



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK

PARISH BULLETIN

16th November 2025

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st READING Mal 3:19-20: The sun of righteousness will shine on you.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:5-9: R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

2nd READING 2 Thess 3:7-12: Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!
Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia! (Lk 21:38)

GOSPEL Lk 21:5-19: Your endurance will win you your life.

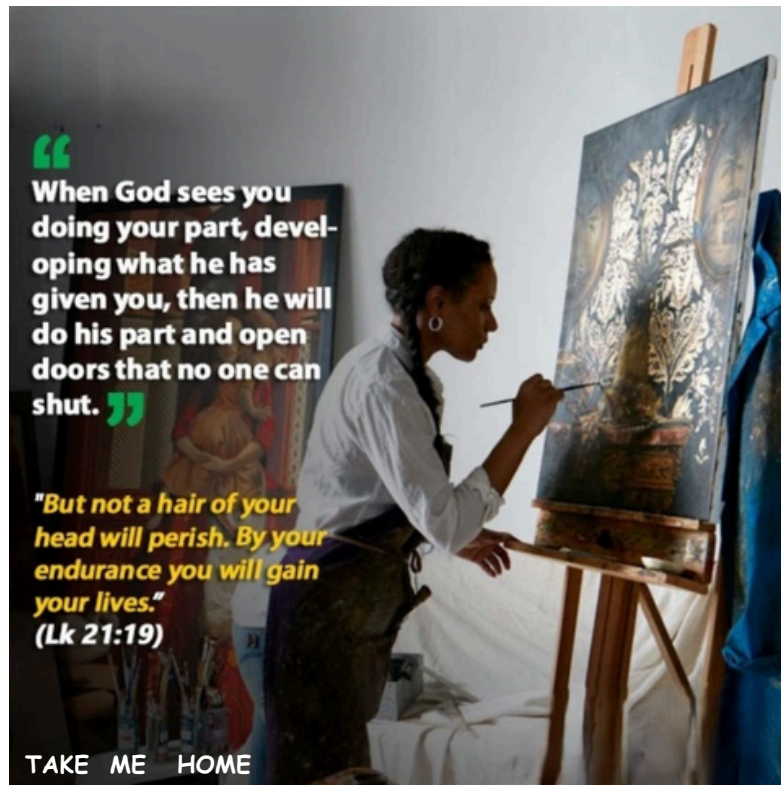
WE REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

We pray for our faithful departed who have died recently and whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.

We also join in prayer for those who are unwell or in need of extra prayers :

Lourdes Pabillano, Tomas Kang, Fr John Pickering, Maria Louis, Manuel Amala

We invite you to share the names of those who are sick or in need of extra prayers by emailing the Parish Office



In this weekend's scripture readings, Jesus speaks about the trials and persecutions His followers will face, warning that they will encounter suffering and betrayal because of their faith. Yet, He also assures us that these trials are not signs of abandonment but opportunities to testify to the truth of God's love. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will be with us, giving us strength and wisdom to endure.

Jesus' words remind us that whether we are facing personal difficulties, social injustices, or spiritual dryness, we are called to persevere in trust. The Holy Spirit is our helper, empowering us to live out our faith in the most challenging of circumstances.

In light of this passage, we can reflect on how we handle trials and persecution. Do we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in times of difficulty? Are we willing to testify to the truth of Christ, even when it's hard? Do we trust that God is with us, strengthening us to endure?

This Gospel passage calls us not to be fearful of suffering or persecution, but to embrace it as an opportunity to witness to the hope we have in Christ. Our endurance in faith, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will be the means by which we are ultimately saved. It is not the absence of suffering that brings peace, but the presence of God in the midst of it.

Prayer:

Lord, we ask for the grace to remain steadfast in our faith, especially in times of trial. Fill us with the strength and courage of the Holy Spirit to testify to Your love and truth in all circumstances. Help us to trust in Your presence, knowing that You are with us always. May our endurance lead us closer to You and bring glory to Your name. Amen.

Deacon Sam

Monday 17 November
1pm Rosary, Leppington

Tuesday 18 November
9:30am Rosary on Zoom
JUBILEE CROSS WITH
RELICS of Holy Family

5pm Devotions &
6pm Reconciliation &
Adoration
6:40 Evening Prayer &
Benediction
7pm Mass, Oran Park

Wednesday 19 November
8am Mass, Oran Park
7pm **Women's Ministry**

Thursday 20 November
9.30am Rosary
10am Mass, Oran Park

Friday 21 November
9.30am Mass, Oran Park
6:00pm **Thanksgiving Mass**
for all parish ministry
members.

