



Sharing the sacred land of the Dharawal people, the parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at Leppington and Oran Park is a family of diverse families.

We are sustained by the **Sacraments** and nurtured in our faith in **Jesus Christ**.

We are a parish that **embraces** everyone with radical hospitality.

We are a parish that **serves** with humility.

We are a parish that **nourishes** the faith of all.

We are a parish that **responds** to the needs of our neighbours, wherever they may be.

We are the parish of Mary MacKillop.

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.

Hermie Jr, Margaret Noronha, Katherine Chin,

V.I. Issac Vandanath, Mathew Narithookil,

Con Kontista, Cliff Dornan, Maria & Sam Gauci, Doris Gauci,

Joe Tabone, Denise Segatto, Mary Passanha, Noreen D'Souza,

Jeferry D'Souza, Therese Edwige Arlequin, Valerie Kuhn,

Francisco de Nascimento Sarmento, Francesco Napoli,

Nandu Shorey, Ravi Iyer, Philip D'Souza

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st READING: Sir 15:15-20:

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34: R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

2nd READING: 1 Cor 2:6-10: God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia! (Cf Mt 11:25)

GOSPEL: Mt 5:17-37: Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

WHAT REMAINS AFTER FORTY DAYS

As Lent approaches, there is a quiet temptation to make our sacrifices visible. We speak of what we have given up, how difficult it feels, how tired we look, or how much more present we have been at church. Yet the Gospel gently unsettles this instinct. Jesus reminds us, "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites" (Matthew 6:16). Lent is not meant to draw attention to our effort. It is an interior season, largely unseen, where the real work takes place between the human heart and God.

The disciplines of Lent are not about endurance for its own sake. They exist to prepare us for conversion. In one of his final public messages, Pope Francis described Lent as a time to examine whether we are truly on a journey of faith, asking whether we are "seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade our dignity" (Message for Lent, 2025).

Often, the most faithful Lenten journey is the least noticeable. Some may not appear especially devout, yet something within them has changed. They listen more patiently, judge less quickly, and choose mercy more readily. Their fasting has softened them, and their prayer has shaped how they live.

Lent, then, is less about forty days endured and more about who we become beyond them. The ashes fade, but the invitation remains.

~Alfonso Alvin~



IN OUR PARISH

Mon	16 Feb
1pm	Rosary, Leppington
Tue	17 Feb
9:30Am	Rosary on Zoom
5pm	Devotions
6pm	Reconciliation & Adoration
6:40	Evening Prayer & Benediction
7pm	Mass, Oran Park
Wed	18 Feb (ASH WED.)
8am	Mass, Oran Park
7pm	Mass, Oran Park Women of the Cross
7pm	Mass, Leppington
Thu	19 Feb
9:30	Rosary at Church (Zoom Available)
10am	Mass, Oran Park
6pm	Special Catechist Mass
Fri	20 Feb
9.30am	Mass, Oran Park
6pm	Stations of the Cross
6:30pm	Mackillop Youth
Sat	21 Feb
4pm	Reconciliation &
5pm	Mass, Oran Park
Sun	22 Feb
8am	Mass, Leppington
8am	Mass, Oran Park
10am	Mass, Oran Park
5pm	Mass, Oran Park
6:30pm	Chaldean Holy Mass

Rosary

If you would like to pray the Rosary with us from home on Tuesdays or Thursday at 9:30Am. Please use this QR Code or Zoom ID below:



Meeting ID 983 7876 0423

TAKE ME HOME

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Of all the pious exercises connected with the Fridays of Lent, none is more popular than the Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross). You are invited to gather at **6pm at our Oran Park or Leppington Church on each of the Fridays of Lent (beginning 20 February)**

LENTEN GROUPS are an opportunity, as a member of our Parish, to gather 'in small groups' to reflect on the Lenten 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. Each session goes for approx. 90 minutes and groups usually finish with a cuppa or supper. Our Parish Lenten Groups are:

Host : Carmen Karauda - Tuesday @ 7pm - Leppington
St Mary, Mother of God Church

Host : Christen Yousseph - Tuesday @ 7pm - Oran Park
Penola Room, St. Mary Mackillop Church

Host : Dianne Campbell - Wednesday @ 10am
Private Residence, Spring Farm

Host : Chris Chircop - Young Adults - Sunday @ 6pm
Oran Park Church, Penola Room

LENTEN PENANCE & OBLIGATIONS : The Church's Canon Law reaffirms our obligation to do penance. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the season of Lent. Please visit the Notice Board for more information.

