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, 15th March 2026 **4th 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
60 Yambo Street, Morisset
Phone: 4943 4153

Maryanne Barry
Lisa Christoff
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.boolaroocatholicchurch.com
torontoparish.org
www.vianneymorisset.org

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS
Booking via Parish Website
Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

UPCOMING MASS TIMES:

Sat 14 March		
Mass	5:00pm	Cooranbong
Reconciliation	5:00pm	Boolaroo
Mass	5:30pm	Boolaroo
Sun 15 March		
Mass	9:00am	Warners Bay
Mass	9:00am	Toronto
Mass	9:30am	Morisset
Mass	6:00pm	Warners Bay
Tue 17 March		
Mass	9:00am	Booragul
Mass	9:30am	Morisset
Wed 18 March		
Mass	9:00am	Boolaroo
Thu 19 March		
Mass	9:30am	Warners Bay
Fri 20 March		
Mass	9:30am	Toronto

Dear Parish Family,

"...man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart."

We continue reflecting on themes that prepare those who are to be baptised at Easter and help all of us as we come to renew our own baptismal promises. Last Sunday we reflected on "water", this Sunday we focus on "light".

At Easter, the Paschal Candle stands as a sign of the light of Christ. At our baptism, to remind us that we now share in Christ's light, a candle was lit from that same flame. The words spoken at baptism are: "*Receive the Light of Christ... this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly*." We are invited to walk our life's journey in that light.

Today's Gospel, tells the story of the man born blind, reminding us of the gift of insight. Though physically blind, he gradually comes to see more clearly who Jesus is before others around him. Jesus doesn't just say be healed or touch his cloak but takes us all the way back to the Creation Story – rubbing dirt into his eyes and his understanding of Jesus unfolding in stages. Initially, when questioned by his neighbours, he describes Jesus as a man who healed him. Later, when questioned by the Pharisees, he declares that Jesus is a prophet. Finally, when he is thrown out of the synagogue and meets Jesus again - "Lord I believe," and worships Him. Why was this man able to believe when so many others could not? Because he was willing to acknowledge his own blindness. The Pharisees, though physically able to see, refused to recognise who Jesus truly was. Their pride and their inability to think outside their laws and customs prevented them seeing clearly what was in front of them.

At times, our own vision can become clouded because blindness can take many forms – selfishness, pride, prejudice, insensitivity or attachment to material things. Through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we ask God to restore our sight so that we may walk more faithfully in the light of Christ as we journey toward Easter.

Thanks to everyone who has responded to the survey so far regarding future Mass times. An additional section has been added to the online form for notes or further suggestions. Alternatively, if you have already responded and would like to go back and add notes, mark "take 2" or simply send me an email. I am open to other options. After this weekend, I hope to view your suggestions and then see where to from there....no decision will be made without further consultation, we live in a synodal Church.

This weekend we welcome Bishop Michael to the Lakeside Region. The bishop will join us in celebrating the Centenary of the Parish of Boolaroo-Warners Bay. Although there was a Catholic community since the early 1900's serving the sulphide workers, it was not until 1926 that the parish was established being served from the Archdiocese of Sydney. Originally known as the Parish of Lake Macquarie – the boundaries went from Mt Sugarloaf to Redhead, to Catherine Hill Bay, to Dora Creek and back to Mt Sugarloaf. Congratulations OLHC Boolaroo-Warners Bay on 100 years of faith, hope and love to the community of Lake Macquarie and welcome Bishop Michael.

Fr Darryl Mackie
Parish Priest

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A
Sunday 15 Mar 2026

First Reading (1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13)

A reading from the first book of Samuel
The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22 R. v.1)

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation (John 8:12)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

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.

2026 Chrism Mass

Tuesday 31 March, 7:00pm
Sacred Heart Cathedral with Bishop Michael Kennedy
Bishop Michael invites you to join him, the clergy and people of the diocese in celebrating this year's Chrism Mass on Tuesday, 31 March at 7:00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Southern Cross Hall.

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent
14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

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.

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

REAL women
Placing Value on Womanhood

placing value on womanhood

"Real Women" is back for 2026
The next REAL WOMEN CAFE NIGHT
Monday, 23 March 2026
7.30 pm – 9.15 pm
St Mary's Catholic Church Hall
Donation of $15 per person

If you would like to do a direct deposit please contact Sue or Marie.

Bookings may also be made by phone
Phone: Sue – 0417 091 255 or
Marie – 0429 191 245

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:
Anniversaries: Alice Vayne, Richard Mulvaney

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, and Robyn

Please contact the office once a person is well again.

Rosters			
	Reading	**Welcoming**	**Communion**
Saturday 14 March 5:30pm	Therese Toshack Paula Graham Jane Bennett	Marie Osbourne Sally Stanbridge	Maggie Hughes Therese Toshack
Sunday 15 March 9:00am	Annette Innes Chloe Parker Colin Cowan	Bernadette Kehde Thomas Martin	John Doran Lesley McInerney Camilla Palamo
Sunday 15 March 6:00pm	Ursuala Kelly Kim Smith Suzanne Kay	Sue Campbell Lois Wilson	Steve Barnett Ian Ross Gowan Jane Barnett

BAPTISMS

This weekend we will witness the baptisms of

Leo Mitchell Howse
Isla Mae Howse

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

Please remember the Howse family in your prayers.

Anointing Mass

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

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

EASTER VOLUNTEERS

There will be a number of ministries to fill over Easter.

- Communion Ministers
- Readers
- Washing of Feet

Please indicate if you are available to volunteer by adding you 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

Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in the Lakeside Bulletin are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with the Diocese. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about those matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are the subject of these advertisements.