



# 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**

**SUNDAY, 14 December 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent Year A**

## 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](http://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,

*Everlasting joy on their faces...*

In this third week of Advent, we light candle number three – the pink candle representing joy! Halfway through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday of joy. As I mentioned last weekend, the people of Isaiah's time had only known war, having been taken over by the Assyrians and by Jesus' time, it was another enemy, the Romans. Between being in captivity and heavy taxes on the people it was Isaiah's vision of what life might look like when the Messiah finally comes. Isaiah paints this as a picture of regeneration where the desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight can now see; ears incapable of hearing can now hear; limbs without strength shall leap; and tongues not able to speak will speak - all are given new life.

Let's set the scene of the Gospel – it opens in the darkness of a dungeon. John openly denounced Herod for divorcing his wife and marrying his brother's wife (forbidden in Jewish Law). Herod was always nervous because there was always political unrest and his appointment was by the Romans. Therefore, no one respected him. Do you think John was a bit confused? John's idea of the Messiah if you remember from last week's Gospel, was the strict judge, who will bring fiery judgement ...maybe even break him out of prison! So, he sends out his disciples to ask Jesus, "*are you the one who is to come?*". All he has heard about this Jesus is that he heals the sick; blesses the gentle and the peacemakers and calls everyone not to judge one another and even to love your enemies! Isn't that the fulfilment of Isaiah's vision, all the things that are to happen when the Messiah comes are happening with me – that's your answer!

As we enter this third week we build on the Advent themes of anticipation, being prepared, people of hope, peace and now we add joy to the list. What areas of my life need some joy - be it in myself, my family, my work, school or community? How can I bring joy to others? As things ramp up closer to Christmas, it's always a reminder to not lose sight of the why we are celebrating.

As we light the third candle this weekend of our Advent wreaths...we light the candle of joy! Through our baptism, Jesus is born in us, we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the joy we find in each other and in Jesus Christ.

This week, our schools will begin finishing up for this year of 2025. What a great year to journey together! We wish our young people a safe and rest filled break. To our school teams led by Mark (St John Vianney, Morisset), Nikki (St Josephs, Kilaben Bay), Nick (St Paul's, Booragul) and Liz (St Mary's Warners Bay) thank you for your commitment to our young people through Catholic education and in supporting our parishes' vision of mission together. Wishing you also a safe and rest filled break and look forward to furthering our mission together in 2026 with blessings of this coming season of Christmas.

I will be back from this weekend on a limited return to work schedule. I'm feeling fine but my body is taking its time....and again thanks for all the prayers and good wishes.

Happy Advent everyone!

**Fr Darryl Mackie**  
Parish Priest

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Recently Deceased:** Leonie Calver

**Anniversaries:** Margaret Mary Humphreys, Peter Tompsett

**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:** Jo Turner, Robyn Williams, Helen Sligar, Terry Clancy, Leslie Henry, Andrew Regan, Eileen Brooks, Vince Abdilla, Paul Tobin, 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 and Adrian Van Bellan.

**Please contact the office once a person is well again.**

## **Sunday 14 December 2025** **Third Sunday of Advent Year A**

### **First Reading**

**(Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

### **The word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**(Ps 145: 6-10. R. see Is 35: 4)**

**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

**(James 5: 7-10)**

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your

example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### **The word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**(Isaiah 61: 1 (Lk 4: 18))**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

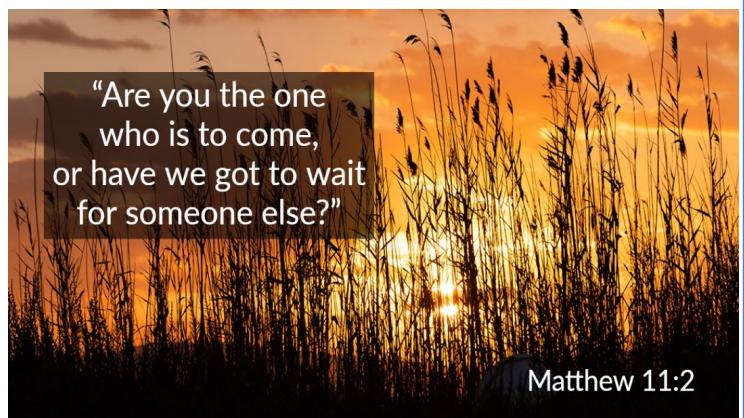
### **Gospel** **(Matthew 11: 2-11)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**