To allow as many Parishioners as possible to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), we will be holding the following extended sessions of Reconciliation at our Oran Park Church:

Tue, 24 March : 5pm-6.45pm

Sat, 28 March : 4pm-4.45pm.

Tue, 31 March : 5pm-6.45pm.

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, all who are 14 years or older are obliged to abstain from meat. All who are 18 to 59 are obliged to fast (Canon 1252). Pastors, teachers and parents are to ensure that, even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence from meat, are taught the true meaning of penance

PASCHAL PRECEPT : Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (18 Feb) and Trinity Sunday (31 May), unless it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

EASTER VIGIL CANDLES : Each year, as part of our Easter Vigil Mass, we begin our service with the Ritual of Light. The Church itself is dark, as dark as that night when Jesus lay in the tomb. The ritual begins outside the Church with the lighting of the Paschal fire. The flame is then transferred into the Church via the Paschal Candle. As the priest processes through the darkened Church with the candle, he sings "Christ our Light" three times to which the congregation responds "Thanks be to God". This year, we would again like to encourage each and every parishioner who will be attending the Easter Vigil Mass to purchase a candle from our Parish Piety Stall to be fully immersed in this celebration. Candles are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Project Compassion Sunday

14–15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



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.*



Friday Nights
Juniors (Years 7-9)
Seniors (Years 10-12)

Friday 20th February (Week 4)

Friday, 6 March (Week 6)

Friday, 20 March (Week 8)



PLEASE JOIN US FROM
6:30PM - 8:30PM IN THE
PENOLA ROOM



Good Friday Stations at
10 a.m.

Combined (Years 7-12)

Friday, 3 April, 10 a.m.

Further details to be provided
closer to the event

PARISH 10TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Orders are now open for you to purchase your copy of our Parish 10th Anniversary Book for \$30 per copy. Please scan the QR Code or use the link <https://bit.ly/10ANN> to register your order and a member of our Parish Admin. Team will contact you to arrange collection. Cash purchases are now available at Oran Park (Piety Stall) Leppington (Welcome Table).



2026 KINDY BAG BLESSING

Each year our Parish offers the opportunity for families to have school bags of children enrolled in Kindergarten to be blessed. This year, at the 5pm Mass on Sunday, 8 March, and Sunday, 15 March, St Justin's Kinder will be invited to bring their school bags to Mass for the blessing. On Sunday, 22 March, Kindergarten students attending other schools are welcome to bring their school bags to Mass for the blessing.



Volunteer with IMPACT

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering [online](#) in this special session where you'll learn about our diverse assignments suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333
palms@palms.org.au



Want to visit a community first? Join our 13-day **Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!**
Book by **28 February** for the May tour! See palms.org.au/encounters

Purchase your Copy of "COMPASSIO" : This year's Diocesan Lenten Book "COMPASSIO" is now available to purchase at the special price of \$5.00. Please purchase your copies of the Lenten Book from the Welcome Table.

MACKILLOP YOUTH

Our MacKillop Youth which is for students from Years 7 to 12 will begin on Friday 20 February at 6.30pm. Our group leaders are supported by Fr Sinh, Sarah Neasy, Ministry Coordinator at Magdalene Catholic College and the Missionaries of God's Love sisters from Varroville. We meet fortnightly at our Parish. The format is similar to the Alpha program and we always begin with a meal followed by games, talks, discussion and reflection. We also organise social events such as indoor bowling or going to a movie. The highlight of our year is an annual pilgrimage such as a walk over the Harbour Bridge to Mary MacKillop Place. Permission Forms are available on the Welcome Table and can be returned to the parish or be brought to the first meeting on the 20th Feb.

SPECIAL MASS FOR ALL CATHECHISTS

will be held next **Thursday 19th February 2026 at 6:00pm**,
St. Mary MacKillop Church.

It will be an opportunity for us to gather together in prayer and thanksgiving and receive blessings for the beginning of the 2026 teaching year. Feel free to bring your family and a plate to share.

ANS. to word find: *you will be blessed.*



WOMEN OF THE CROSS 2026

Feb 18th
March 18th
April 15th
May 20th
June 17th
July 15th
August 19th
Sept 16th
Oct 21st
Nov 18th
Dec 9th

Wednesday nights - 7pm - Penola Room

These short passages from Scripture and from saints down through the ages are designed to help provide a eucharistic focus to prayer. Whether in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament or after receiving Holy Communion at Mass, may each of us better appreciate what we have received, and what we are called to become.

