



**St Mary MacKillop**  
Catholic Parish  
ORAN PARK

## PARISH BULLETIN

23 Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

7 September, 2025

### Parish Vision

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.

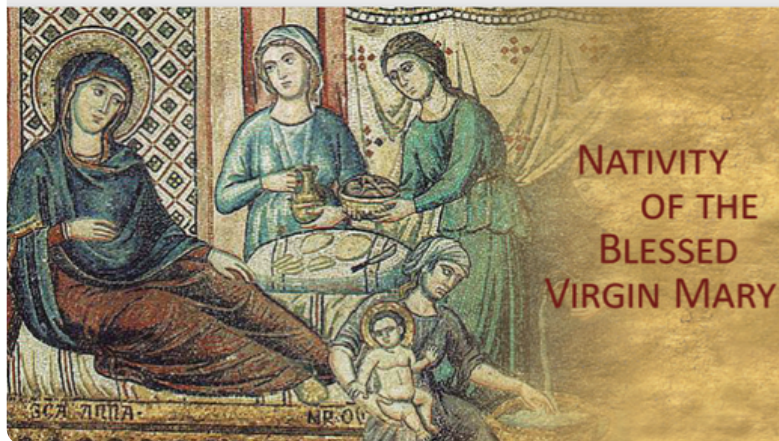
We are a parish that serves with humility.

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**

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



On **Monday 8 September**, we celebrate one of the most significant birthdays in the history of the world. The only birthday more important is that of our divine Lord Himself. But on Monday we honour His mother. Holy Mary is the Queen of Heaven. Clothed with the sun, the moon at her feet, all the angels and saints, the prophets, apostles, and martyrs pay her homage.

And so do we.

As we celebrate her birth, we are reminded of her purity, humility, and willingness to cooperate with God's plan. We can also reflect on the ways we, too, are called to say "yes" to God in our own lives, even when we do not fully understand the scope of His will. Mary's birthday is not just a celebration of her life, but also a reminder that she is a mother to all Christians. As a loving mother, she continues to intercede for us, guiding us toward her Son, Jesus. In this way, her feast day invites us to honour her and draw closer to Christ through her maternal care.

Jesus throughout His lifetime was guided by His Blessed Mother. From His birth up to His death on the cross, she was there for Him. She is the ever present and patient mother who nurtured Jesus, who guided Jesus and who never left the side of Jesus until His last gasp for breath.

So let us ask for the grace to be messengers of the love of God and the love of Mary and let us make that our prayer today, and every day:  
Holy Mary, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Church, pray for us!

**Deacon Sam**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**1<sup>st</sup> READING** Wis 9:13-18:

Who can comprehend the will of God?

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17:

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING** Philemon 9-10, 12-17:

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,  
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia! (Ps 118:135)

**GOSPEL** Lk 14:25-33: All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

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:

**Sebastiano Crestani, Silvia Aguilar, Gloria Galiluyo, Luis Galiluyo, Gladys Kontista, Peter Gianetti, Domenico & Loreta Gianetti, Gino & Emilia Di Cesare, Frank Raymont**

We join in prayer for those who are unwell or in need of extra prayers.

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

## Monday 8 Sep

1pm Rosary, Leppington

**Feast Day - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
(7pm Men's Adoration Night)

## Tuesday 9 Sep

9:30am Rosary on Zoom

5pm Devotions, Oran Park

6pm Reconciliation, Adorat

6:40pm Evening Prayer,  
Benediction

7pm Mass, Oran Park

## Wednesday 10 Sep

8am Mass, Oran Park

## Thursday 11 Sep

9.30am Rosary

10am Mass, Oran Park

## Friday 12 Sep

9.30am Mass, Oran Park

## Saturday 13 Sep

4pm Reconciliation, Or Pk.

5pm Mass, Oran Park

## Sunday 14 Sep

8am Mass, Leppington

8am Mass, Oran Park

10am Mass, Oran Park

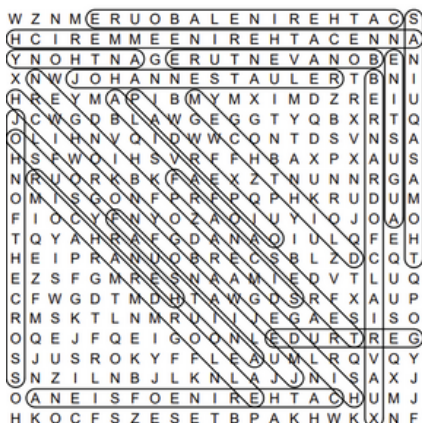
5pm Mass, Oran Park

## Chaldean Holy Mass

Sunday 12:00noon

## BISHOP'S APPEAL

We have received envelopes  
which will be on Welcome  
Table this weekend.



