

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, 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

1st 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

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

60 Yambo Street, Morisset

Phone: 4973 6859

Maryanne Barry

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES:

Sat 21 Feb	5:00pm	Cooranbong
	5:30pm	Boolaroo
Sun 22 Feb	9:00am	Warners Bay
	9:00am	Toronto
	9:30am	Morisset
	6:00pm	Warners Bay
Tue 24 Feb	9:00am	Booragul
	9:30am	Morisset
Wed 25 Feb	9:00am	Boolaroo
Thu 26 Feb	9:30am	Warners Bay
Fri 27 Feb	9:30am	Toronto

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

Dear Parish Family,

“Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness....”

If we turn to Scripture, just before the journey into the desert, we encounter the Baptism of Jesus. At His baptism, Jesus experiences a profound moment of belonging. The voice from heaven affirms who He is: “This is my Son” — He is God’s Son; “the Beloved” — He is deeply loved; “with whom I am well pleased” — He has a mission before Him. It is with this same Spirit, present at His baptism, that He is led into the desert — into deeper communion with the One who loves Him. We can see how closely Baptism and Lent are connected. During these weeks of Lent, we are preparing to renew our own baptismal commitment at Easter.

In the first reading, we hear the story of Adam and Eve and how temptation entered the world. It reminds us that God gave humanity free will. Temptations themselves are not always sinful — they are part of what makes us human. In the Gospel, Jesus faces three temptations — three obstacles. For a long time, I struggled with the idea that Jesus, being God, did not “need” baptism. During a retreat last year with Greg Homeming of the Lismore Diocese, he offered a reflection that helped me see these temptations in a new way.

“Turn these stones into loaves.”

Bread — what does bread remind us of? For many, it means home. Jesus is being challenged to leave the comfort and security of home and fully embrace His mission.

“Throw yourself down from the parapet of the Temple.”

Show yourself! Now that you know who you are, are you ready to reveal yourself publicly?

“Fall at my feet and worship me.”

Jesus knows the prophecies about Himself. He knows that suffering and death lie ahead. That is why He responds firmly: “Go away.” Not this way. Not on these terms.

What are the obstacles we face — at home, at school, at work, in our community?

During our Lenten journey, we are invited to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to increase our love of God, self, and others. Over the next three weeks, I will reflect on each of these Lenten themes, drawing from the Message for Lent 2026 of Pope Leo XIV.

This week: fasting.

I invite you to consider a very practical and often overlooked form of fasting — refraining from words that offend and wound our neighbour. Let us disarm our language. Let us avoid harsh words and rash judgment. Let us refrain from slander and from speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, may we measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect — in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political conversations, in the media, and within our Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred can give way to words of hope and peace.

A century ago, the foundation stone of our Cathedral was laid during the XXIX Eucharistic Congress in Sydney. The purpose of a Eucharistic Congress is to deepen our understanding of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist through prayer, unity, adoration, catechesis, and the celebration of Mass. As preparations begin for Eucharist 28, the first step will take place next Sunday, 1 March 2026, with thirty minutes of Eucharistic Adoration at the conclusion of our Sunday morning Masses. On Sunday, we will pray that this will be a grace-filled time for our parish communities, our Diocese, and the Church in Australia.

May this Lent be a time of renewal, courage, and deeper love — a time to work through the obstacles in our lives. Happy Lent, everyone.

Fr Darryl Mackie

Parish Priest

First Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 22 February 2026

First Reading (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7)

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3)

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Romans 5:12-19)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 4:4)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied,

'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of
God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.



LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS

22 February 2026

The Promoters of Safeguarding continue to endorse a culture of safeguarding within the Parish.

We are a few weeks into the school year, so it's a great time to have a meaningful conversation with your kids and grandkids about their experiences and feelings. Start by asking them how they're adjusting to their new routine and if they're comfortable with their teachers and classmates. This helps to open a dialogue about their social dynamics. Are they making friends? Do they feel included?

Inquire about their schoolwork: Is it challenging or manageable? This can lead to a discussion about subjects they enjoy or struggle with. Offer support if they mention any difficulties and let them know it's okay to ask for help.

Discussing their interests outside of academics is also essential. Are they excited about any extracurricular activities? Encourage them to pursue their passions, whether it's sports, arts, or any other hobbies.

Lastly, talk about their overall well-being. Are they getting enough rest, eating well, and finding time to relax? Emphasize the importance of balance and self-care. Let them know you're there to support them every step of the way.

ACBC Social Justice Statement

This year, the Australian bishops have chosen to release two Social Justice Statements – one in February and another in August. The February statement is titled *The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*.
Link: [Social Justice Statements](#)
Link: www.catholic.au/s/article/Social-Justice-Statements

Formation Film at the Diocesan Resource Centre

Saturday 7 March 2026, 11am
Cnr Parry & Tudor Streets, Newcastle West – beside Sacred Heart Cathedral

Join us as we watch and discuss the 2024 release film *Small Things Like These*.

