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 March 2026 **5th 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

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

Dear Parish Family,

"...Unbind him, let him go free."

Next Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday, so this weekend brings our final reflection on the themes that prepare those who are to be baptised at Easter—and help all of us renew our own baptismal promises: **water, light, and life**. On the Third Sunday, we heard of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman and the promise of living water. Last Sunday, we reflected on the healing of the man born blind, who, washing in the water of Siloam received sight. Today, we hear the powerful story of Lazarus, called from the tomb and restored to life.

These are not just stories—they are revelations of what Baptism does in us. The living water of Baptism satisfies our deepest spiritual thirst. The washing of Baptism brings us from blindness to seeing with the eyes of faith. And in Baptism, we die with Christ as we are plunged into the waters and rise with Him into new life. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Through Baptism, we enter the Kingdom and share in eternal life.

The story of Lazarus is filled with a lot of emotion. Jesus is deeply moved—shaken to the core. The Greek word used (□μβριμάομαι) is a groan from our gut! That graphic. At the same time, Martha and Mary challenge Him: *"If you had been here..."* Their grief is real, yet their faith is rooted in the Jewish hope of resurrection—a future promise, the raising of the dead on the last day as spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel. But goes beyond future hope—He brings life into the present. When Lazarus walks out of the tomb, he is still bound in burial cloths. Jesus commands: *"Unbind him and let him go free."* Lazarus is restored to life—but it is a temporary life. He will die again. This is not yet the fullness of resurrection. By contrast, on Easter Sunday, the tomb of Jesus will be empty—and the burial cloths will be left behind. His resurrection is not a return to earthly life, but a transformation into eternal life.

The raising of Lazarus sets in motion the final events of Jesus' life. It leads directly to the decision of the authorities to arrest Him. In giving life to His friend, Jesus begins the journey toward His own death. In saving Lazarus, He signs His own death warrant. And the Gospel makes this clear: Jesus gives His life so that not only Lazarus—but all of us—may truly live.

All the symbols we have reflected on come together now. The white garment recalls the glory of the Transfiguration. The water speaks of new life. The candle represents the light of faith. And today, we are given another image: freedom. "Unbind him and let him go free." In the Baptismal rite, there is a prayer over the ears and mouth—that they may be opened to hear God's Word and to proclaim the faith. To be truly alive in Christ is to listen, to hear, to speak and to be freed from all that binds us.

Thank you to all who have submitted your feedback regarding the review of our weekend Mass times. This is the final weekend to have your say. As mentioned, no decisions have yet been made, and I will update you in the coming weeks when further consultation is needed.

A few events are taking place this weekend and week.... St Joseph's Parish will be holding a BBQ at Bunnings in support of the Toronto kitchen which assists the homeless etc. Also, at St Joseph's Toronto on Sunday, we will have a Reconciliation service in preparation for Easter. It will begin with the Way of the Cross at 2pm—all are most welcome. Wednesday evening there will also be a Reconciliation Service at St John Vianney, Morisset from 6.30pm.

Have a good week everyone...

Fr Darryl Mackie
Parish Priest

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 22 Mar 2026

First Reading (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 129. R. v.7)

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R.)**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Romans 8:8-11)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation (See John 11:25. 26)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

> 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

> 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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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.

Anointing Mass

Thursday 16th April at 9.30am
St Mary's Church
2 Bayview St Warners Bay

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

Lakeside Pastoral Region

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 22nd March St Josephs Toronto 2pm (after Way of the Cross)
Wednesday 25th March St John Vianney 6.30pm (after Way of the Cross)
Wednesday 1st April St Mary's Warners Bay 6.30pm
Friday 3rd April Our Lady Help of Christians (after Way of the Cross)

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

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

Fifth Sunday of Lent
21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

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*.

Upcoming Mission & Evangelisation Events

Chrism Mass:
31 March, 6:30pm - Sacred Heart Cathedral

ALIVE Catholic Youth Launch:
17 May, Trinity College, Adamstown

Magdalene Awards:
26 July, 9:30am - Sacred Heart Cathedral

ALIVE Young Adults Retreat:
17 -19 July, Forster

Travelling Exhibition of the Saint Carlo Acutis Pilgrim Relic: 8-14 September

ALIVE Youth Retreat:
25-27 September, Lake Macquarie

Renewed & Sent Parish Renewal Summit:
1-3 October, St Gregory's Campbelltown

Way of the Cross 2026
Sunday 22nd March

The Parish Community of St Joseph's Toronto warmly invites you to our Annual Way of the Cross.

Time
2pm

Where
St Joseph's Toronto
140 Wangi Road

All are warmly welcome to join us in prayer and reflection.

This year, as we allow our grounds to be "fallowed", the Way of the Cross will be held inside the St Joseph's Church. At the end of the Way of the Cross, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

St Joseph's Parish of Toronto
Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

www.torontoparish.org

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: Margaret Fratus
Anniversaries: Barry Hure
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, Cathy Quinlan and Robyn

Please contact the office once a person is well again.

Rosters

	Reading	Welcoming	Communion
Saturday 21 March 5:30pm	Joan Wilson Maggie Hughes Sallyanne Stanbridge	Louise Stanbridge Judith Williams	Junae Fava Jane Bennett Marie Osbourne
Sunday 22 March 9:00am	Gerard Mowbray Kim Smith Ray O'Donoghue	Kath Casey Carol Geyl	Matelena Palamo Les Brooks Bal Gato Stephen Collins
Sunday 22 March 6:00pm	Catrina Zuhair Carmen Zuhair Andrea Matulova	Jane Barnett Stephen Barnett	Helen Beath Ralph Asquith Melissa Wood

BAPTISMS

This weekend we will witness the baptism of

Beau Alfres Dixon

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

Please remember the Dixon family in your prayers.

Thank you...

Many thanks again to all who made the parish centennial celebration last Saturday such a great event. To all who helped with the Mass and then the dinner, our speakers. Etc thank you! Darryl

Children's Liturgy

Our next Children's Liturgy will be held on Sunday 12 April. More volunteers are required. Training is provided and it's a great experience. Contact the Hub if you would like more information.

EASTER VOLUNTEERS

There will a number of ministries to fill over Easter

- Communion Ministers
- Readers
- Washing of Feet

Please indicate if you are available to volunteer by adding your name to the list at the back of the church

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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