## AGED CARE AT HOME

CatholicCare can assist you to access aged care support services at home ensuring you or your loved ones receive the right care and support. Call 4211 6103 or go to [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au)

## HELP AT HOME WITH HEALTH, MOBILITY & SAFETY

CatholicCare has a caring Clinical Aged Care Team ready to help you or your loved ones - quickly and professionally. Their team of Registered Nurses, Occupational Therapists, and Physiotherapists can come to you.

Call CatholicCare on 4211 6103 or go to [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au)

## FATHERS DAY CHARITY FUNDRAISER



The MacKillop Craft Group would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and made donations towards their charity drive for "Wheelchairs for Kids" A total of \$1355 was raised for this very worthy cause. For more information on this non-profit organisation, please go to: [wheelchairsforkids.org](http://wheelchairsforkids.org).

Winners of the raffles have been notified and are asked to pick up their prizes at one of this weekend's masses.

## Men's Adoration Night

AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

~ every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month ~

St. Mary MacKillop Parish Oran Park  
7:00pm to 8:00pm

Discussion and group sharing to follow

"So, could you not stay awake with Me one hour?" - Matthew 26:40

**8 SEP - MONDAY - 7PM**





**ST. PETER CLAVER**  
JESUIT  
APOSTLE OF SLAVE

9 SEPTEMBER

In 1610, this Jesuit left **Spain** for Cartagena, Colombia to become a defender and father to the African slaves, whom he consoled, catechized and confessed until his death. The humble priest who became the conscience of the city baptized around 300,000 slaves. His feast day is 9 Sep. When Peter, ordained in 1616, made his final profession as a Jesuit in 1622, he signed his vows:

**"PETER CLAVER,  
THE SLAVE OF THE AFRICANS FOREVER."**



ST MARY MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH  
LEPPINGTON

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2025

\$2000 + WORTH OF PRIZES

HAMPERS, WINE, GIFT VOUCHERS AND MUCH MORE!

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$2.00 EACH

\$50 FOR A BOOK OF 25 TICKETS

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE IS TO BE DRAWN ON  
SUNDAY - 21 DECEMBER 2025 FOLLOWING  
SUNDAY MASS AND CHRISTMAS PICNIC DAY  
AT LEPPINGTON CHURCH GROUNDS

NOTE: ALL PURCHASED TICKET BUTTS MUST BE  
RETURNED BY NO LATER THAN 20/12/25

TICKET PURCHASE CONTACT DOMENIC - 0400 588 248

**WALK FOR FR DAVID**

In order to ensure this event is a safe and enjoyable experience, we will need a team of **VOLUNTEERS** to assist on the day (first aid, checkpoint markers and walkers who can monitor as the walk progresses). If you are available to join this team, please contact the Parish Of. & we will forward your details to the organisers.

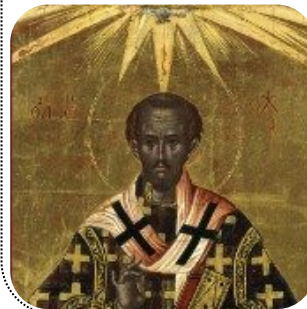
**DONATIONS** to the Cancer Council (Walk for Fr.David) can be made using the below link or QR code in yellow poster:  
[www.doitforcancer.com.au/s/24790/428](http://www.doitforcancer.com.au/s/24790/428)

58/s

*Saints of the week*

**ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR**  
MEMORIAL - 13 SEPTEMBER

John Chrysostom, or "**golden-mouthed**," placed his gift with words at the service of the Word. He became the bishop of Constantinople, where his clear preaching earned him enemies. The great preacher, who died in exile, is one of the most prolific of the Fathers of the Church.



St. John Chrysostom,  
XVII Century,  
©Vatican Museum

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

Within the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)

has been developed to oversee, manage and minimise the likelihood and impact of an emergency by assisting the safety and physical/spiritual wellbeing of clergy, staff, parishioners and visitors during an emergency incident. In light of this, we are calling for anyone who would be interested in joining a first response team who would be rostered for our Masses at both Oran Park & Leppington. If you would like to be contacted to join this team, please sign up at the Welcome Table & a member of our Admin Team will be in touch. In addition, it will be great if you have a medical or nursing background, or experience as a first responder.

1- B

2- B

**REGISTRATION  
FOR Fr. DAVID**



MEMORIALWALK

**Together  
We walk  
for Fr David**

St Mary MacKillop Parish community  
**Join Us This October**

Walk in memory of  
**Fr David Catterall**  
as we come together to raise funds  
and awareness for cancer.

Let's honour his legacy, support a  
meaningful cause, and make every  
step count.

The walk will begin at  
**St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church,  
Oran Park,**  
and continue through to  
**Gregory Hills Hotel** for lunch.

