



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK

Ministry Involvement at our Southern Mass Centre (Oran Park) at St Mary MacKillop Parish

St Mary MacKillop famously said:
“Never see a need without doing something about it.”

It is exciting that we can continue to take up Mary MacKillop’s challenge together here in our parish. However, this vision will only become a reality if each of us commits to sharing our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure, and to “serve with humility”

Participation in the celebration of the Church’s liturgy *“is the summit toward which all activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the fount from which all the Church’s power flows”* (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #10). Being the source and summit of the Christian life means the celebration of the liturgy is a vital part of the Parish’s life. The call to liturgical ministry is one of the ways in which members of the Christian faithful, the Body of Christ, exercises their baptismal priesthood. *“Such participation by Christian people...is their right and duty by reason of their baptism”* (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #14).

It takes many people giving generously of their gifts of time, talent and treasure to ensure that each and every celebration of the Liturgy is well resourced with the appropriate number of ministry volunteers, and we are always looking for more volunteers to ensure that the ministers that are currently on each roster are not overloaded.

There are many ways in which parishioners can volunteer to assist with the liturgical life (during the Mass) of the Parish. Including:

Acolyte/ Senior Adult Servers

This ministry involves opening and setting up the church before mass begins, preparing the hosts and sacred vessels for use during the mass, assisting the priest and supporting the altar servers during mass then cleaning and packing away the sacred vessels at the conclusion of the mass. Formation is required before commencing in this ministry. Those wishing to be involved in this ministry will need to provide the parish with a Working with Children Check number.

Sacristans

This ministry involves opening and setting up the church for our 8am Sunday morning Mass when no acolyte is rostered on. Sacristans prepare the hosts and sacred vessels for use during the mass and at the conclusion of the mass, then then clean the sacred vessels ready to be used again for the 10am mass. Formation is required before commencing in this ministry Those wishing to be involved in this ministry will need to provide the parish with a Working with Children Check number.

Altar Servers

Altar Servers, girls and boys, assist the priest and acolyte/ senior server during the Mass. Altar servers enter the church with the priest and acolyte/senior server, carrying the processional cross. They assist the priest in collecting the offertory gifts, carry the sacred vessels between the credence table and altar during the Eucharistic Prayer, and hold the Missal/ folder used by the priest during the Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word and Concluding Rite. Altar servers must participate in formation prior to starting in this ministry. Children must have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to be an altar server.

Lectors

Lectors (Readers) read the readings and the universal prayers (prayers of the faithful) during the Liturgy of the Word at each Mass. Lectors have a unique opportunity to assist others in developing a relationship with Christ through the way they carry out their ministry and allow others to hear the word of God proclaimed each week. Those wishing to be a lector must be in Year 9 or above at school. Formation is required before commencing in this ministry.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Ministers)

Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest/ deacon/ acolyte/ senior server with the distribution of the host and precious blood in Holy Communion. Involvement in this ministry requires parish formation and anyone wishing to engage in this ministry must be at least 16 years of age.

Kids Church (Children's Liturgy of the Word)

At two of our Southern Mass Centre (Oran Park) Masses (Sunday 10am and 5pm) and our 8am Mass at Leppington each week, Kids Church takes place. Before the Liturgy of the Word, children aged 4-8 years are farewelled with a sung verse and sent with the Gospels (Children's Bible) and the Light of Faith to learn about the Gospel reading for that week. Ministers follow a specific curriculum and are still able to participate fully in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Kids Church helps to make the Liturgy a positive and meaningful experience for the whole community. Volunteers in this ministry must provide the parish with a Working with Children Check Number in order to participate.

Welcomers

Welcoming is an integral ministry in our parish that involves warmly greeting each person who arrives at Mass each weekend and handing them a parish bulletin and ensuring that they know where they can find the things in our church that they need. Our Parish Vision states that "we are a parish that embraces everyone with radical hospitality" and this hospitality begins with the welcome they receive when they arrive. This is a ministry that families often engage in together. Formation is not required to begin this ministry, however volunteers engaged in this ministry are asked to attend a short formation session once a year.



