



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK

Weekly Reflection

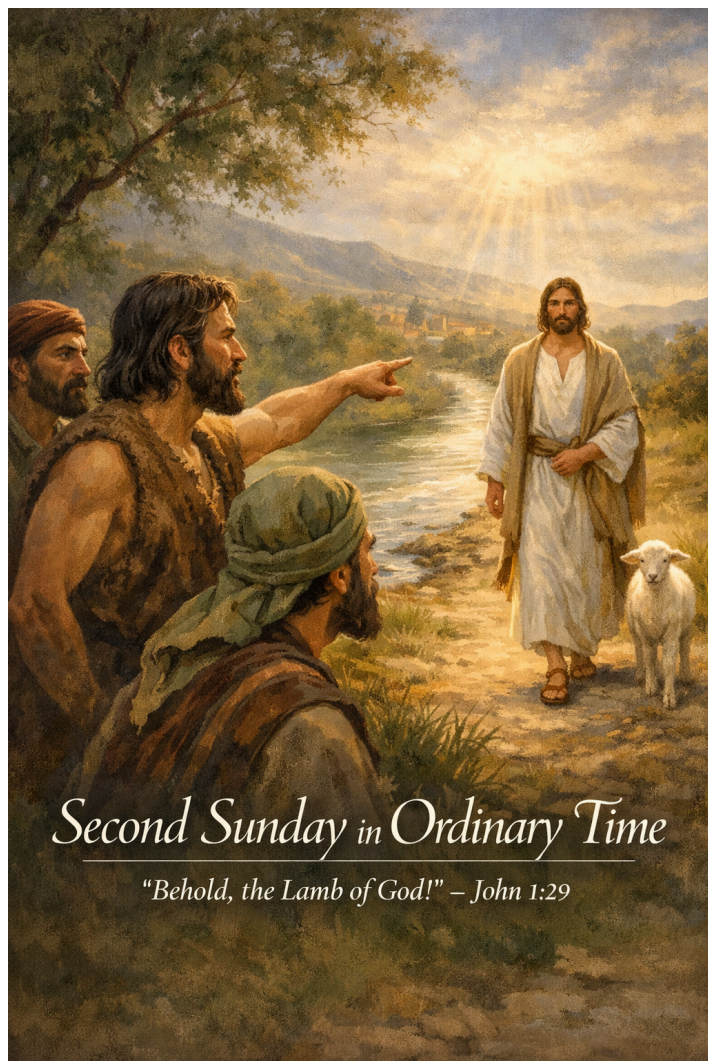
If anyone had the opportunity to visit the Holy Land, a very memorable site is Bethany Beyond the Jordan, just north of the Dead Sea. This is where Jesus was baptised.

Nearby is the cave of John the Baptist. You can also see the ruins of an ancient church and what is left of a monastery, dating back to the 4th and 5th centuries. To stand there is to see the very beginnings of Christianity. Every one of us who is baptised can trace our lineage back to that shallow river, to the place where Jesus himself was baptised and where He began his public ministry. Sacred scripture tells us it was this place where John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching and cried out, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" John the Baptist spoke those words in an unlikely place, but he pointed the way to a wondrous mystery.

We hear those words at every Mass. This is when we celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist – we need to hear those words as if we are hearing them for the first time. As we come forward at Communion to receive Jesus and when we are offered the Body of Christ, we whisper "Amen." This is the most meaningful word of our faith. The experience of receiving communion at Mass makes us "living tabernacles" of God's presence, bringing him into the world through our lives.

And in our hands, we hold the saviour of the world. So as we prepare to receive the Eucharist, we come before the Lord as sinful people, and pray "Lord I am not worthy" – but we also pray that He will only say the word and our souls will be healed.

Deacon Sam



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Behold, the Lamb of God!" – John 1:29

PARISH BULLETIN YEAR A - 2026 18 JANUARY 2026

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st READING: *Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6*

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalm 39:2,4,7-10*

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

2nd READING: *1 Corinthians 1:1-3*

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *John 1:14,12*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *John 1:29-34*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



IN OUR PARISH

Monday 19 January
1pm Rosary, Leppington.

Tuesday 20 January
9:30am Rosary on Zoom
5pm Devotions
6pm Reconciliation & Adoration
6:40 Evening Prayer & Benediction
7pm Mass, Oran Park

Wednesday 21 January
8am Mass

Thursday 22 January
9:30 Rosary at Church
(Zoom Available)
10am Mass

Friday 23 January
9.30am Mass

Saturday 24 January
4pm Reconciliation &
5pm Mass, Oran Park

Sunday 25 January
8am Mass, Leppington
8am Mass, Oran Park
10am Mass, Oran Park

Chaldean Holy Mass
12:00noon Sunday



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.

Stephen McLaren, Luigi Costa, Sam & Maria Gauci, Denise Segatto, Doris Gauci, Joe Tabone, Carmelo Dela Cruz, Vincente T Silvestre Jr, Miroslav Bogovic, Frank Vella, Anthony Vella, Mathew Cherian, Adrian O'Sullivan, Ron & Pauline Rice, Raymond Stubbs

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

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.