**Universal Prayer**  
**Third Sunday of Advent Year A**  
**Sunday, 14 December 2025**

**Presider:** Dear friends, with courage in our hearts, let us bring our intentions before the Lord.

**Reader:** That our Holy Father Pope Leo will instil trust and patience in Catholics all over the world.

(*pause*) In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That leaders of nations and governments will work for justice and peace.

(*pause*) In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who have turned away from Jesus will be returned to the Good News and find salvation at Christ's coming.

(*pause*) In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That in this Advent time, our community may take heart and find renewed faith in the Lord.

(*pause*) In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the sick and housebound will be saved through the love of Christ, especially those listed in our parish bulletin.

(*pause*) In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who have died may come to reign with Christ forever, especially Leonie Calver who died recently and Margaret Mary Humphreys, Peter Tompsett whose anniversaries occur during this time.

(*pause*) In your mercy:

**All:Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Presider:** Lord God, the coming of your Son is near. Hear our prayers, and guide us with patience and renewed faith as we wait in joyful hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:Amen.**

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**Readers Roster**

	<b>13 Dec - 14 Dec</b>	<b>20 Dec - 21 Dec</b>
Sat 5:30pm	Joan Wilson Maggie Hughes Sallyanne Stanbridge	June Fava Pat Davey
Sun 9:00am	Kim Smith Ray O'Donoghue Ryan Gato	Brad Fuller Cheryl Thomas Penny Bannister
Sun 6:00pm	Jo Turner Ian Ross-Gowan Ursula Kelly	Kim Smith Suzanne Kay Andrea Matulova

**BAPTISMS**

This weekend we will witness the baptisms of

**Luka Juwon Solovic and  
Freya Evie Murphy**

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

Please remember the Solovic and Murphy families in your prayers.

**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.

**LAKESIDE**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025**

Christmas Eve	5:30pm	St Mary's Warners Bay
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	St Joseph's Toronto
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	Morisset Showground
Christmas Eve	7:00pm	Our Lady Help Boolaroo
Christmas Day	8:00am	St Michael's Booragul
Christmas Day	9:00am	St Mary's Warners Bay
Christmas Day	9:00am	St Joseph's Toronto
Christmas Day	9:30am	St John Vianney Morisset

# Stay safe and 'elfy over the summer holidays



You might be a decorating machine or just wanting to pop a few lights on the tree. Either way, make sure you're following basic safety steps. To decorate safely, ensure you're following manufacturer's instructions and have power points turned off before plugging in lights.



December and January are traditionally the months the highest number of recorded road accidents. Avoid rushing when travelling to Christmas lunch and other social occasions. Plan your route ahead of time and allow plenty of time to get there.



Never travel into any high-risk bushfire area where a Catastrophic day has been declared. If you're staying in a high-risk bushfire area, the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the day on which Catastrophic has been declared. Before you travel, make sure you download the relevant emergency app for your state and check the fire danger rating for your destination. While you're away, listen to local radio for warnings and advice when you're on the road. Always follow the advice of emergency services.



We all know how the Australian sun can be incredibly intense. Protect yourself by wearing a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen with a high SPF. Stay in the shade as much as possible, especially during the hottest part of the day where UV rays are highest (between 11am and 3pm).



Chuck a few prawns on the barbie this summer, but don't forget the golden rules: find a flat spot and steer clear of anything flammable; have a bucket of water or fire extinguisher ready to spring into action; avoid wearing loose clothing; and keep children and pets away from the BBQ area.

'Know the Drill, before you Grill'. Be sure to check your gas connection before you BBQ - get into the habit of doing a soapy water check. Squirt your gas connection with soapy water to make sure there are no leaks. If no bubbles appear, you're safe to use.

