



**St Mary MacKillop**  
Catholic Parish



*'Let's be united and pray  
for each other at the crib  
and at the altar.'*  
**ST MARY MACKILLOP**

## MASS TIMES

**SATURDAY 5PM** St Mary  
MacKillop Church  
ORAN PARK  
94 Oran Park Drive

**SUNDAY 8AM** St Mary Mother  
of God Church  
LEPPINGTON  
Cnr Ingleburn &  
Dickson Roads

**SUNDAY 8AM 10AM 5PM** St Mary  
MacKillop Church  
ORAN PARK  
94 Oran Park Drive

**SUNDAY 12.00 NOON** Chaldean Mass  
ORAN PARK

To assist families already wanting to plan for Christmas 2023, we are pleased to announce that the schedule for our 2023 Christmas Masses is now available:

### Christmas Eve - Sunday, 24 December

5pm & 7pm - School Hall, Oran Park  
Chaldean Holy Mass 9.30pm – St Mary MacKillop Church, Oran Park

### Christmas Day - Monday, 25 December

8am - St Mary Mother of God Church, Leppington  
9am - St Mary MacKillop Church, Oran Park

Our 5pm and 7pm Christmas Eve Masses will be held in the Hall between St Justin's and St Benedict's. Seating will be provided in the Hall. Families or groups who would like to be seated together are encouraged to arrive together.

The Christmas schedule can also be found on our Parish website: [bit.ly/2023christmassmass](https://bit.ly/2023christmassmass)



## THIS WEEKEND IN THE LITURGY

**17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**FIRST READING**  
Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
My soul rejoices in my God.

**SECOND READING**  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to  
the poor.  
Alleluia!

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER and  
Preface (to be chosen by priest-  
celebrant)**

## our 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.

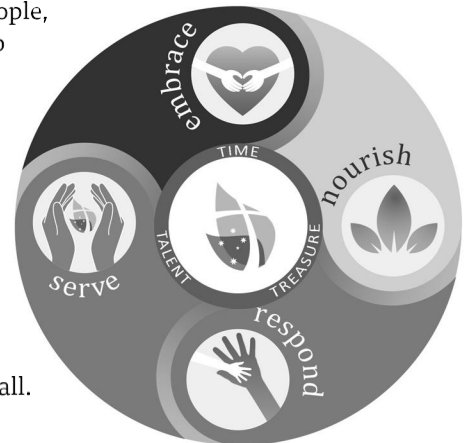
We are sustained by the **Sacraments** and nurtured in our faith in **Jesus Christ**.

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.**

**We acknowledge the Dharawal People, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering. We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which our Parish Mass Centres are built.**

## CONTACT YOUR PARISH OFFICE

Phone : (02) 4648 2226

Email : [oranpark@dow.org.au](mailto:oranpark@dow.org.au)

Office Hours : 9am-1pm Monday - Friday

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

10am Requiem Mass –  
Sue Gersbach (Oran Park)

1pm Praying of the Rosary,  
Leppington

**PLEASE NOTE:  
This will be the final  
Praying of the Rosary  
at Leppington for  
2023 and will return  
on 8 January 2024**

### TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER

6pm Eucharistic Adoration,  
Oran Park

6pm Sacrament of  
Reconciliation,  
Oran Park

7pm Mass, Oran Park

### WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER

**NOTE: There will be no  
8am Mass during  
Fr David's absence**

### THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER

9.30am Praying of the Rosary,  
Oran Park

10am Communion Service,  
Oran Park

### FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER

9.30am Mass, Oran Park

### SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER

4pm Sacrament of  
Reconciliation,  
Oran Park

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed from  
Wednesday, 27 December 2023 to Tuesday, 2 January 2024

## BAMBINELLI SUNDAY | 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Since 1968, children of Rome flock to St Peter's Piazza during Advent for the Sunday Angelus where the Pope blesses the figurines of the Baby Jesus brought from their homes. **This year, this blessing will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent at all our Parish Masses.**

**We ask everyone to bring your statue of Baby Jesus from your Nativity Set at home to one of our Masses to be blessed.**

Before the final blessing of the Mass,  
you will be invited to hold your 'Bambinelli' for the blessing.

