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, 8th March 2026 **3rd 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
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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.boolaroocatholicchurch.com
torontoparish.org
www.vianneymorisset.org

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking via Parish Website
Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

UPCOMING MASS TIMES:

Sat 7 March		
Mass	5:00pm	Cooranbong
Reconciliation	5:00pm	Boolaroo
Mass	5:30pm	Boolaroo
Sun 8 March		
Mass	9:00am	Warners Bay
Mass	9:00am	Toronto
Mass	9:30am	Morisset
Mass	6:00pm	Warners Bay
Tue 10 March		
Communion	9:00am	Booragul
Service	9:30am	Morisset
Wed 11 March		
Mass	9:00am	Boolaroo
Thu 12 March		
Mass	9:30am	Warners Bay
Fri 13 March		
Mass	9:30am	Toronto

Dear Parish Family,

"....give me some of that water..."

Over the coming weekends leading up to Easter, we will reflect on themes that help prepare those who are to be baptised at Easter and help all of us as we prepare to renew our own baptismal promises. This Sunday we focus on water.

We know what it's like to live in a dry country. That is why most of our population lives along the coast. Water determines where people live, how they travel, and how they survive. It was no different in the Holy Land. Travel often meant following a river or knowing where wells could be found and the taste of that water in the wells was never too fresh. Without water, there is no life.

In the first reading, we hear of the struggles of Moses with the people as they journey toward the Promised Land. They are thirsty. Their desperation leads them to question Moses — and even God: "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die of thirst?" In their discomfort, they begin to regret leaving Egypt. They remember they had water and plenty of it and are happy to forget the slavery they endured. Their physical thirst exposes more: a lack of trust.

Then in the Gospel, we encounter Jesus and the Samaritan woman in the Gospel of John. The encounter is layered with a lot of historical and cultural meaning. Let's break it down...When Jesus asks her for a drink, he breaks two significant taboos. First, a man — especially a Rabbi — would not publicly speak to an unaccompanied woman. Second, Jews and Samaritans had deep religious hostility. Jews worshipped in Jerusalem; Samaritans were centred on Mount Gerizim. Yet Jesus crosses both barriers. He begins with a simple human request: "Give me a drink." By doing so, he wins her attention.

Jesus then moves the conversation declaring that the time is coming when "true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. "No longer be confined to a mountain or a temple.... not limited by place. Having broken down the walls between them, Jesus reveals himself clearly as the promised Messiah. Being transformed she leaves her water jar behind — a beautiful symbol — and rushes back to her town. She becomes a missionary. And an effective one. Because of her testimony, many come to Jesus and encounter him personally. Her thirst leads not only to her own conversion, but to the faith of others.

Jesus speaks of "living water." All people thirst. The Israelites thirsted for water but misunderstood what God was doing among them. The Samaritan woman came seeking ordinary water but discovered she was thirsting for meaning, truth, and love. What do we thirst for? In a world of excess and constant noise, our thirst has not disappeared. Technology has not simplified our lives. We still crave more — the newest, the fastest, the best. We chase comfort, success, recognition. Yet even when we have these things, something within us remains unsatisfied. Can you name your thirst?

The living water Jesus offers is not something temporary, it is for life. In baptism we receive our deepest identity: beloved sons and daughters of God. We receive the Spirit who guides us toward what truly matters. May this Lenten journey help us recognise our deepest thirst — and allow Christ to satisfy it.

Our attention this week has been drawn to the troubled Middle East and the uncertainty about where events may lead. In moments such as these, the Church invites us not to give way to fear, but to turn to prayer — confident that God is present even amid unrest.