Lunch will be served after the film screening.

Reservations Requested - call Mary on 0249230682 or link <https://forms.office.com/r/o9ssQTV68X>

Mission to Seafarers/Stella Maris Centre News

Volunteer Drivers needed for our afternoon/evening roster.

For the centre to run to capacity we need drivers willing to drive on weekends and in the evenings.
Monday to Fridays from 3pm – 10pm (closing early if no seafarers onsite).

Enquiries to mark.spencer1@mn.catholic.org.au or 0408 895 951

Next Mass Service at the Centre:
Thursday 26 February 5.30pm – All Welcome!



First Sunday of Lent

21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

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*.

Become an SRE Teacher - Share Faith, Bring Hope

Monday 2 March 1-3pm
Mullane Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Our parishes are looking for generous hearts to join our team of Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers. This beautiful ministry allows you to share the love of Jesus with children in our local public schools, offering them encouragement, connection, and a sense of belonging. If you've ever felt a nudge to serve, this is a wonderful place to begin. All training, support, and resources are provided – you simply bring your witness and willingness. Come along, meet the team, and discover how your "yes" could make a real difference in a child's life.

Contact Nicola Graham 0417 773 444
nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au

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



Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February 2026

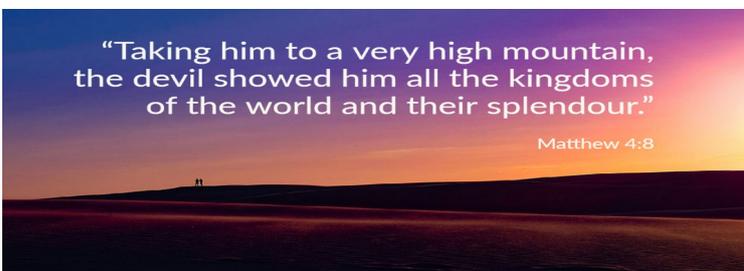
For Children with Incurable Diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



"Taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour."

Matthew 4:8



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased: Michael Mather

Anniversaries: Irene Kennedy, Sandra Wilson, Nancy Wooding, Wilga Wilschefska

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: Ali Ford, Steven, Jo Turner, Robyn Williams, Helen Sligar, Terry Clancy, Leslie Henry, Andrew Regan, Eileen Brooks, Vince Abdilla, J, 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, Graham Taylor, Nancy Tooney, Joy Dixon, Pat, Enid, Rebecca, Riley, Dot, Suzan Aslin, Michael, Patrick Grew, John, Adrian Van Bellan, Franis Parsons, Kurt Heaton, Ross Redgrove

Please contact the office once a person is well again.

Rosters

	Reading	Welcoming	Communion
Saturday 21 February 5:30pm	Paula Graham Jane Bennett Marie Osbourne	Marie Osbourne Sallyanne Stanbridge	Louise Stanbridge Tim Carroll Maggie Hughes
Sunday 22 February 9:00am	Stephen Bartlett Cheryl Thomas Penny Banister	Bernadette Kehde Thomas Martin	Fernando Campos Maria Campos Colin Cowan Lisa Des Forges
Sunday 22 February 6:00pm	Carmen Zuhair Andrea Matulova Mary Sacco	Jane Barnett Stephen Barnett	Ian Ross Gowan Jane Barnett Helen Beath

COME JOIN US FOR...

Ladies Day Luncheon

**MONDAY
2 MARCH 2026**

When: From 11:30 am
Where: Boolaroo Sports Club,
31 Eighth Street,
Speers Point
RSVP: June 0407 010 663
Gwen 4956 9596

ALL WELCOME

BAPTISMS

This weekend we will witness the baptisms of

Leo Jack Piccolo

May the gift of baptism he receive strengthen him for his journey of life and faith he will share with us.

Please remember the Piccolo family in your prayers.

Parish Family Mass

Please join us on Sunday 1st March at 9:00am at St Mary's Warners Bay to welcome our 2026 Kindergarten and Year 6 students and families along with our St Mary's staff for our term 1 Parish Family Mass.

There will be a morning tea in the hall after mass.

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 23 February 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: 100014920

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*

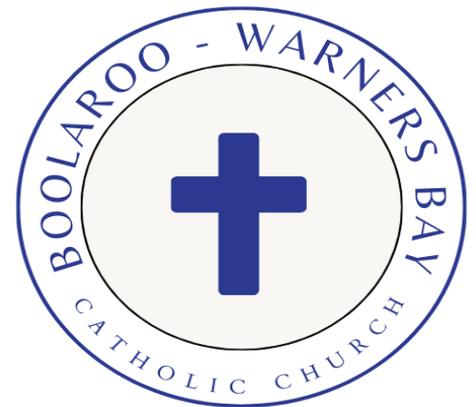
Second Collection supports our parish:

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014918

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*



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