



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.boolarocatholicchurch.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

**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.



**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 barbecue, soda (yes, it was such a privilege!) – a God-given right on Christmas day to have a cold one, mama permitted us to us on Christmas day 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



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

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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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