

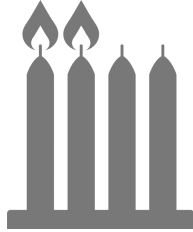


**St Mary MacKillop**  
Catholic Parish  
ORAN PARK

## PARISH BULLETIN

7 Dec 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



### 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.

**Maria Louis, Manuel Amala,  
George Zarb, Sue Gersbach, Susajraj Vasantha,  
Theresraj & Sunitha**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> READING** Is 11:1-10:

He judges the poor with justice.



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17:

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING** Rom 15:4-9: Christ, the hope of all people.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia! (Lk 3:4, 6)

**GOSPEL** Mt 3:1-12: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

### Have you ever heard the saying “great things come to those who wait”.

As we gather today in this second week of this holy season of Advent, the Church invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

For generations, God’s people waited with longing and hope for the One who would fulfill every promise. This anticipation spanned hundreds of generations, tracing Jesus’s lineage back through the house of David, from Abraham to the prophets and kings purposefully woven into salvation history, leading us to the birth of the King of Kings and the Prince of peace.

Yet this King, the long-awaited Messiah, entered our world not in splendor but in humility—born in a simple manger, a guest room, reminding us that God comes quietly, gently, and in unexpected ways. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hearts become a fitting dwelling place for Christ, and may we welcome Him with the same hope and anticipation that guided God’s people through the ages.

We are reminded in today’s readings about waiting for the coming of the Lord with high hopes. This does not mean waiting in relaxation, but rather waiting in anticipation. In the midst of the noisy world where we live, let this voice of John the Baptist be heard in our hearts as St. Benedict suggests; listen with the ears of our hearts. Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. It is impossible to hear his voice if we shut our hearts from the hearing his word. The words of the Psalms are powerful to inspire us as we prepare to receive his message; if today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95: 7-8).

**Fr Feleki Tautunu | Parish Administrator**

# IN OUR PARISH

## Monday 8 December

1pm Rosary, **Leppington**.

7pm **Men's Adoration Night**

## Tuesday 9 December

9:30am Rosary on Zoom

5pm Devotions &

6pm Reconciliation &  
Adoration

6:40 Evening Prayer &  
Benediction

7pm Mass, Oran Park

## Wednesday 10 December

8am Mass, Oran Park

## Thursday 11 December

9:30am Rosary

10am Mass, Oran Park

## Friday 12 December

9:30am Mass,

## Saturday 13 December

4pm Reconciliation &

5pm Mass, Oran Park

**Deacon Sinh's Ordination >**

**Fr. Sinh @ Wollongong**

## Sunday 14 December

8am Mass, **Leppington**

8am Mass, Oran Park

10am Mass, Oran Park

**Mass of Thanksgiving**

5pm Mass, Oran Park

## 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.



## 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.

## 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, 9 December : 6pm-6.45pm

Saturday, 13 December : 4pm-4.45pm

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.**

## 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.

## 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

## MASS OF THANKSGIVING – DECEMBER 14

Following the Priestly Ordination of Dn Sinh Le, Dn Joseph Nguyen and Dn Darren McDowell on Saturday, 13 December, you are warmly invited to attend the Thanksgiving Mass, celebrated by our newly ordained priests, on December 14 following our 10am Mass. This is a beautiful opportunity to gather, rejoice, and pray with them as they begin their priestly ministry.

## 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](http://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.

**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](mailto:oranpark@dow.org.au). Enrolments for RCIC will be available on the Parish website from 2 Feb 26.

## *Saints & Feast Days of the week*

### 8 DEC : THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### 9 DEC: SAINT JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN.

He is said to have been granted apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe on four occasions in December 1531

### 10 DEC: OUR LADY OF LORETO

Patron Saint of aviators and builders.

### 11 DEC: SAINT DAMASUS I

Pope Damasus I c. 305 – 11 December 384), also known as Damasus of Rome, was the bishop of Rome from October 366 to his death in 384.

He presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the canon or official list of sacred scripture.