## PARISH NATIVITY WALL

To celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi creating a Living Nativity Scene/Creche in the small Italian village of *Greccio*, you are invited to take a photo of your nativity scene (or of a nativity scene that is special to you) and to upload it onto our 'virtual Nativity Scene wall' via the bit.ly link: **[bit.ly/nativitywall](https://bit.ly/nativitywall)** or QR code.



In conjunction with the Office of the Bishop, and other diocesan agencies, we are in the process of developing a 20 year vision for the future pastoral and spiritual needs of the parishioners and community of St Mary MacKillop Parish. **We are in the process of establishing a Working Party with a specific charter to look at the future needs of the parish, and we are seeking 'expressions of interest' from anyone with skills in a number of areas including finance, construction, town planning, property development.**

If you would like to be considered for membership of this Working Party, please submit a brief CV to the Parish Office via email:

[oranpark@dow.org.au](mailto:oranpark@dow.org.au)

Expressions of interest to be submitted by 31 January 2024.

## 2024 PARISH PILGRIMAGE

**Join fellow parishioners for our 2nd parish pilgrimage  
in the 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop'**

Following our inaugural Mary MacKillop Parish Pilgrimage in October 2022 - that Fr David and parishioners were privileged to share with people from across our nation - the good news is that a new 2024 pilgrimage itinerary for the 'Footsteps of St Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage' has been released. There are a couple of new features of the pilgrimage for the 2024 departure. It is the hope of Fr David to be chaplain on the October 2024 departure. **Please share this news with family, friends and fellow parishioners and encourage them to give themselves a great Christmas/New Year gift - through putting in their 'expression of interest' and deposit for the October 2024 departure.** As it's expected that this October pilgrimage will 'sell out' everyone wanting to attend is encouraged to submit your deposit asap.

**More info, including the costs and itinerary, can be found here:**

[bit.ly/2024parishpilgrimage](https://bit.ly/2024parishpilgrimage)

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION AT CHRISTMAS

The Church obliges us to attend Masses on Sundays and on Christmas Day.

The usual 5pm Sunday Mass will be a Vigil Mass for Christmas this year, and not a Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

To fulfil your Sunday obligation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, please come to the Saturday Vigil or one of the Sunday Morning Masses.

The Requiem Mass for Sue Gersbach (1952-2023) will be held on Monday, 18 December @ 10am at our Oran Park Mass Centre.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT BAPTISED CATHOLIC

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 First Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion, by taking part in a 4-week preparation process – prior to enrolling in a 1st Reconciliation/1st Holy Communion program.

This preparation process, sometimes called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) will be an opportunity for these children, supported by their adult family members, to ‘meet in a small group’ to learn more about what it means to be a Catholic-Christian and to prepare for their Baptism (or for those already baptised in another Christian church, their ‘Reception into the Catholic Church’).

Children who journey through RCIC (and have completed the 4 week RCIC program along with the 1st Reconciliation/1st Holy Communion program) will, as set down by liturgical practice, receive their Baptism/Reception into the Catholic Church, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation all during the one Mass.

(The RCIC Mass for 2024 will be held on Tuesday, 18 June, at the regular 7pm evening Parish Mass).

**Those interested in being a part of RCIC are asked to send an email to [oranpark@dow.org.au](mailto:oranpark@dow.org.au) no later than Friday, 9 February 2023.**



Imagine a free, fun, informal evening, where everyone can come to the table with questions about life, faith and meaning – that’s Alpha.

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone is welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you’re invited! **If you would like to join our 2024 Alpha (numbers are limited), beginning February 2024, please register using this QR Code or visit the Alpha Table after Mass to collect an Invitation Card.**



## CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

From 14-25 December (5.30pm-10.30pm) the Archdiocese of Sydney continues its tradition of *Christmas at the Cathedral*. Please see the Notice Board for more info.