Saturday 22 November
4pm Reconciliation &
5pm Mass, Oran Park

Sunday 23 November
8am Mass, Leppington
8am Mass, Oran Park
10am Mass, Oran Park
5pm Mass, Oran Park

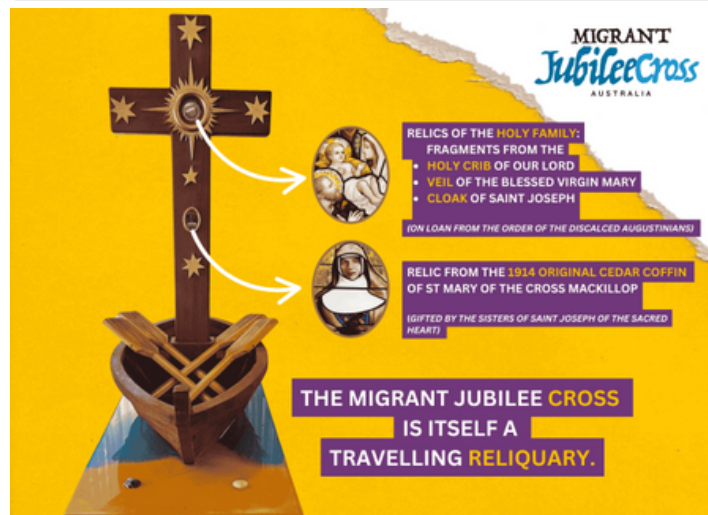
Chaldean Holy Mass
12:00noon Sunday

NEW to our Parish ?
Whether you are here
for the very first time,
or have been here for a
while, we would love to
connect with you.
Please scan the QR
Code and a member of
our Welcome Ministry
will be in touch soon.

TAKE ME HOME



IN OUR PARISH



*This Holy Cross will
arrive at our Church
on
Tuesday
18 November*

- 5pm Devotion.
- 6pm Adoration, Evening Prayer, Benediction.
- 7pm Mass

ADVENT PROGRAM BOOK



Our Diocese has again produced a booklet for daily reflections for the upcoming seasons of Advent. Every household in the Parish is encouraged to have at least one copy of this booklet to use during advent season. **Copies of these booklets can be purchased from the Welcome Table for \$5 each.**

2025 ADVENT GROUPS

Advent Groups are an opportunity, as a member of our Parish, to gather in small groups to reflect on the Advent scriptures for the coming weekend, to share your faith, to pray and to 'get to know' fellow parishioners outside the context of the weekly Mass. A session usually runs for about 90 minutes and groups sometimes finish with a cuppa or supper. **Please sign up at the Welcome Table or contact the Host directly.**



MINISTRY MASS OF THANKSGIVING

All Ministry Leaders and Team Members are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving on **FRIDAY, 21 NOVEMBER @ 6PM.**

"MACKILLIP YOUTH" (MY) is looking for

committed young adults who could support our Yr 7-12 youth group once a fortnight or even once a month on a Friday evening. To assist in this ministry you will need a Working with Children Certificate. Anyone interested should put their names down on the sheet on the Welcome Table or contact the parish office.

WOMEN OF THE CROSS

Catholic Women's Group 2025:

May 21st

June 18th

July 16th

August 20th

Sept 17th

Oct 15th

Nov 19th

Dec 10th



Wednesday nights - 7pm - Penola Room



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK



Christmas Raffle

ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH
LEPPINGTON

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2025

\$2000 + WORTH OF PRIZES

HAMPERS, WINE, GIFT VOUCHERS AND MUCH MORE!

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$2.00 EACH

\$50 FOR A BOOK OF 25 TICKETS

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE IS TO BE DRAWN ON
SUNDAY – 21 DECEMBER 2025 FOLLOWING
SUNDAY MASS AND CHRISTMAS PICNIC DAY
AT LEPPINGTON CHURCH GROUNDS

NOTE: ALL PURCHASED TICKET BUTTS MUST BE
RETURNED BY NO LATER THAN 20/12/25

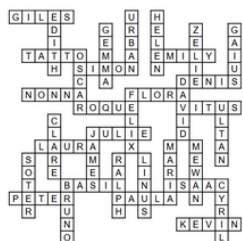
TICKET PURCHASE: CONTACT DOMENIC – 0400 588 248



2015 – 2025 the 10th Anniversary of our Parish

Earlier this year we mentioned that we would be preparing a book for the 10th Anniversary of our parish.