Raffle prizes will be drawn on the  
day. All proceeds will go directly to  
the Cancer Council.

Sunday 19 October 2025  
after 10.00am Mass



Donate Here



# AROUND OUR WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

## CAMP

### "BUSH" FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND

(organised by Bishops Office, Diocese of Wollongong)  
**12 September to 14 September, 2025**

Venue: Guntawang - Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility  
( 40 minutes drive from Oran Park )

These weekends bring Catholic families of all ages, including couples with or without children, single parents and grandparents, together to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Enjoy shared meals, games, music, prayer, and Mass.

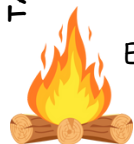
#### REGISTER NOW :

[dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend](http://dow.org.au/events/compass-bush-family-camping-weekend)

Cost: \$50 per adult or \$100 per family

**RSVP by 8 September 2025**

TAKE ME HOME



NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE



## THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

In support of the retirement and health of clergy and the sound and holistic formation of seminarians



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE VISIT [DOW.ORG.AU/GIVING](http://DOW.ORG.AU/GIVING)

"Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Offering dignified support and care for our retired clergy, who have always cared for us; and the sound and holistic formation of our Seminarians, our future priests, are my responsibilities as your Bishop. I seek your prayers and practical support to help me ensure that I can do this. Your donation to this appeal is very much appreciated." + **Bishop Brian Mascord**

The situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, safe drinking water, and emergency shelter. Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world for children. Caritas is calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. If you are able to support **Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal**, please donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413

### JUBILATIO NIGHT OF PRAISE

Join us MGL Sisters at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish for a powerful night of praise and worship, preaching, testimony, prayer ministry, and reconciliation. It's a time to encounter his presence, to build community & strengthen our faith.

Date: **Friday 12th Sept.** Time: 7.30-9.30pm

Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

- 193 ST ANDREWS RD **VARROVILLE**

For more information please contact the MGL Sisters on [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

### CATECHIST RETREAT 2025

Growing in Faith, Hope and Love

As part of the Jubilee for Catechists, Growing in Faith, Hope and Love will be a joyful day of celebration and a special time to be nourished and refreshed. Wonderful facilitators: Jude Hennessy, Fr Bernard Gordon VG, and Sr Magdalen Mather OSB, will each lead us into a richer and more personal understanding of the theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Love.

The retreat will be 9:30am - 2:30pm in two locations:

Wollongong on Monday 22 September and **Rosemeadow on Friday 26 September.**

Spouses are welcome. Morning Tea is provided. BYO lunch.

To register go to: [dow.sh/catret](http://dow.sh/catret)



**Catholic Business Connections**

DIocese of WOLLONGONG

### SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

**Thursday 23 Sept 2025**

Rydges Campbelltown

11.45 - 2.00pm

Topic: The Power of Intergenerational Learning

The guest speakers will be Jane Hollier and David Gearin, from CatholicCare who will be speaking about The Power of Intergenerational Learning, part of the Cross+Gen digital literacy initiative which is being promoted throughout the diocese.

RSVP: 15 September 2025

### ST JOHN VIANNEY'S FAIRY MEADOW CLASS OF 75 - YEAR 6 ARE HAVING A 50TH REUNION

Is this YOU ?

Please contact Angela , Luiza , Jose or Sophie for details.

Email : [info.sjvclassof75@gmail.com](mailto:info.sjvclassof75@gmail.com) OR

Facebook: St John Vianney's Class of 75 - 50th reunion





"It is very important that we see ourselves through his eyes: to see how frequently we reduce life to a competition, how anxious we become to obtain some sort of recognition, and how pointlessly we compare ourselves to others."

POPE LEO XIV (31 August 2025)



## Pope Leo XIV appeals to international community to respond to crisis in SUDAN

Pope Leo XIV launches an appeal to the international community to provide humanitarian aid for the suffering people in war-ravaged Sudan, and asks for prayers for those affected by devastating mudslides in the country's Darfur region.

## May UKRAINE keep the flame of hope alive each day

Pope Leo XIV asks for prayers for peace for war-torn Ukraine in a letter to Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe, who will represent him in Lviv on 6 September at celebrations marking the 650th anniversary of the creation of the Metropolitan See of Halič.

## Pope prays for victims of earthquake in AFGHANISTAN

In his message, Pope Leo offers prayers for all the victims, injured, and missing and expresses his solidarity with those who have lost loved ones, while invoking divine blessings on the entire Afghan people.

Cardinal Parolin:

## Liturgy is a 'place' of closeness, hope, sign of peace

At the opening of the 75th National Liturgical Week in Naples, Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin reflects on how the liturgy embodies the Jubilee Year's central theme of hope, interwoven with faith and charity.

