



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK



PARISH BULLETIN

14 Dec 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice

In the Lord & be glad
(Psalm 32:11)

TAKE ME HOME



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.

Frank Tipler, George Zarb, Sue Gersbach, Susajraj Vasantha, Theresraj & Sunitha, Anthony Vella, Margaret Noronha, Joe Tabone, Fernando Bareto Daluz, Anna Torcaso, Juliet Decruz

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 Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 (JB)
God himself will come and save us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10 (JB)

R. Lord, come and save us.

2nd READING James 5:7-10 (JB): You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia! (Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18) (JB))

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11 (JB): Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

Rejoice in the Lord always – indeed the Lord is near.

There is something in the air! You can almost feel it. It is Jesus coming to town, to our own hearts if we welcome him. The very word "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming" and Jesus is the One whose Advent or arrival or coming we are waiting for. Jesus will come to us this Christmas and we can make more room for him.

In the tradition of the Liturgical calendar, the 3rd Sunday in Advent is often called "**Gaudete Sunday**." 'Gaudete' is a Latin word which means 'rejoice'. Having passed the midpoint of Advent, our joy gets more and more intense as we advance in our journey of faith.

This joy is the gladness of heart that comes from knowing God and surrendering to him, knowing Jesus and trusting and abiding in him, and being guided by the inspiration and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle which is 'rose coloured,' and the 'rose coloured' vestments are often used because they represent a lightening of the purple used during the season of Advent. I seem to recall that I read somewhere some time ago that the rose colour can also remind us of the colour of the sky first thing in the morning, when the sun is just beginning to come up. The horizon takes on a pale rose colour that gradually gets redder and brighter as the sun rises. For us faithful Christians, life is like a "long sunrise". This is the reason why this Sunday is also called "**Rose Sunday**."

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent, it is also our joy to take this opportunity to extend our heartiest congratulations to Fr Sinh Le who was ordained into the priesthood of Christ on 13 December 2025. May our loving God shower Fr Sinh Le with many blessings as he commences his priestly ministry.

Deacon Sam

IN OUR PARISH

Monday 15 December
1pm Rosary, Leppington.

Tuesday 16 December
9:30am Rosary on Zoom
5pm Devotions &
6pm Reconciliation &
Adoration
6:40 Evening Prayer &
Benediction
7pm Mass, Oran Park

Wednesday 17 December
8am Mass, Oran Park

Thursday 18 December
9.30am Rosary
10am Mass, Oran Park

Friday 19 December
9.30am Mass,

Saturday 20 December
4pm Reconciliation &
5pm Mass, Oran Park

Sunday 21 December
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

CHRISTMAS MASS

Our Christmas Day Mass at Oran Park will now be held in the School Hall.
For Christmas mass timings scan the below QR code:



'25Christmas

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD, LEPPINGTON

Inaugural Xmas raffle draw and Picnic day, following Sunday mass.
The Xmas raffle prize draw will be held at 9.00am following Sunday mass (21 Dec).
To celebrate this event, we ask that parishioners join us and bring along a picnic basket or a plate of food to share.
Coffee and Tea will be available.

PARISH CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Please note the Parish Office will be closed from Monday, 22 December, to Friday, 26 December.

2026 CARMELITE RETREAT PROGRAM

Through a range of day, weekend, and weeklong retreats, this year's Carmelite Retreat Program offers opportunities for prayer, reflection, spiritual growth and community. Whether you are new to Carmelite spirituality or a seasoned pilgrim, you'll find nourishment and inspiration for your journey with God. Please collect a flyer from the Welcome Table or contact the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre : bookings@mtcarmel.com.au

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.



10ANNBOOK

ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

Advent, like Lent, is a Season of the Church's year that invites us to be reconciled to God and to one another so that we can "prepare a way for the Lord". To allow as many Parishioners as possible to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in preparation for Christmas, we will be holding the following sessions of Reconciliation:

Tuesday, 16 December : 5pm-6.45pm

Saturday, 20 December : 4pm-4.45pm

Tuesday, 23 December : 5pm-6.45pm

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.