Thanks to the contributions of many parishioners, a book has now been prepared showing the 1st 10 years of the parish. A sample copy will be available for viewing on the welcome table. After some fine tuning we will be looking to finally go to print using the diocese printing company. We will need a minimum order of 200 copies and then in increments of 50. The pricing will be between \$25 and \$30, dependent on the size of the print run. A signup sheet will be available where you can write your details and how many copies you would like to purchase. Once we determine how many copies we need to print, it will be the only print run, so this book will be a 1st and last edition.



Saint Peter's Basilica



Saint Paul's Basilica

Saints & Feast Days of the week

17 NOV: St. Elizabeth of Hungary

18 NOV: Dedication of the Basilicas of Saint Peter and Paul.

Saint Peter's Basilica was originally built in 323 by the emperor Constantine. The basilica was constructed over the tomb of Peter the Apostle, the Church's first Pope. After standing for more than a thousand years, Pope Julius II ordered the building to be torn down due to structural concerns. The construction of the new church spanned over 200 years before its completion. It was dedicated on Nov. 18, 1626. It is considered the most famous church in Christendom.

Saint Paul's Basilica is located outside the original walls of Rome. It was also originally built by the emperor Constantine though it was destroyed by fire in 1823. Donations from around the world made the reconstruction possible. Before the completion of Saint Peter's Basilica, St Paul's was the largest church in Rome. The Basilica was built over St. Paul's grave. Pope Pius IX consecrated the Basilica in 1854.

21 NOV: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known in the East as The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple, is a liturgical feast celebrated on November 21 by the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and some Anglo-Catholic Churches.

22 NOV: Saint Cecilia



THE MACKILLOP CRAFT GROUP

will be holding their Christmas Sales over two weekends – 22/23rd November and the 29/30th November in Oran Park church after each mass. Beautiful hand crafted unique items for yourself or for gifts!! All proceeds will go towards Parish needs

COME AND SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

Christmas Sale



16 NOV : JUBILEE OF THE POOR

For the poor and vulnerable, who remind us of your call to love and serve one another, particularly the most vulnerable and downtrodden. Bless them with hope, dignity, and the support they need, and inspire us to work tirelessly for justice and mercy in our communities and throughout the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

22-23 NOV: JUBILEE OF CHOIRS

For the gift of music and the choirs whose voices uplift and inspire through song. Bless all those who dedicate themselves to this ministry, that their harmonies may glorify You and lead us to worship you with the richness of beauty and fulness of heart You so rightly deserve. Let us pray to the Lord.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE DAY: OUR SOULS AND PRAYER

The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, **Rosemeadow** invites everyone to our final Jubilee Pilgrimage Day. The day will include a catechesis that will explore God's plan for creation, the structure of the soul, and the essential role of prayer in leading us into the innermost chamber of our souls, where Christ our Bridegroom dwells. Taking place on Saturday, 6 December, the day begins with Mass at 10:00am, followed by the catechesis led by Elise Duval, a time of Eucharistic Adoration with opportunity for confession, and concludes with Benediction at 3:00pm. Please BYO lunch. Come and be renewed in God's mercy and hope!

ADVENT RETREAT – PILGRIMS OF HOPE (30Nov–3 Dec)

All are invited to a prayerful retreat at the newly refurbished **Milton Parish** Guesthouse, facilitated by Fr Michael Dyer and the Milton Parish Formation Team. A beautiful way to prepare for Christmas and a prayerful conclusion to the Jubilee Year of Hope. Cost: \$300 (single), \$200 pp (twin share), \$30 (day only, no accommodation). To register and further details: Milton Parish 4455 1313 or milton@dow.org.au

AROUND WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

ADVENT RETREAT – ST MARY'S TOWERS: 415

DOUGLAS PARK DRIVE, DOUGLAS PARK,

9:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 13 December 2025

You are invited to a day of calm contemplation amongst the beautiful surroundings of StMary's Towers Retreat Centre in Douglas Park. This is a day of embracing a slower pace, rekindling our inner journey, and enjoying time with like minded others. The day will include sensory prayer walks, lectio divina, breathing meditation and praying through walking the labyrinth. Morning tea and lunch are included. Cost: \$60 (meals included).RSVP by 3dec: 0422725438 or christabelhoneysett@barnabasministries.org.au

Understanding the Billings Ovulation Method–

helps couples understand the natural signs of fertility and infertility. Through this knowledge, couples can plan their families in a way that is fully consistent with Catholic teaching. For more info please contact: Liz Gandy 0457 298 823 or visit lizgandynaturopathy.au



FRIDAY
28 NOV 2025
6:30AM–8AM

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

- Time for prayer and reflection
- A hearty breakfast buffet
- Encouragement from guest speaker Peter Abela
- Fellowship with other men seeking to live their faith authentically

LOCATION: XAVIER CONFERENCE ROOM
38 HARBOUR ST WOLLONGONG



Cost: \$20
RSVP by Monday 17 November
Scan to register or visit:
dow.sh/mpb25

Diocesan Annual Catechist Mass

All active and retired SRE Catechists and those involved in the Sacramental preparation of children are warmly invited to the Annual Catechist Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 22 November at 9:30am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Join Bishop Brian Mascord, for this celebration, followed by a light refreshment. RSVP dow.sh/cm25 or contact– helen.bennett@dow.org.au – for more info.