## FR DAVID’S LETTER

Thank you to the 3 households who have responded to Fr David’s Advent Pastoral Letter and wish to begin planned giving, and to the 2 households who wish to increase their current planned giving. While, as Fr David acknowledges in his letter, 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. **It’s not too late to respond to Fr David’s invitation to join planned giving for the first time, or increase your planned giving, in 2024.**

**Please use the following link:**  
[bit.ly/plannedgivingpledge](https://bit.ly/plannedgivingpledge)

## EXODUS 90

**The Men of the Parish are invited to be a part of Exodus 90 Fraternity Group beginning on January 1 and going through to Easter.**

This is a wonderful opportunity for men to become truly free and be the men whom God has purposed you to be.

Interested participants can email:

[ivansiladji@gmail.com](mailto:ivansiladji@gmail.com)

or

[franklamasan\\_au@yahoo.com.au](mailto:franklamasan_au@yahoo.com.au)

Please collect a flyer from our Welcome Table.

## **ENTRANCE HYMN**

### **COME AND SET US FREE** Trevor Thomson

#### ***Refrain:***

Come, come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, come save your people.  
Come and set us free.

1. Awaken our hearts to the pow'r of your love.  
Awaken our hearts to your mercy.  
Free us, O Lord, from the power of sin.  
Set us free.
2. Awaken our hearts to the pow'r of your truth.  
Awaken our hearts to your justice.  
Teach us and guide us for you are the way.  
Set us free.

## **PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS SONG**

### **ONE BREAD ONE BODY** © John Foley S.J.

One bread, one body  
One Lord of all.  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth.  
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant of free,  
Woman or man, no more.
2. Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord, of all.
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all.

## **COMMUNION SONG**

### **BREAD OF HEAVEN** Jesse Manibusan and Sarah Hart

#### ***Refrain:***

Bread of heaven, Savior broken,  
cup of life outpoured;  
we your people thirst and hunger.  
Come renew us, Lord; come renew us, Lord.

1. From the mountain, blessing spoken  
where we came to pray;  
with the simple truth before us:  
love them in my name; love them in my name.
2. From the garden dark with sorrow,  
from the tears you wept,  
bloomed the flower of salvation:  
new life born of death, new life born of death.
3. From the tomb that could not hold you  
in the dark of night,  
broke that morning of redemption,  
raising us to life, raising us to life.

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

### **WE ARE TRAVELLERS**

© Trisha Watts and Monica O'Brien 2008

#### ***Refrain:***

We are travellers here,  
Called to embrace the world, inspired to love,  
United we stand as one. We are travellers here,  
Stirred by a burning desire,  
Christ offers hope, a spirited holy fire!

1) The world is in need of healing and grace,  
Crossing the bridges of culture and race.  
With pioneer courage, make sacred this place.  
We offer our lives as pilgrims of peace,  
working and praying so love may increase,  
a heart full of yearning that hardship may cease.

2) Our hands are a blessing of care and concern.  
We reach out to others, so others may learn;  
The Spirit is with us, this we believe!  
No boundary, no challenge will silence our dream;  
A fire of justice the world has not seen,  
Christ ever shining, the life giving stream!

## **SENDING FORTH**

### **10,000 REASONS** (Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman)

#### ***Refrain:***

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
worship his holy name.  
Sing like never before, my soul;  
I'll worship your holy name.

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,  
it's time to sing your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.
2. You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.  
Your name is great and your heart is kind.  
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing:  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

**We would like to draw your attention to some unique Christmas ideas available for purchase from our Oran Park Mass Centre that include:**

- Christmas range of "Little Drops of Water" figurines;
- A "Praying Bear" that recites 4 different prayers, including the Lord's Prayer;
- "Learn the Rosary board" to aid in teaching the Rosary & it's Mysteries.

**In addition, also check out the range of Christmas candles & Piety items.**