Pastoral Care

What is Pastoral Care?

It is offering Spiritual, emotional and practical help. Its foundation is in the idea of a shepherd caring for their flock. Providing a listening ear, a presence and empathy and the sharing of Gods word through prayer and reading of the bible and sharing in the Eucharist. Our Parish need Pastoral care volunteer members. The need is great for Pastoral Care volunteers to visit Parishioners in their homes, nursing homes, hospitals. These Parishioners are unable to come to church for various reasons.

If you feel this is a ministry you could help in with your time, of at least 1hr a week we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Ken Garland or Carmen Karauda at
ken.garland45@gmail.com
ckarauda@gmail.com

Catechists Needed

Can you spare 30 minutes a week to share God's love with students in our local state schools?

Our parish is seeking volunteer Catechists (or Classroom Helpers) to support the faith journey of students in our local state schools. This is a rewarding opportunity to live your faith by sharing God's love with the children. What's required?

30mins per week (on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, during school terms only). **No experience needed.** Training and support are provided. For more information please contact **Julie Balan on 0439 464 036 or the Parish Office.**

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) Program

Currently this program is 5 x one hour sessions, held on Saturday afternoon. The program is for children who are 7 years of age or above, who have not been baptised into the Catholic Faith or who have been baptised in another Christian Faith, and who wish to be initiated/received into the Catholic faith by receiving the sacraments as set down by Liturgical Practice.

Anyone who is interested in being part of the RCIC Program can email any enquires to oranparksacraments@dow.org.au or enrol via the Parish website.

Enrolments will be open from 2nd February 2026.

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)

and Leppington (Welcome Table).



10ANNBOOK

Assistance for Parents in Macarthur for Back-to-School Expenses:



Do you live in the Macarthur region, have kids at school, and could use \$50 per child to help with those expenses? Macarthur Social Justice Network has funds available to be used toward the purchase of shoes, uniforms, winter coats and gloves, books and materials, subscriptions, or other miscellaneous school expenses. Visit www.msjn.org to find out more and submit your request. Available while funds last.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

SAINT AGNES (-304)



As with so many of the early Roman martyrs, very little is now known about Agnes' life. Partly this is because the details have been obscured by the light that shines from her martyrdom and the cult that it inspired, and partly because if you are martyred at the age of 12, your life has not really acquired that many details in any case. Agnes was filled with the love of God from an early age, vowed herself to celibacy, and when the opportunity of martyrdom arose, she did not hide away but stepped forward and took it.

That is really all that is known: but it is enough. We who are used to compromising with the world at every turn, and would find excuses to avoid any inconveniences that our faith might cause us, let alone martyrdom ("yes, of course I would die for my faith in principle, but wouldn't I be able to do more good in the long run if I stayed alive just now?"), should admire the simple wisdom of Agnes, realise that there are moments where compromise and moral ambiguity just will not do, and pray for the strength to live up to such moments when they happen.

Seeking Peace and Healing? CatholicCare Counselling Can Help

Life's burdens can feel heavy, but you are not alone. CatholicCare offers professional counselling rooted in compassion and guided by the values of faith and hope. Whether you are facing family challenges, relationship struggles, grief, or personal concerns, our counsellors walk with you on the path to healing and renewal. Reach out today and let us walk with you:

Call (02) 42549395 or visit
<http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au>

2026 SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR

Our Parish 2026 Youth Sacramental Calendar is now available on the Parish Website. Those families wishing to enrol their children in 2026 for RCIC, 1st Holy Communion or Confirmation are asked to visit the website and note when online enrolments will be available.



AROUND WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

What's on around the Diocese? Check out upcoming Diocesan events and courses – too many to list in one place. Subscribe here and we will keep you in the loop dow.sh/stayingconnected about what's happening around our Diocese!

A VOCATION VIEW: MARY TRUSTED THAT THE LORD'S WORDS TO HER WOULD BE FULFILLED. STEP OUT IN FAITH AND GOD WILL BE THERE TO GUIDE YOU.
(LUKE 1:39-44) IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR VOCATION, PLEASE CONTACT
THE DIOCESAN VOCATIONS DIRECTOR, FR DUANE FERNANDEZ AT
VOCATIONS@DOW.ORG.AU

The Journey – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.

Shalom World: A Global Catholic Media Hub – Your One-Stop

Destination for True Peace!
No matter where you are on your faith journey, Shalom World invites you to dive into inspiring content, faith-filled adventures, uplifting news, and deep prayer—anytime, anywhere!
<https://shalomworld.org/>

YOUTH DAY



World Youth Day – Seoul 2027

World Youth Day is returning in August 2027– and this time it's heading to Seoul, South Korea! WYD is an unforgettable celebration of faith with millions of young Catholics from around the world, and we're excited to begin preparing a diocesan pilgrimage. If you (or someone you know) will be 18–35 years old in August 2027 and would love to experience the vibrancy of the universal Church, a new culture, and a life-changing encounter with Christ, we'd love to hear from you. Register your expression of interest: dow.sh/wyd27
Let's start the journey!