WHEN

5–7 DECEMBER 2025

Starts 6:30pm on Friday (5 Dec)
Ends 1:30pm Sunday (7 Dec)

Please ensure you have had your evening meal before arriving on Friday and we will make sure you're home in time for your evening meal on Sunday.

WHERE

THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE
51 Bendena Gardens, Stanwell Tops NSW

COST

\$400 per father and son pair.

Includes two nights accommodation and meals, plus adventure activities.

REGISTER

menalive.dow.org.au

(by 1 December 2025)

ENQUIRIES

Helen Bennett
(02) 4222 2403
helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Please note: If you are unable to attend with your father, you may choose to come with another significant male person over the age of 18. In this situation, we would need a letter of consent from a parent/guardian. Should your situation not fit the two options mentioned and you still wish to attend please call us.



Holy See reaffirms support for Haiti and calls for care for Creation

The Holy See reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Haiti and those affected by Hurricane Melissa, urging renewed global commitment to peace, stability, and environmental care.

SAGRADA FAMÍLIA NOW THE TALLEST CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Basilica of the Sagrada Família in Barcelona takes record for tallest church in the world as construction nears its end for the central tower, which is set to be finished in 2026.

"The true sanctuary of God is Christ who died and rose again. He is the only mediator of salvation, the only Redeemer, the One who, by uniting himself with our humanity and transforming us with his love, represents the door that opens wide for us and leads us to the Father."

— Pope Leo XIV, 9 November 2025

Pope's Türkiye visit an opportunity to "revive" the spirit of Vatican II

Bishop Paolo Bizzeti, former Apostolic Vicar of Anatolia, speaks to Vatican News about the Pope's upcoming apostolic journey to Türkiye, a "mosaic" of different religious communities.

Religious sisters stand with flood-affected coastal communities in Indonesia

Even after seeing tidal floods destroy homes and livelihoods, Sr. Vincentia Sabarina, HK, and those around her continue to assist residents of the Indonesian coastal village of Sidodadi.

Tanzanian Archbishop: Post-election violence is 'abomination before God'

In a Mass dedicated to the victims and their families of recent violence, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Rwa'ichi of Dar es Salaam stresses how the bloodshed "does not reflect the true face of Tanzania."

Philippine Church activates relief network as deadly storms strike back-to-back

Caritas Philippines, the social action arm of the Catholic Church, has mobilized its national network to respond to the impact of Super Typhoon Fung-wong, known locally as Uwan

Restarting the Economy: Debt forgiveness as an act of justice

From 28 to 30 November, Castel Gandolfo will be host to the international event will be aimed at rethinking the economy in light of the Jubilee, focusing on social justice, care for the Earth, and freedom from debt.

Holy See reaffirms support for Haiti and calls for care for Creation

The Holy See reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Haiti and those affected by Hurricane Melissa, urging renewed global commitment to peace, stability, and environmental care.

Catholic conference on mental health: Dignity is antidote to isolation

As mental health issues continue to grow around the world, the Ministry of Hope Catholic Conference on Mental Wellbeing, held in Rome, highlights how the Church is working to combat isolation and individualism with an emphasis on human dignity.

