



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK

PARTNERS IN MISSION



CELEBRATING
WHO WE ARE &
WHO WE ARE
CALLED TO BE

“DO ALL
YOU CAN
WITH THE
MEANS AT
YOUR
DISPOSAL
AND
CALMLY
LEAVE THE
REST TO
GOD”

ST MARY
MACKILLOP



“They devoted
themselves to the
teaching of the
apostles and to the
communal life, to the
breaking of bread
and to the prayers”

Acts 2:42



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



As we embrace a new liturgical year with the Season of Advent and we look forward in hope to the coming year 2024, I would like to draw your attention to a matter of significant importance regarding our parish's future and the sustainability of our vital works and ministries. Our parish faces a considerable challenge in 2024: a forecasted 67% increase in our insurance premiums.

This substantial increase is due to *Catholic Church Insurance* (CCI) ceasing to issue new or renewal policies and voluntarily placing their organisation into "run off" - thus leading to our Diocese having to engage with a new insurer to secure insurance policies for all parishes, includes ours.

The prospect of this increase - along with the increased costs of other utilities like water and electricity - is indeed daunting, especially in a time when I know many among us are confronting financial strains due to rising interest rates and the escalating cost of living. It is in this crucial juncture that we must come together as a unified parish family to safeguard the invaluable services, ministries and activities that embody the essence of OUR VISION, and ensure that we can achieve our parish goals both in 2024 and into the future. **In light of the forthcoming challenges our parish faces, I would like to extend an invitation, both to those already engaged in planned giving and to those who have yet to join.**

For those of you already in planned giving, I say 'thank you'. Your consistent and generous contributions have been the cornerstone of our parish's ability to carry out its works and ministries. Your commitment truly embodies the spirit of giving and community. **While I acknowledge this may not be possible for everyone, I kindly encourage those who are able to consider increasing your weekly contribution to planned giving, even if by just \$5 dollars (that it seems is now the average cost of a takeaway coffee) or another amount.** Small individual increments, when combined, can create a substantial collective impact. Your willingness to consider this slight adjustment will greatly assist in ensuring the continuity and strength of our parish's mission.

To those who are not currently part of our planned giving program, I invite you to join this noble endeavor. Your participation, regardless of the amount, will significantly contribute to safeguarding our works and ministries. **Even the smallest contribution can make a considerable difference when shared among our parish community.**

Your involvement, whether through an increase in your planned giving or by joining planned giving for the first time, will fortify our ability to serve and support our community, ensuring that our parish remains a beacon of hope and strength for all who seek refuge within its embrace. Our patron St. Mary MacKillop, known for her unwavering faith and trust in God's Providence, serves as an inspiration. Her life was a testament to the impact that one individual can have on a community, and she reminds us that every small contribution, when combined with others, can create significant change.

If you are in a position to increase your planned giving or to join planned giving for the first time, please complete the form located on the back page of this leaflet (and to drop it on a collection basket at mass) or alternatively using the QR code or bitly link to fill in your details. Our parish admin team will then contact you to set everything up.

Let us stand together, bound by our faith and our shared vision and purpose, as we navigate these challenging times and continue to make a positive impact within our parish and beyond.

Fr David Catterall MTh | Parish Priest

The financial contributions of many - through our weekly 2nd collection taken up after holy communion at Mass, the contributions made via the tap&go machines located at the doors of our Oran Park Mass Centre and through our planned giving program - have made the many ministries & works of our parish possible in 2023. Here are a few ... Hopefully, despite the challenges facing us with insurance increases and the like, we will be able not only to sustain, but to increase, these endeavours in 2024 and beyond.



This year our extraordinary catechists have brought the light of faith to over 1000 young parishioners in state schools across our parish. Their dedication to guiding and educating our youth in matters of faith has been nothing short of inspiring. We express our deepest gratitude to these devoted individuals whose unwavering commitment has nurtured the spiritual growth of our young parishioners. Their impact is profound, offering an opportunity for many children to explore and deepen their faith—a gift that wouldn't be possible without the tireless ministry of our catechists. Our heartfelt thanks to our catechists for their invaluable service and the profound impact they've made on the lives of our youth.

