



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK

PARISH BULLETIN
23 November 2025

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, commonly referred to as the Feast of Christ the King, Christ the King Sunday or Reign of Christ Sunday, is a feast in the liturgical year which emphasises the true kingship of Christ. The Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Moravian, Methodist, Nazarene, Reformed and United Protestant churches celebrate the Feast of Christ the King.

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 :

Thomas Kang, Fr John Pickering, 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



1st READING 2 Sam 5:1-3: They anointed David king of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 121:1-5: R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

2nd READING Col 1:12-20: He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia! (Mk 11:9, 10)

GOSPEL Lk 23:35-43: Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Today you will be with me in paradise

The feast of Christ the king of the universe was instituted by pope Pius the XI in 1925 through his encyclical Quas Primas at the aftermath of the WWI. The feast was a response to the rise of secularization, atheism, and communism. While the world was increasingly telling Christians that they must compartmentalize their religion and give their highest allegiance to the government, Pope Pius XI wrote regarding the feast:

"If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by His precious blood, are by a new right subjected to His dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from His empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to Him alone." (Quas Primas, 33)

"While nations insult the beloved name of our Redeemer by suppressing all mention of it in their conferences and parliaments, we must all the more loudly proclaim His kingly dignity and power, all the more universally affirm His rights."

This year marks 100 th anniversary of this encyclical letter Quas Primas of pope Pius XI. Its spiritual meaning reflects in today's readings especially the gospel. The celebration of this feast calls us to total submission of our lives to Christ and prioritize him in our human and religious affairs. The first person who was granted entrance to the kingdom of God was a criminal. Let these words of Jesus; today I will be with you in paradise, echo and re-echo in our hearts and mind and serve as a renewed inspiration for us as we journey towards Jesus in paradise. # Fr Feleki Tautunu | Parish Administrator

IN OUR PARISH

Monday 24 November

1pm Rosary, Leppington.
7pm Men's ministry W Night

Tuesday 25 November

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

Wednesday 26 November

8am Mass, Oran Park

Thursday 27 November

9.30am Rosary
10am Mass, Oran Park

Friday 28 November

9.30am Mass, Oran Park

Saturday 29 November

6am – Men's Rosary Walk at
Harrington Park Lake.

4pm Reconciliation &
5pm Mass, Oran Park
Sale by Mackillop craft group

Sunday 30 November

8am Mass, Leppington
8am Mass, Oran Park
10am Mass, Oran Park
5pm Mass, Oran Park

Sale by Mackillop craft group

Chaldean Holy Mass

12:00noon Sunday

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, 2 December : 6pm–6.45pm
Saturday, 6 December : 4pm–4.45pm
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.**

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.**

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

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 February 2026.



2015 – 2025 the 10th Anniversary of our Parish

Earlier this year we mentioned that we would be preparing a book for the 10th Anniversary of our parish. Thanks to the contributions of many parishioners, a book has now been prepared showing the 1st 10 years of the parish. A sample copy will be available for viewing on the welcome table. After some fine tuning we will be looking to finally go to print using the diocese printing company. We will need a minimum order of 200 copies and then in increments of 50. The pricing will be between \$25 and \$30, dependent on the size of the print run. A **signup sheet** will be available where you can write your details and how many copies you would like to purchase. Once we determine how many copies we need to print, it will be the only print run, so this book will be a 1st and last edition.

THE MACKILLOP CRAFT GROUP

will be holding their Christmas Sales over two weekends – 22/23rd November and the 29/30th November in Oran Park church after each mass. Beautiful hand crafted unique items for yourself or for gifts!! All proceeds will go towards Parish needs. COME AND SUPPORT YOUR PARISH



Saints & Feast Days of the week

24 Nov: Saints Andrew Dung Lac and companions.

Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II. Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan.

Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries.

In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries, and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were offered in homes of the faithful. Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution.

By 1954, there were over a million Catholics—about seven percent of the population—in the north. Buddhists represented about 60 percent. Persistent persecution forced some 670,000 Catholics to abandon lands, homes and possessions and flee to the south. In 1964, there were still 833,000 Catholics in the north, but many were in prison. In the south, Catholics were enjoying the first decade of religious freedom in centuries, their numbers swelled by refugees. During the Vietnamese war, Catholics again suffered in the north, and again moved to the south in great numbers. Now reunited, the entire country is under Communist rule.

25 Nov: Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Egypt
Traditionally revered as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL- UPDATE

All formation sessions for both diocesan and school groups have now wrapped up as our pilgrims head into the final stage of preparation for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival- being held in Melbourne this year. There are over 6000 people from all over Australia registered for the festival and around 150 attending that will be representing the Diocese of Wollongong. Please keep our pilgrims and group leaders in your prayers as we embark on this journey of faith, hope and being immersed in the wider Catholic community. Please follow @CYMWDOW on the socials if you would to see regular updates.

Understanding the Billings Ovulation Method- helps couples understand the natural signs of fertility and infertility. Through this knowledge, couples can plan their families in a way that is fully consistent with Catholic teaching. For more info please contact: Liz Gandy 0457 298 823 or visit lizgandynaturopathy.au

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE DAY: OUR SOULS AND PRAYER

The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, **Rosemeadow** invites everyone to our final Jubilee Pilgrimage Day. The day will include a catechesis that will explore God's plan for creation, the structure of the soul, and the essential role of prayer in leading us into the innermost chamber of our souls, where Christ our Bridegroom dwells. Taking place on Saturday, 6 December, the day begins with Mass at 10:00am, followed by the catechesis led by Elise Duval, a time of Eucharistic Adoration with opportunity for confession, and concludes with Benediction at 3:00pm. Please BYO lunch. Come and be renewed in God's mercy and hope!