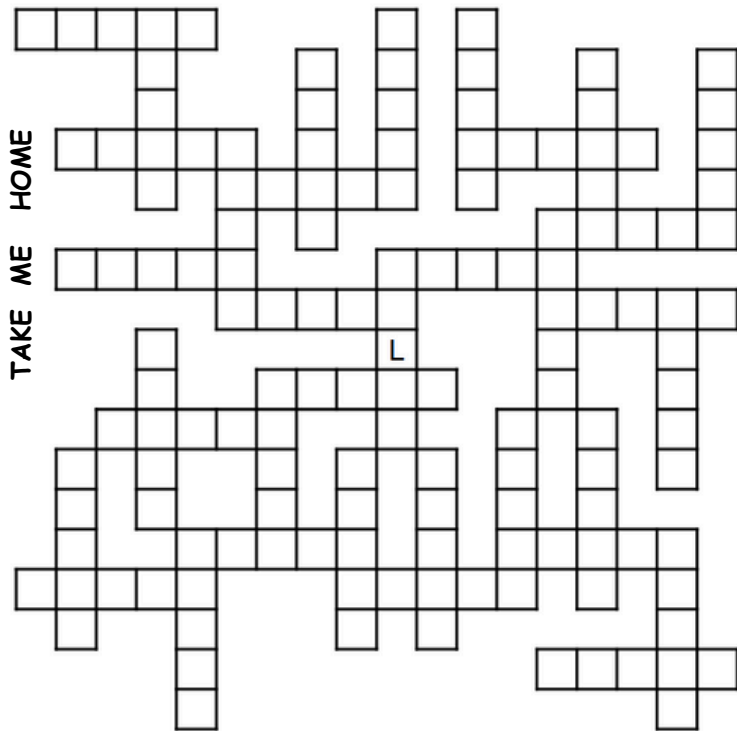
Pope: AI use in healthcare must ensure quality of care and relationships

Pope Leo XIV encourages participants in a Vatican-organized conference to help ensure that artificial intelligence does not replace interpersonal relationships in the field of healthcare.



Bridges of hope among young people from Israel, Palestine, and United States

During the second edition of the "Meaning Meets Us" gathering, organized by Scholas Occurrentes on November 2-5 in Rome, young university students discover a space where they can speak without fear, recognize one another as equals, and dream together of peace.



5-LETTER SAINT NAMES

BASIL BRUNO CLARE CYRIL DAVID DENIS EDITH
EMILY FELIX FLORA GAIVUS GEMMA GILES
HELEN ISAAC JAMES JULIE KEVIN LAURA LINUS
MARIA MEWAN NONNA OSCAR PAULA PETER
RALPH ROQUE SIMON SOTER TATTO ULTAN
URBAN VITUS ZELIE

WHAT IS PURGATORY ? WHY WE MUST PRAY FOR THE SOULS ?

*Eternal rest
grant unto
him, O Lord.*



When people die, their souls go either to Heaven or Hell- if they loved God they will go to Heaven, and if they chose not to love God then they will go to Hell. But some people love God and still do sins. Their souls are dirty with the stain of sin, but they did not choose to reject God altogether. Those souls need to be cleaned before they can go into Heaven.

Purgatory is the place where the souls go who are not clean enough to go straight to Heaven. They have to wait until they have suffered enough to make up for their sins.

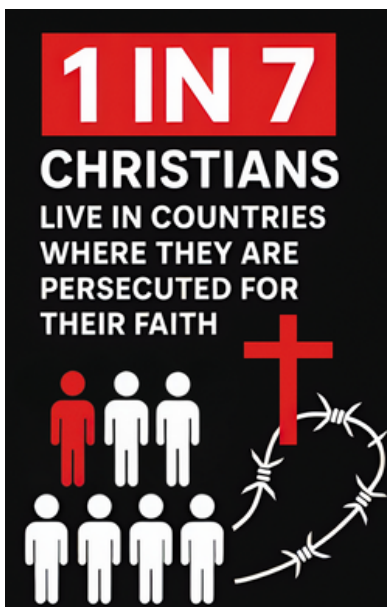


Probably most people we know who have died are in Purgatory. We should pray for them whenever we think of them- if we see a picture of them, or hear someone talking about them, or if we hear of someone who just died.

God will hear our prayers and accept the sacrifices we make for the holy souls so that they can go to Heaven sooner. Do you think they will pray for us when they get there?



According to tradition, Our Lord told **St. Gertrude the Great** that each time she piously recited the following prayer, it would greatly ease the suffering of those holy souls in purgatory:
Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family.



In my most recent Sky News, I was asked why the persecution of Christians in Nigeria has been allowed to continue for so long. My answer was simple: **"Christians are standing in the graves of their loved ones, begging for help – and no one is really listening."**

The reality is, this situation is not new. For the past two decades, thousands of Nigerian Catholics have been murdered. Churches burned. Entire villages displaced. Priests, threatened and kidnapped.

Nigeria has become an epicentre of Christian martyrdom. Even when they're not in direct fear for their lives, Christians struggle to get jobs, and Christian women and girls are forced to wear the hijab. Christian catechists can't teach, but Islamic ones can. This is despite Christians making up half of the population.

Bernard Toutounji | National Director,
Aid to the Church in Need (initially established in 1947 as a Catholic aid organisation for war refugees and has been recognised as a Pontifical Foundation since 2011)