Cleaning God's House

With Mass for the students of our parish schools during school term and five weekend Masses each week, along with Baptism Preparation Evenings, Sacramental Preparation classes, Alpha and a range of other meetings held in our church space each week, it understandably becomes untidy quite quickly. Like the family home, our church requires regular cleaning and a number of people to 'pitch in', in order to have it looking at its best each week. Cleaning takes place on a Friday morning or Saturday morning (or at other times agreed upon by each team) and teams work together to have the church ready for all liturgical celebrations for the weekend.



Set Up and Pack Up Crew

Creating places and spaces of welcome and hospitality is at the heart of our Parish Vision. To create such welcoming and hospitable places we need people to put out the banners before Mass, along with the A-frame Welcome Signs, and to bring these items back in after the Mass is over. This is a ministry that families often engage in together. Formation is not required to begin this ministry, however volunteers engaged in this ministry are asked to attend a short formation session once a year.

Info Table/Welcome Hub ministers

A range of information is kept at our Info Table each week (and will soon be transferred into our WADEO Welcome Hub near the parish office). This information ranges from sacramental forms to information on different parish initiatives such as Kids Church or different prayer cards celebrating different feast days and Information on becoming involved in the life of the parish.

Letters, information or magazines that are distributed from the diocese are also available at this table. Info table/Welcome Hub volunteers are required to help those looking for specific information to be able to locate it quickly and easily, and to assist others get to know how they can be involved in our parish or find the information they might be looking for. Formation is not required to begin this ministry, however volunteers engaged in this ministry are asked to attend a short formation session once a year.

Collectors

Two collections are taken up during each Mass that support the local the diocese (the first collection) and the parish (the second collection). This ministry requires two or four people at each Mass to take up these collections and place them in the sacristy. No formation is required for this session and this is a ministry that families often engage in together. Please note that primary school aged children are required to be rostered on with an adult in this ministry.



Musicians

Singers and instrumentalists play a significant role in contributing to overall tone of each celebration of the Eucharist we celebrate, except for the Sunday 8am Oran Park Mass which is a 'quiet Mass'. Those who share their gifts and talents in music and singing meet for practice with other members of the music ministry several times a year, often in the lead up to sacraments or special liturgical celebrations such as Easter and Christmas. While a liturgical ministry, this ministry is organized and managed separately to the other liturgical ministries in the parish.

Hospitality Ministry

As part of the radical hospitality that we espouse to in our Parish Vision, hospitality is offered each Sunday following our 10am Mass and the first Saturday of every month at our 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass and on other occasions. Volunteers can be involved in a number of roles, such as assisting with preparation of food and drinks (tea, coffee, cordial) before Mass and the serving and clean up of this hospitality after Mass.



So how can I become involved?

What is the pathway to become a liturgical minister in our parish?

Please contact Jenny in the parish office (oranpark@dow.org.au) if you would like to join our music ministry, set up/pack up crew, hospitality team, or cleaning team. Jenny will take your details and pass them onto the leaders of these ministries who will contact you.

Ministry Scheduler Pro

Enrolment in, and management of, each of the other liturgical ministries mentioned on this flyer is through an online program called *Ministry Scheduler Pro*.

To register your interest, you are required to go to the link below and under the login box click on the ‘**sign up now**’ link:

<https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/l/web-terminal/login/OranPark>

This link will take you to an enrolment form where you can enter your details and register your preferences for service times and ministries.

You will soon be able access this link from our parish website www.marymackillopparish.org.au

Once your online form is processed, you will be added to the next schedule (roster). If your preferred ministry/ ministries require formation before commencing, you will need to engage in this formation first. While you may have been engaged in the ministry you are volunteering in a previous parish, we ask that you attend a formation session so that you are familiar with the practices and processes of our parish, as these differ from one parish to the next.

A member of the Liturgy Team will contact you, or announce the sessions for this formation, through our e-newsletter “The Overview” and our ‘end of Mass notices’

If your chosen ministry requires a Working with Children Check, please refer to the diocesan website that will outline the requirements and process to apply for this check.

<http://www.liturgydow.org.au/wwcc.html>

With so many ways to become involved in the life our exponentially expanding parish, we hope that you will seek opportunities to become involved and enrich, not only your own faith, but the faith of those with whom you will meet and interact in our parish community.