During the hot weather over summer, it's important to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water. Sugary drinks and alcohol can cause dehydration, so it's best to avoid them.

Check on elderly friends and family to ensure they are staying cool and hydrated.

Over Christmas, some services may be closed or limited. Being prepared will avoid unnecessary issues.

- Check if you have enough scripts and medications to get you through the public holidays?
- If you are going away, do you have an up to date list of your medications?
- Christmas can be stressful or lonely. **The Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 or Lifeline 13 11 14** can offer support.
- If you have a health concern but your GP is closed, you can call **Health Direct** for trustworthy health advice on **1800 022 222**.
- Avoid hurting yourself or others, drink safely this Christmas. Maybe try to schedule alcohol-free days each week.



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## PLACES TO CALL IF YOU NEED HELP

<b>LIFELINE</b> 13 11 14	<b>BEYOND BLUE</b> 1300 22 4636
<b>1800 RESPECT</b> 1800 737 732	<b>HEADSPACE</b> 1800 650 890
<b>MINDSPOT</b> 1800 61 44 34	<b>KIDS HELPLINE</b> 1800 55 1800
<b>NATIONAL DEBT HELPLINE</b> 1800 007 007	<b>NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE</b> 1800 020 080

### News from the Mission to Seafarers

The mass in the Stella Maris Chapel rostered for 18 December 2025 will be cancelled. Mass will take place at the Cathedral on 18 December 2025 in accordance with the Filipino Advent traditions called Simbang Gabi, a nine-day series of Masses. Any Filipino seafarers at our centre on Thursday evening of the 18th we will be transported to the Cathedral for the mass.

Thank you so much for the donations for our Christmas Care Packs appeal. We appreciate the generosity of all our Catholic School families and parishioners and our volunteers.

### 16 Days of Activism

Our Diocese and Catholic Care Social Services Hunter-Manning have been supporting the 16 Days of Activism, an international campaign calling for the elimination of gender-based violence. Catholic Care Social Services runs several programs that support women and children experiencing domestic and family violence in our community, and we're committed to building safer, more equal communities across the Hunter and Mid-Coast.

Violence has no place in our homes, workplaces or communities, and together, we can make change. If you or someone you know needs support, CatholicCare is available to help. They offer programs to support individuals and families affected by domestic and family violence. For more information, visit: [www.catholiccare.org.au/dfv](http://www.catholiccare.org.au/dfv).

### 2026 Sisters of Faith Dinner

*Wednesday 11 February 2026 at Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West*

This is a sell-out each year amongst the women in our faith communities. Our guest speaker will be Sr Helen-Anne Johnson from Mum's Cottage, Holmesville. Tickets are \$35 and on sale at the [diocese website](#).

## **2026 Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards**

There are Calendars and Christmas cards for sale at each church this weekend.

Cost is \$10 for a calendar or a pack of cards. Supply is limited to what is on display at the back of each church.



**Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross**

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE  
19-21 DECEMBER 2025

Scan for more details!

QR code

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Mission & Evangelisation

**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



## **Volunteers for Masses**

We are looking for Readers and Eucharist Ministers for each of our Christmas and weekend masses until 12 January 2025.

If you would like to be added as a new reader, please contact the office by 5 January 2026.

Our formal reading roster will be emailed out and will begin from 18 January 2026.

If you could contact the office via email or phone if you are able to help in any way.

## **Volunteers**

### **Needed!**



## **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

The appeal in the parish this year will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December. The focus for this appeal is to help those in our local community who are trapped in long term disadvantage from ongoing costs, the housing crisis and food insecurity by providing immediate intervention and safe housing along with food, clothing and medical aid.

Thank you for your ongoing support towards our most vulnerable.

Envelopes will be available on the pews or at the back of the church.

Donations are tax deductible.

## **PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE**

ST MARY OF THE CROSS PARISH HUB OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM 25 DECEMBER 2025 TIL 01 JANUARY 2026. YOU WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO CONTACT US VIA EMAIL.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



