger, will stir us to show compassion for those in need.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who are alone this Christmas will find comfort and companionship.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That we who are gathered here will take the light of Christ into our daily lives.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our loved ones who have died especially Rev Fr Paul Foley, Rev Fr Kenneth Sargent, Rev Fr Anthony Sahade who passed away recently and for Harold Connell whose anniversary occurs during this time that they will see you face to face.

*(pause)* Shine on us we pray:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Presider:** Lord God, your son took on our humanity so that we all might one day share in your glory. Hear our prayers this glorious day and draw us ever closer to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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**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**



**Mass Collection - Thank you**

**First Collection supports our priests:**

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014920

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*

**Second Collection supports our parish:**

**Boolaroo**

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014918

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*



(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

**Pope Leo's  
Prayer Intention  
for December 2025**

**For Christians**

**in areas of conflict**

Let us pray that Christians  
living in areas of war or  
conflict, especially in the  
Middle East, might be seeds of  
peace, reconciliation,  
and hope.

**Christmas Charm**

I grew up in a rural/country part of Kenya and to date, I am nostalgic of my childhood Christmases back then. We were over the moon showing-off new clothes, backyard barbeque, soda (yes, it was such a privilege!) – a God-given right on Christmas day to have a cold one, mama permitted us to use 'special cutlery' – beautiful ceramic plates kept under lock and key in a glass cupboard reserved for visitors. Growing up we cherished photos at the Christmas crib and the village film cameraman on a bike sure made 'a kill' on Christmas day. Sounds childish – but in these little things was the Christmas charm and in them we found happiness, we appreciated them and life felt richer.

My take on Christmas 2025 is to re-discover **little charms** that rekindle your Christmas joy, for through them, God exposes how good things and greatness come in small packages. To illustrate this, see how our decorated Christmas mangers in front of the altar in our Lakeside Churches are eye-catching and bring the profound image of God who choose a very little-simple physical space where animals are fed to be born. I think of this as God's win, God who beat all odds and gloriously celebrated by the choirs of angels, thus we sing: Glory to God in the Highest. Wouldn't be that sensational if it all happened in a motel! Yet, Mary and Joseph take it as it is: no grumbling, no complaints and look forward for the gift of a new-born that made the simple stable glow. Is not that if you want to be blessed, you can't be bitter, no space to be scornful rather its on you to find your small wins and truly life will feel abundant. Dear parish family, may God bless you with peace, joy and love this season and may the joys of Christmas bring goodness and glad tidings that stay with you all year long.

**Fr. Paul Kamau**

Parish Assistant Priest

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## PLACES TO CALL IF YOU NEED HELP



### LIFELINE

13 11 14

### 1800 RESPECT

1800 737 732

### MINDSPOT

1800 61 44 34

### NATIONAL DEBT HELPLINE

1800 007 007

### BEYOND BLUE

1300 22 4636

### HEADSPACE

1800 650 890

### KIDS HELPLINE

1800 55 1800

### NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

1800 020 080

In the birth of Christ,  
God says to each of us:  
You are **loved**.  
You **belong**.  
You are **home**.

*Bishop Michael Kennedy*



## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

ST MARY OF THE CROSS PARISH HUB OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM  
25 DECEMBER 2025 TIL  
4 JANUARY 2026.  
YOU WOULD STILL BE ABLE  
TO CONTACT US VIA EMAIL.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

## 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 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

### St Mary's Catholic College 7-12

47-49 Pacific Highway, Gateshead

P: 02 4944 4800

E: admin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

W: www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

**Principal:** Brett Donohoe

## PARISH GROUPS

### Real Women

Sue Campbell 0417 091 255

### Ladies Day

June Fava 4946 8415

Gwen Tompsett 4956 9596

### Finance Committee

TBA,

Meeting Room, Warners Bay

### Parish Council Meeting

TBA

### Promotion of Safeguarding

Contact Maryanne, Joy, Peta or Nathan  
Via the office

### Baptism Team

Meetings 1st Tuesday monthly,  
7.00 pm, Meeting Room Warners Bay

### St Vincent de Paul Warners Bay

Meetings Wednesdays fortnightly,  
Meeting Room, Warners Bay

### Membership enquiries to:

Peter Deed 0419 106 519

### St Vincent de Paul Booragul

Meetings 4th Thursday monthly,  
1pm, Meeting Room, Booragul Hall

### All new members welcome

Steve Barnett 0409 917 995

## CATHOLIC CARE

Phone: 02 4979 1120 in Newcastle

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