Scriptural Passages for reflection

"This is my body, given for you; do this in memory of me." Luke 22:19

"Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Mark 8:27-29

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.'" John 6:35

"Freely you have received, so freely give." Matthew 10:8

"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." John 6:53

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68

"Lord, teach us how to pray." Luke 11:1

"I have been crucified with Christ so that it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:19-20

"All things work to the good for those who love God." Romans 8:28

Saintly Thoughts for reflection

"Recognise in the bread what hung on the cross, and in the cup what flowed from his side." St Augustine

"I am the wheat of God, so let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts that I may be made the pure bread of Christ." St Ignatius of Antioch

"The bread of heaven came down on earth that he might feed the hungry." St Cyril of Jerusalem

"Father, I am hungry; for the love of God give this soul her food, her Lord in the Eucharist!" St Catherine of Siena

"Every Holy Communion fills us with Jesus and we must, with Our Lady, go in haste to give him to others." St Teresa of Calcutta

"The heart of Jesus in the Eucharist is large enough to hold all our hearts in unity and is the dynamic factor that breaks open our hearts to include the poor." St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Questions for reflection

What is God asking of me personally, during this year of prayer and eucharistic renewal?

How can I live a more eucharistic life?

Do we as a community live intentionally as the Body of Christ, broken and given up for others?

EUCCHARIST28 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen.



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG



COME ALONG TO OUR
1ST ANNUAL CHARITY CAR &
BIKE SHOW ON
14 MAR 2026 FROM 8AM

Catholic Business Connections March 2026 Luncheon | Tuesday 10 March 2026, Rydges Campbelltown

In 2019, Bishop Brian Mascord launched Catholic Business Connections (CBC)—an opportunity for professional and businesswomen and men in our diocese (active and retired) who share common values, to network and engage with each other and leaders representing the diocese. CBC gathers three times a year, for two luncheons and one dinner, to listen to guest speakers chosen to inspire with their unique story and share how they relate their work and spiritual life experience to the context of living in a modern world. We warmly invite our past members to renew membership, and new members to join.

Catholic Business Connections



JOIN US FOR 2026

cbc.dow.org.au



RSVP: 2 March 2026

UPCOMING TRIPLE ORDINATION

TO THE DIACONATE FOR OUR DIOCESE !

Ordination to the permanent diaconate of John Mortimer (Albion Park), Stuart Lake (Varroville) and Ryan Suares (Rosemeadow).

10:00am, Saturday, 28 February 2026

St John Vianney Co-Cathedral

(1 Cabbage Tree Lane, Fairy Meadow).

RSVP by 20 February at rsvp.dow.org.au.

Parking will be available at the Fraternity Club (11 Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow).

Dare to love as Jesus loved

Presenters: Sr Magdalen Mather osb and Sr Julian Grigor

Join us on Saturday 21 February 2026. You are welcomed to Mass at 9am in the Abbey Church or begin the day with the first session at 10.15. We will pray Lent in with the love of Jesus, embracing the compassion that calls us beyond ourselves. May it be a threshold into a Lent lived with intention, tenderness, and courage. The day concludes at 3.30 pm. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch. For more information and to register: jamberooabbey.org.au/events/2026. Cost \$60 (pensioner discount available).

CAR AND BIKE SHOW



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

CATHOLIC PARISH VARROVILLE

Car \$20, Bikes \$10,
Passengers & Spectators -
gold coin donation

14TH MARCH
2026 @ 7AM



OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL
193 ST ANDREWS ROAD, VARROVILLE NSW 2566

ST ANDREWS PIZZA

2 MANDARIN COURT RESTAURANT

KILLER

DASHING BRAIDS CO

THE MUSICAL

DRIBBLE BOYZ CAR CLUB

S & W METAL NIGHTS DJ FOR HIRE



Enjoy MUSIC, TROPHIES, COFFEE & FOOD at this exciting charity event

TINT ME UP

HENRY'S AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

A POWERFUL LENTEN RETREAT JOURNEY AT INGLEBURN . YOU ARE INVITED!

Dates: 7pm for five consecutive Thursday evenings
26 February – 26 March.

Venue: Holy Family Parish Ingleburn – Parish Meeting Room (located around the back of the church, underneath) Retreat Facilitator: Charbel Raish
Register your attendance at <http://www.hfi.org.au>