A VOCATION VIEW: OUR LORD CHRIST THE KING (23/11/2025)

The Church needs shepherds. Pray that the bishops will lead us well and rely on the power of God. (2 Samuel 5:1-3) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2026

What is it? A wonderful opportunity to grow in faith through daily Mass, Adoration and times of prayer, fantastic Catholic speakers (including international speakers Steve and Katey Norman from Renewal Ministries), share groups, fun activities, friendship and lots more.

What is the theme? "Our Father" - join us and go deeper in God's goodness and love!

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

For costs, more information and to register visit www.immaculata.org.au/ims Registrations close 23 Dec, early-bird prices finish 30 November

AROUND WOLLONGONG DIOCESE

The Journey – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.

ADVENT RETREAT – ST MARY'S TOWERS: 415

DOUGLAS PARK DRIVE, DOUGLAS PARK,

9:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 13 December 2025

You are invited to a day of calm contemplation amongst the beautiful surroundings of St.Mary's Towers Retreat Centre in Douglas Park. Morning tea and lunch are included. Cost: \$60 (meals included).RSVP by 3dec: 0422725438 or christabelhoneysett@barnabasministries.org.au

ADVENT RETREAT – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

(30Nov–3 Dec) All are invited to a prayerful retreat at the newly refurbished **Milton Parish** Guesthouse, facilitated by Fr Michael Dyer and the Milton Parish Formation Team. A beautiful way to prepare for Christmas and a prayerful conclusion to the Jubilee Year of Hope. Cost: \$300 (single), \$200 pp (twin share), \$30 (day only, no accommodation). To register and further details: Milton Parish 4455 1313 or milton@dow.org.au



ADVENT RETREAT FROM EDEN TO BETHLEHEM



Retreat Facilitator:
Charbel Raish

From Eden to Bethlehem is a retreat day based on The Great Adventure Bible Timeline™ learning system. You will learn all the major people, places and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.
A Life-Changing Approach to Scripture!

Saturday 13 December 2025

9am to 5pm

Holy Family Catholic Church (Parish Meeting Room)
136 Oxford Road, Ingleburn



Please register on the parish website hfi.org.au



Pope highlights dignity of migrants, supports U.S. bishops' statement

Answering questions from journalists in Castel Gandolfo, Pope Leo XIV decries recent measures against migrants in the United States, and he calls for treating people "with humanity and dignity." He also denounces the killings of Christians and Muslims in Nigeria and expresses hope for a ceasefire and dialogue in Ukraine, where "people are dying every day."

Contemplative Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd celebrate 200 years

The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, an international contemplative congregation of contemplative sisters, are wrapping up their 200th anniversary with Mass presided by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

Pope Leo XIV announces Second World Children's Day in 2026

We must lend our voice to those who have none

During his weekly General Audience, Pope Leo XIV reminds the faithful that God calls on us, as people of faith, to offer our voices to help those in need and to protect the environment.

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.

'Not of supernatural origin': DDF issues ruling on alleged apparitions of Dozulé

A letter from the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, definitively confirms the negative opinion of the Bishop of Bayeux-Lisieux concerning supposed apparitions said to have occurred in Dozulé, France, in the 1970s.

DR Congo: Terrorists kill civilians at Church-run hospital in North Kivu

Around 20 people are believed killed in a terrorist attack at a hospital run by religious sisters in the North Kivu village of Byambwe, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with missionaries denouncing the "shameful silence" of the international community.

*"The darker the hour,
the more faith shines like the sun."*

— Pope Leo XIV, 16 Nov 2025

'God desires peace among all His children!'

Pope Leo XIV appeals for an end to discrimination and persecution against Christians, and prays that all violence may cease and believers may work together for the common good – At the Angelus held on 16 November 2025.

Apostolic Journey of the Holy Father to **Türkiye** and **Lebanon** with Pilgrimage to Iznik (Türkiye) on the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [27 November – 2 December 2025]

Safeguard human dignity as health systems integrate AI

Pope Leo XIV reflects on the need for an ethical approach to healthcare systems, especially in light of the growing use of Artificial Intelligence and technological innovation as tools for management and optimisation of resources.

Medical professionals gather in the Vatican to discuss AI and healthcare

Cardinal Parolin:

Protect the dignity of children in the age of AI

In a message to an international conference in Rome, Cardinal Pietro Parolin warns that humanity risks "its own extinction" if artificial life forms fail to respect human dignity, and he calls for interdisciplinary and multicultural cooperation to guide technology toward true human progress.

Kenyan sister transforming farming into community development

Community empowerment through sustainable farming drives Sr. Josephine Kwenga's work to help farmers in Kenyan villages develop viable farming practices in order to bring new life to families and the Church's mission of care for creation.

The hospital boats continuing Pope Francis' legacy in the Amazon

On the sidelines of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, hospital boats are docked on the riverside, offering medical assistance to those most in need. The boats, inspired by Pope Francis, travel all along the Amazon River to tend to the needs to Indigenous communities and those who live along the river, far from cities. This is the testimony of Felipe, a volunteer doctor.

The Bishops of India are calling for peace and vigilance in the wake of a terrorist attack in **New Delhi, India** on Monday that resulted in the deaths of eight people