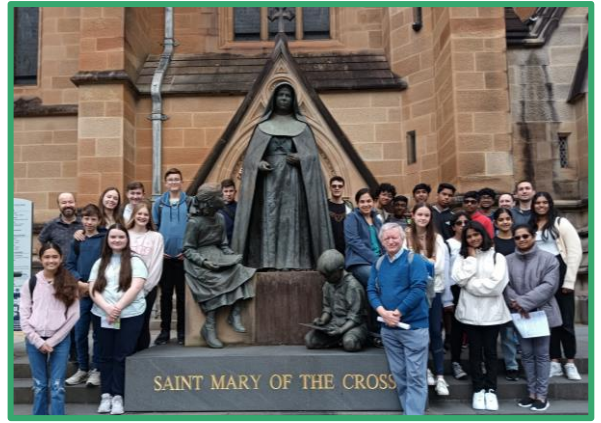
Our parish joyously relaunched Alpha in 2023, witnessing an incredible registration of over 80 enthusiastic participants! Alpha isn't just a course; it's an immersive experience! Over 9-10 weeks, participants came together weekly for a shared meal, engaging talks, and meaningful discussions in small groups. This extraordinary journey brought together diverse individuals from all walks of life, fostering connections and deepening their faith.



A highlight of 2023 was the construction, blessing and opening of 'Stage 1' of our Parish Community Garden. A small project team engaged the parish community for input, planned the initial stage of construction and sought sponsorship from local businesses and government. This 'shared garden space' is a place where people can work collaboratively to grow produce, enjoy recreation in the environment and build a sense of community.

In the year 2023, our parish has witnessed incredible milestones in faith and devotion. Over 200 little ones have been baptised, embracing the loving embrace of Christ. Moreover, more than 350 young hearts received their First Holy Communion. Additionally, over 160 children have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, marking their commitment to their faith journey. Here at our parish, sacramental preparation isn't merely a program that children complete; it's a journey of encountering Jesus and His Spirit, a path toward finding their place in the Catholic Church. We strive to foster an environment where our young parishioners joyfully embrace their role as missionary disciples of Jesus, living out their faith with exuberance and love!

During 2023 our vibrant youth group for parishioners in Years 7 to 12, MacKillop Youth, has thrived, offering a space for our young high schoolers to forge new friendships and deepen their faith journey. Through shared meals, engaging games and activities, formative discussions, heartfelt prayers, and uplifting music, these gatherings have become a haven for growth and connection. As well as gathering regularly during the school terms, MacKillop Youth led our '2023 Good Friday Stations of the Cross' and had the opportunity to 'go on pilgrimage together' to St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. They have also had great opportunities to engage in fun activities like Indoor Bowling and to 'reach out to others' through social outreach activities.



It's often overlooked how our financial contributions deeply impact our worship. In 2023, our 'weekly offerings' have facilitated the purchase of essential elements crucial for our Masses and Sacraments, such as altar bread, altar wine, candles, and various other liturgical items.

OUR PARISH PURPOSE

To form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ



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MY PLEDGE to my Parish of St Mary MacKillop

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (M) _____

Email: _____

In prayerful thanksgiving for the many blessings received from God, and convinced that what is happening in my/our Parish is worth supporting and nurturing in 2024, I/we would like to:

- Increase frequency and/or amount of Planned Giving
- Create an account and begin Planned Giving
- Switch to online Planned Giving (from envelopes)
- Make a 'one off' financial contribution to support 2024 ministries
- Have a conversation on other ways I/we can financially support the parish in 2024

"Never see a need without doing something about it" (Mary MacKillop)

**bit.ly/
plannedgivingpledge**



Scan me

oranpark@dow.org.au

(02) 4648 2226