MARY MACKILLOP

YOUNG ADULTS ADVENT GROUP

Come and join us for dinner, conversation, prayer and reflections in the Season of Advent.

WHO : Young Adults 18-35 years old.

WHEN : Sundays 6pm : 30 Nov to 21 Dec

WHERE : Penola Room at

St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park

To find out more and to register, **RSVP** via bit.ly/AdventOP25- hope to see you there!

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. Ans: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

TURNING POINT CAMDEN - CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Our Parish this year will again be supporting clients of Turning Point with Christmas Hampers. Please collect one or more gift tags from the Welcome Table and return items to the designated crate over the next 2 weekends. Each gift tag has a nominated item so that each Hamper is the same for the many families supported by Turning Point. We thank you in advance for your gifts to support men, women and families experiencing hardship in our community at this special time of year. All items will need to be donated no later than Sunday, 7 December.

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children) Children 7 years and above who are not baptised or who have been baptised in a Christian church other than Catholic, are still able to make their 1st Reconciliation and/or 1st Holy Communion by taking part in our Parish RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children) program prior to enrolling in our 1st Reconciliation/1st Holy Communion preparation program. Those families interested in being a part of RCIC are asked to send an email to oranpark@dow.org.au. Enrolments for RCIC will be available on the Parish website from 2 Feb 26. Answer: St. John was in the prison. Answer to match up puzzle: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk; lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

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.

The MacKillop Craft Group get together every Tuesday at 10.30am in the Penola Room, or at a local cafe. If you enjoy a cuppa and a chat, come and join us. All are welcome. You don't need to be crafty!



LITTLE JOEY'S PLAYGROUP

We welcome all children 0-5 years and their parents, grandparents/carers.

When

Thursdays - 9:30-11:00 am
During school terms

Where

The Penola Room
Demountable building next to the
St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church, Oran Park

Cost

Gold coin donation



AROUND WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

Shalom World: A Global Catholic Media Hub – Your One-Stop Destination for True Peace!

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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 18–25 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!

SANCTUS SUMMIT– ROSEMEADOW

Join us for the last Sanctus Summit for the year at Our Lady Help of Christians, **Rosemeadow on Wednesday 17 December**. Sanctus Summit is a monthly adoration night, bringing youth and young adults together from different parts of the Diocese! Eucharistic Adoration from 6.30 – 7.30pm (Reconciliation will be available), followed by Dinner at Ambarvale Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and connect with other young people from the area!

IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2026

When is it? 1–7 Jan for youth and young adults (14 years and up); 1–5 Jan for married couples and families (includes children's ministry) **Where is it?** Armidale, NSW. to register visit www.immaculata.org.au/ims before 23 Dec.

NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NOTRE DAME STUDY CENTRE, ORAN PARK

The University of Notre Dame Australia is now offering a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Primary Education through the Notre Dame Study Centre at Oran Park.

WOLLONGONG'S OLD RC BURIAL GROUND REVISITED

After 20 years of exhaustive research, Wendy Nunan's 720-page, hard covered book on Andrew Lysaght Park (Wollongong's original RC Burial Ground) will be published early 2026. Read about the history of the former cemetery, now mostly beneath WIN Stadium and Entertainment Centre, and the lives of the 400 Pioneers believed to have been buried therein, most between 1830 and the late 1870s. Pre-publication orders are now being taken at a discount price of \$110 (RRP \$125). For more details contact Wendy on wich53@gmail.com or on 42570042.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: BE A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS FOR FAMILIES FACING ADVERSITY THIS CHRISTMAS.