Damasus spoke out against major heresies (including Apollinarianism and Macedonianism), thus solidifying the faith of the Catholic Church, and encouraged production of the Vulgate Bible with his support for Jerome. He helped reconcile the relations between the Church of Rome and the Church of Antioch, and encouraged the veneration of martyrs.

### 12 DEC: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with four Marian apparitions to Juan Diego and one to his uncle, Juan Bernardino reported in December 1531, when the Mexican territories were part of the Spanish Empire.

A venerated image on a cloak (tilmahtli) associated with the apparition is enshrined in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Pope Leo XIII granted a decree of canonical coronation for the image on 8 February 1887.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
Empress of the Americas  
Patroness of Latin America  
Queen of Mexico





## 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.

## 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](https://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!

## 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.

**2025 ADVENT RETREAT** 9am – 5pm Sat 13 Dec 2025 at Holy Family Parish **Ingleburn**. Retreat Facilitator: Charbel Raish. Please contact the parish office or visit [hfi.org.au](https://hfi.org.au)

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<https://shalomworld.org/>



## 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/>



## Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose !

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty. View the range of Global Gifts: [caritas.org.au/global-gifts](https://caritas.org.au/global-gifts). Answer: Besides God's Mercy there is no other source of hope for mankind – John Paul II

## 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](https://www.immaculata.org.au/ims) before 23 Dec.

**ADVENT RETREAT**– St Mary's Towers: 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park, 9:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 13 Dec 2025. Cost: \$60 (meals included).

RSVP by 3dec: 0422725438 or [christabelhoneysett@barnabasministries.org.au](mailto:christabelhoneysett@barnabasministries.org.au).

**A vocation view:** John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community (Luke 3:1–6)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

## A gift to the Church in your will ... *will help!*

The Church has been present at most of the important milestones in your life: your Baptism, your First Holy Communion, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness. Its many ministries are far-reaching, life-giving and life-saving.

By leaving a gift to the Church in your will, you will be leaving a legacy of faith to help ensure that the mission and pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue, both for today's needs, and for those of our children, our grandchildren and beyond.

For information about leaving a gift in your will to your local parish or a ministry of the Church, please visit [dow.sh/legacy](https://dow.sh/legacy), call the diocesan representative on 4222 2446, or scan the QR code here ▶



## **Pope: 'I was thinking of retiring, but instead I surrendered to God'**

Aboard the papal plane returning to Rome from Lebanon, Pope Leo XIV speaks to journalists about the role of the Holy See, which works "behind-the-scenes" in peace negotiations, so that all parties may lay down arms. Regarding Ukraine, the Pope underlines Europe's involvement and the important role Italy could play, and answers a question about how he reacted to his election, stressing the importance of giving one's life to God and letting him "lead the way".

## **Sri Lanka: Local Christian communities offer aid to victims of Cyclone Ditwah**

As flooding and landslides continue to devastate Southeast Asia, Catholic and Christian parishes and organizations step up to offer support and "together to alleviate the suffering of the victims."

## **Pope Leo to continue traditional visit for Immaculate Conception**

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Leo XIV will continue the papal tradition of visiting the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary near Rome's Spanish Steps.

## **COP30: The Holy See's commitment to safeguarding people and creation**

On the sidelines of COP30, Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio to Brazil and Deputy Head of the Holy See's Delegation to COP30, recounts the work of the delegation present in Belém.

## **Cardinal Czerny visits one of largest refugee camps in the world**

On a five-day pastoral visit to Bangladesh, Cardinal Michael Czerny visits Cox's Bazar, which houses more than one million people, mostly Rohingya refugees from Myanmar

**Mozambique:** Archbishop of Nampula's urgent appeal for 30,000 displaced people in Memba  
The Archbishop of Nampula and President of the Episcopal Conference of Mozambique, Archbishop Inacio Saure, has issued an urgent plea for immediate humanitarian support to aid over 30,000 displaced individuals in the Alua district of Memba.