MALALA: WE MUST ALL FIGHT COURAGEOUSLY FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In an exclusive interview with Vatican Media, Malala Yousafzai (**Pakistan**), 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, speaks about her commitment to girls' education through the Malala Fund and reflects on the right to go to school for children in war-torn countries. She also emphasizes the importance of interreligious dialogue in promoting the global right to education.

## POPE TO CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS: 'VALUES' WITHOUT CHRIST CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD

In a message to **FRENCH** elected officials, Pope Leo insists on the need for Christian political leaders to turn to Jesus, to live their faith without compromise and bear witness to Him in order to face modern challenges and make the world a better place.

## ARCHBISHOP GALLAGHER STRESSES NEED FOR DIALOGUE AND REBUILDING CONSENSUS

On the final day of the Bled Strategic Forum taking place in Bled, **SLOVENIA**, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States and International Organisations, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, underscores the need for dialogue and consensus building in an increasingly divided world.

## "PREVENTIVE" FORGIVENESS

"TRUE FORGIVENESS DOES NOT AWAIT REPENTANCE, BUT OFFERS ITSELF FIRST, AS A FREE GIFT, EVEN BEFORE IT IS ACCEPTED."

– Pope at General Audience



Pope Leo meets with President Mnangagwa of **ZIMBABWE**  
Pope Leo XIV meets with the President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, for a private audience in the Vatican





# VIA VERITAS VITA

Anne Catherine  
Emmerich  
Anthony  
Augustine  
Bernard of Clairvaux  
Bonaventure  
Catherine Laboure  
Catherine of Siena  
Faustina  
Francis  
Gertrude  
Henry Suso  
Hildegard of Bingen  
Johannes Tauler  
John of the Cross  
Julian of Norwich  
Mechthild  
Padre Pio  
Richard Rolle  
Teresa of Avila  
Thomas Aquinas

CATHOLIC MYSTICS  
TAKE ME HOME

W Z N M E R U O B A L E N I R E H T A C S  
H C I R E M M E E N I R E H T A C E N N A  
Y N O H T N A G E R U T N E V A N O B E N  
X N W J O H A N N E S T A U L E R T B N I  
H R E Y M A P I B M Y M X I M D Z R E I U  
J C W G D B L A W G E G G T Y Q B X R T Q  
O L I H N V Q I D W W C O N T D S V N S A  
H S F W O I H S V R F F H B A X P X A U S  
N R U O R K B K F A E X Z T N U N N R G A  
O M I S G O N F P R F P Q P H K R U D U M  
F I O C Y F N Y O Z A O I U Y I O J O A O  
T Q Y A H R A F G D A N A O I U L Q F E H  
H E I P R A N U O B R E C S B L Z D C Q T  
E Z S F G M R E S N A A M I E D V T L U Q  
C F W G D T M D H T A W G D S R F X A U P  
R M S K T L N M R U I I J E G A E S I S O  
O Q E J F Q E I G O O N L E D U R T R E G  
S J U S R O K Y F F L E A U M L R Q V Q Y  
S N Z I L N B J L K N L A J J N I S A X J  
O A N E I S F O E N I R E H T A C H U M J  
H K O C F S Z E S E T B P A K H W K X N F



Mother of Carlo Acutis: "I thought the sacraments were symbols."

**Antonia Salzano, the mother of Carlo Acutis,** has stated that she once viewed the sacraments as mere symbols, likening her previous understanding

to that of a Protestant. She explained that before her son's influence, she thought the Eucharist "didn't mean anything" and was "terribly ignorant" about the Catholic faith. It was through Carlo's deep devotion and his explanations that she came to understand the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, calling this realization "the most important discovery of my life". She credits Carlo with saving her faith and helping her embrace the fullness of the Catholic Church.  
**St. Carlo Acutis - Pray for us**

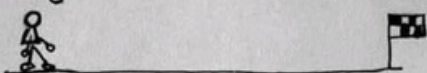
"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

**It's OK to slow down and take some rest...**

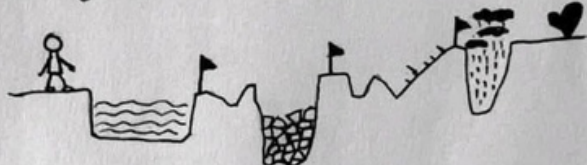


In your quiet moment, allow GOD to speak to you and heal you in all your burdens.

My Plan :



God's Plan :



Sometimes God doesn't do things the way we think he should. But God has a perfect plan for your life.

Trust God! ~Amen~



1. Which saint is known for helping the poor and is often seen with animals ?

- A) Saint Patrick
- B) Saint Francis of Assisi
- C) Saint Nicholas

2. What is the name of the sacrament where we receive God's forgiveness ?

- A) Eucharist
- B) Reconciliation
- C) Confirmation