O God, who have revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant, we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Through Christ, the prince of peace. Amen

Happy Lent.
Fr Darryl Mackie
Parish Priest

Third Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 08 Mar 2026

First Reading (Exodus 17:3-7)

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8)

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1.Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading (Romans 5:1-2. 5-8)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation (See John 4:42. 15)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

> 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

> 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

> 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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Family Engagement Coordinator

Catholic Schools is seeking a Temporary Full-Time Family Engagement Coordinator, who works with the Principal to support and strengthen family engagement within the school, church and wider community. The period is from 20 April 2026 to 27 January 2027 and will work across four schools in the Newcastle region: Trinity Catholic College, St Columba's Adamstown, St James' Kotara and St Kevin's Cardiff. Further details can be found on our website https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/careers/positions-vacant/

Tuesday 10th March Masses

Communion services will be held at Booragul and Morisset this Tuesday 10th March in place of Masses due to Diocesan Clergy Meeting.

2026 Chrism Mass

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday 31 March, 6.30pm (for 7pm)
Sacred Heart Cathedral with Bishop Michael Kennedy

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.

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

Third Sunday of Lent

7–8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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*.

Called to Know More – Invitation Launch

Thursday 26 March, 12pm - Diocesan Resource Centre, NEWCASTLE WEST

"Let's Unpack that Evangelisation Word"

We are excited to launch Called to Know More, an invitation to explore the mission, story and life of the Church in a way that connects deeply with our everyday experience. Evangelisation! It's a word we hear often. But what does it really mean, here and now? What does it have to do with our work life? Our leadership? Our parish ministry? Perhaps more than we think.

Join us as we gently unpack this word and discover what might be stirring beneath it. No prior knowledge is needed, only curiosity and openness. We will gather once a month to listen, learn and reflect together. Come with your questions. Leave with something to ponder. We look forward to exploring this together. Light lunch provided. Register Here

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

Anointing Mass

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

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

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 REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased: Ann Moore, John Kelly
Anniversaries: Anne Keating, Claire Parrington
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 Parons, Kurt Heaton, Ross Redgrove, Robyn

Please contact the office once a person is well again.

Rosters			
	Reading	**Welcoming**	**Communion**
Saturday 07 March 5:30pm	June Fava Pat Davey Tim Carroll	June Fava Maggie Hughes	Marie Osbourne Sallyanne Stanbridge Louise Stanbridge
Sunday 08 March 9:00am	Sue Withers Eileen Brooks John Doran	Kath Casey Carol Geyl	Pat Drady Brad Fuller Maria Lorello Peta Landers
Sunday 08 March 6:00pm	Helen Beath Jo Turner Ian Ross-Gowan	Jane Barnett Stephen Barnett	Yves Nzuzi Sue Campbell Shirley Ross-Gowan

Children's Liturgy of the Word — Begins Sunday 8 March

St Mary's, Warners Bay — 9.00am Mass
We are delighted to be re-launching Children's Liturgy of the Word at St Mary's, beginning Sunday 8 March. This is a beautiful opportunity for our young parishioners to hear God's Word in a way that is joyful, engaging, and made especially for them.
Parents — we warmly invite you to bring your children along. Children's Liturgy helps them grow in faith, feel at home in the Mass, and connect with Scripture in a way that speaks to their hearts.
To make this ministry possible, we are also seeking kind, patient volunteers who can help guide our children in prayer and reflection. No teaching experience is required — just a willingness to share your faith and support our parish's youngest members. Training and resources are provided.
If you feel called to assist, or would like to know more, please contact:
Parish Office: 4943 4153 or Nicola Graham: 0417 773 444
Nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for March 2026

For Disarmament and Peace
Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

MN Kids Holiday Program

7th & 8th April, 9:00am-1:00pm.
Diocesan Resource Centre - Cnr Parry & Tudor Streets, Newcastle West – beside Sacred Heart Cathedral. $10 per child/per day, lunch included!
Program is open to children aged 6-12 years and will include team games, science experiments, bible stories and music.
Register: https://MNKidsHolidayProgram.eventbrite.com.au
Contact: Nicola Graham 0417 773 444

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 27th 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: 100014920
Account Name: CBA
Reference: *Your Surname.*

Second Collection supports our parish:
BSB:066 739
Account Number: 100014918
Account Name: CBA
Reference: *Your Surname.*

BOOLAROO - WARNERS BAY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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