**Christian communion not domination but exchange of God-given gifts.** Pope Leo XIV prays at the Armenian Apostolic Cathedral in Istanbul, and thanks God for the courageous witness offered by Armenians throughout history, often amid tragic circumstances.

## **Pope urges Lebanese Christians to seek fraternity and peace**

Concluding Mass at Beirut Waterfront, Pope Leo XIV appeals for peace in Lebanon and the Middle East, and urges the Lebanese faithful to be courageous in the face of instability and suffering.

Petrocchi Commission says no to female diaconate, though judgment not definitive

A report presenting the results of the Commission's work has been released. It rules out admitting women to the diaconate understood as a degree of the sacrament of Holy Orders, but says that it is not currently possible "to formulate a definitive judgment, as in the case of priestly ordination."

## **Catholic community growing in Türkiye**

As Pope Leo XIV arrives in Türkiye on the first leg of his first Apostolic Journey, Fr. Alexander Jernej, CM, describes the context of the Christian community in the majority Muslim country. While Türkiye is 99% Muslim, Christianity and Judaism are also present in the country.

## **Pope Leo prays at tomb of Saint Charbel Makhlouf**

On the second day of his Apostolic Visit to Lebanon, Pope Leo XIV visits the tomb of St. Charbel, saying he taught "prayer to those who live without God, silence to those who live amid noise ... and poverty to those who pursue riches."

## **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

**A look at the Council of Nicaea's impact on the Church** As Pope Leo XIV visits the site of the Council of Nicaea, held in 325, we recall the importance of the first Ecumenical Council's proclamation of the Church's faith in the divinity of Jesus Christ, which **also established the date for Easter for all Christians.**

## **Doctrine of the Faith: Monogamy is not a limitation but a promise of the infinite**

The doctrinal Note Una caro. In Praise of Monogamy has been published, exploring the value of marriage as an "exclusive union and mutual belonging." It highlights the importance of conjugal charity and attentiveness to the poor, and condemns all forms of violence, both physical and psychological. In an individualistic and consumerist age, young people must be educated to understand love as responsibility and trust in the other.



## The Immaculate Conception

8 DEC

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

### WHAT IS ADVENT?

**Beginning the Church's liturgical year**, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

*Advent is the season that precedes Christmas. It varies in length from 22-28 days. During this season, Catholics, and other Christians, enter a time of hopeful anticipation and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Advent and Christmas offer us the opportunity to prayerfully commemorate the birth of Jesus, to become more aware of God's presence in our everyday lives and to reflect on the second coming of Jesus at the end of time (Vatican. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 675).*

The one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

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What did Saint John the Baptist say about the one who was coming after him? Use the code to find out!

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A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z

Answer in the bulletin

## SAINT AMBROSE DECEMBER 7

AMBROSE WAS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 340 TO A VERY IMPORTANT ROMAN FAMILY. HE RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION.

Ambrose, this man is going to be your tutor.

HE BECAME A LAWYER AND WAS LIKED BY BOTH THE CHRISTIANS AND THE HERETICS.

Sir, this man refuses to pay...

WHEN THE HERETIC BISHOP DIED EVERYONE CALLED FOR AMBROSE TO BE THE NEW BISHOP.

I think Ambrose would be a great bishop!

HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE CHOSEN BUT THE EMPEROR INSISTED THAT HE ACCEPT.

AMBROSE LOVED THE POOR AND GAVE HIS TREASURES TO FREE CAPTIVES.

Will you take this gold for his freedom?

WHEN THE EMPEROR KILLED MANY HERETICS AMBROSE WOULD NOT LET HIM INTO THE CHURCH UNTIL HE REPENTED.

You will not enter until you repent!

ONCE THE HERETICS WERE TRYING TO SEIZE THE CHURCH BUT AMBROSE WOULDN'T GIVE IT UP. FINALLY THE SOLDIERS WENT INSIDE TO PRAY!

SAINT AMBROSE WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT KEEPING PEOPLE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. HE STOPPED ARMIES FROM ATTACKING, AND KEPT THE CHRISTIANS AND HERETICS FROM FIGHTING AS WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY AND SCHOOL?