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in **Ukraine** has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>



THE ART OF DYING WELL – FOUR-PART SERIES

Clergy and parish communities are invited to attend The Art of Dying Well, a free four-week Saturday series presented by Bruce Missen, Managing Director of Willow Tree Funerals. Dates: Commencing Saturday, 10 January 2026 Time: 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, **Varroville** Details: Light refreshments provided. Please scan the QR code on the attached flyer to register. For more information: 02 8776 1667 or www.willowtreefunerals.com.au

Free Event, Scan QR Code to Register



The Art Of Dying Well

4 Saturdays Starting

 **Saturday**
10th, January 2026

 **START**
10:30AM - 1:00 PM

Our Lady Of Mt Carmel
Varroville

For More Info : 02 8776 1667

Presented By
Bruce Missen:

Managing Director
Willow Tree Funerals

-Light Refreshments Inc

WWW.WILLOWTREEFUNERALS.COM.AU

Pope prays for an end to clashes along Thai-Cambodian border

As renewed clashes emerge on the border between Thailand and Cambodia, Pope Leo appeals for an end to hostilities, and prays for all victims.

Pope Leo meets with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy

Pope Leo XIV welcomes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the papal residence at Castel Gandolfo to discuss the war in Ukraine and the return of Ukrainian children taken to Russia

Hong Kong: Asian Church leaders gather to discern AI's pastoral impact

A 3-day meeting in Hong organised by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences focuses on the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence and the need to prioritise education and media literacy as safeguards for human freedom.

Pontifical Yearbook now available online with information on global Church

The Holy See's official Pontifical Yearbook is now available online, providing up-to-date information on the Catholic Church's institutions across the globe.

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Holy See satisfied with civil recognition of Chinese Bishop Zhang Weizhu

In a statement, the Director of the Holy See Press Office says civil recognition of the Bishop Emeritus of the Apostolic Prefecture of Xinxiang, in mainland China, is an important step in the communal journey of ecclesiastical circumscription.

Michael Bubl : When I hear music, I hear the voice of God

Ahead of the 6th edition of the Vatican's Concert with the Poor, to be held on 6 December, Canadian singer and songwriter Michael Bubl  shares how "music is a gift from God" and says he hopes to use his platform as an artist to share his faith.

"NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD. LET US PREPARE OURSELVES FOR HIS KINGDOM, LET US WELCOME IT. THE LITTLE CHILD, JESUS OF NAZARETH, WILL LEAD US."

— POPE LEO XIV, 7 DECEMBER 2025

Pope at Audience: Reflect on death, our time on earth prepares us for eternity: During his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Leo XIV meditates on existential questions of how human beings view death, and he invites us to ponder on the end of life so as to discover the power of Christ's Resurrection.

Canon lawyers present new standard work on child welfare

Myriam Wijlens and Yeshica Marianne Uma a Calder n release an English-language textbook on child welfare, drawing on a long-running interdisciplinary course at the University of Erfurt. The volume outlines principles of the child's best interests in ecclesiastical and international contexts and incorporates contributions from global experts involved in child protection.

Church consecrates Guinea-Bissau to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and calls for reconciliation.

The Catholic Church in Guinea-Bissau has solemnly consecrated the nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The celebration was marked by calls for peace and prayers for reconciliation and the reinstitution of democracy after a military coup d' tat.

Papal preacher: Advent is a time of trusting expectation

"The Parousia of the Lord. An expectation without hesitation" is the theme of the first of three meditations for Christmas, which began this morning, 5 December, in the Paul VI Hall, with Pope Leo in attendance.

Despite new settler attacks on Taybeh, Christians continue to hope.

Two cars were set on fire and a building was defaced with a threatening message during the night between 4 and 5 December in Taybeh, a Christian village in the northern West Bank. The incident occurred only hours after the inauguration of the parish's "Christmas Nights" celebrations.

Zimbabwe: Bishops urge national renewal, compassion, and responsible stewardship in Advent.

As the Church enters the sacred Season of Advent, Zimbabwe's Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC) has released a Pastoral Statement titled "Advent Pastoral Message – Remember the Poor," in which it invites Zimbabweans to use the period as a time of national renewal, both social and spiritual.

Chris Pratt to present new documentary about St Peter's tomb

American actor Chris Pratt is currently filming a documentary on the Vatican Necropolis. Produced by Vatican Media, the Fabric of St Peter, and AF Films, it will be released in 2026 for the 400th anniversary of the inauguration and dedication of the Basilica.