

New parish named for first saint

Wollongong diocese creates its first new territorial parish in 21 years, so why not name it after our first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop?

WOLLONGONG Bishop Peter Ingham has announced a new Catholic parish in Oran Park, the first new territorial parish in the diocese in more than 21 years.

The parish will be known as St Mary MacKillop Catholic parish, named after Australia's first saint.

Bishop Peter said: "It is indeed a joyful time for those living in this beautiful part of south-west Sydney, one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

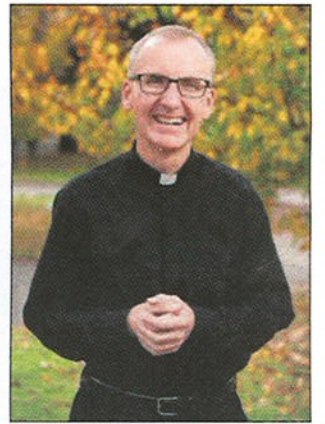
"Many families are blessed to have lived in this area for years, and now we welcome another pioneering generation as new suburbs are opening all around.

"The establishment of St Mary MacKillop Catholic parish reflects the vibrancy of the diocese and its more than 190,000 Catholics."

Bishop Peter has appointed Fr David Catterall as the founding priest of the new parish. Fr David, 42, has been a pastor for more than 15 years, ministering in Wollongong, Nowra, Camden, Campbelltown, Rosemeadow and, most recently, in his home parish of Albion Park.



ABOVE: Oran Park, one of Sydney's newest suburbs and home – for now – to Australia's newest Catholic parish. RIGHT: Fr David Catterall.



be established over the coming years.

For now, Fr David will set up a parish administration centre on the site next to St Justin's School and will celebrate Sunday Masses at 10am at the OOSH Centre at St Justin's from 19 July as well as celebrating Sunday Masses at 8am from this weekend onwards at St Mary Mother of God Church, Leppington, which is also now part of the new parish.

Fr David said: "I am reminded of the old saying that we can see further if we stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us. I am grateful to Fr Michael Williams and the local clergy, as well as the parishioners of St Paul's Catholic parish, Camden, for the pastoral care and support they have given to the people and school communities in the region. They have provided a solid platform that will enable the successful launch of our new parish."

Parish information:
St Mary MacKillop parish,
94 Oran Park Drive, Oran
Park NSW 2570 Phone:
1300 947 810. Email:
oranpark@dow.org.au
Website: www.mary-
mackillopparish.org.au

"It is an exciting prospect starting a new parish as we 'launch into the deep' and

discover fresh ways of being the hands and feet of Jesus in our local area," Fr David

said. "I believe it is fitting that our new parish is named after Australia's first canonised Saint, St Mary MacKillop.

"Mary famously said: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' I am excited that we can now take up Mary MacKillop's challenge together in Oran Park! I also look forward to working alongside the other Christian churches and civic leaders in the area."

The parish will include the suburbs of Oran Park, Catherine Field, Harrington Park, Harrington Grove, Gregory Hills, Leppington, Marylands, Lowes Creek and parts of Bringelly, Rossmore and Leppington North.

Fr David will be living as part of the community in a residential street in Oran Park Town rather than in a traditional priest's house next door to a church.

Work will soon begin on a new parish centre and worship space (next to the site of St Justin's Primary School) which, among other things, will be used for the celebration of Mass.

The building is planned to open in late 2015 and is best described as a purpose-built structure that will operate as the church and parish centre until a permanent structure is erected as the community grows.

Diocesan planners believe further parishes will need to

"Without well-prepared priests the new evangelisation will be just a slogan"

– (Benedict XVI)



The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation



Fr Anthonius Lalu, Indonesian, awarded a scholarship

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In Brief

MIDDLE EAST

Join moderate Muslims to fight extremists: call by patriarchs

The Catholic and Orthodox Patriarchs of Antioch have called upon Christians to work with moderate Muslims against the rise of religious extremism. Noting that many Muslims are "working with their leaders to confront and completely eradicate" jihadist ideology, the prelates say in a joint pastoral message that Christians should support that effort. "It is high time to confront Takfiri ideology, to dry out its well-springs," they write. (Takfari thought is a militant branch of Sunni Islam that calls for violent jihad and condemns any moderating trends.) The pastoral message was signed by Melkite Catholic Patriarch Gregory III, Syrian Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Efreem II, Greek Orthodox Patriarch John X, Maronite Catholic Patriarch Beshara al Rai and Syriac Catholic Patriarch Joseph III Younan. - CWN

ITALY

'Great powers' could have done more to curb Holocaust: pope

Pope Francis criticised the world's "great powers" for failing to curb the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. In off-the-cuff remarks during a visit to Turin,

the Pope said that the Allies were aware of the Nazi extermination camps, and should have bombed the railways leading to those killing centres. He remarked that many thousands of Christians also perished in the camps, as well as other minorities such as homosexuals and gypsies. Pope Francis also complained that after the war, the victorious Allies "divided up Europe like a cake", causing future instability. He charged that policies were set not to secure a lasting peace but to pursue immediate economic interests. - CWN

IRELAND

Irish priest may have molested more than 200 children

An Irish investigation commission has heard evidence that a notorious paedophile priest may have molested more than 200 children, and that he should never have been ordained, since his misconduct had been reported while he was a seminarian. Brendan Smyth, convicted on more than 100 counts of sexual abuse of children, died in prison in 1997. Revelations about his case – showing that numerous Church officials were aware of the abuse complaints yet continued to shuffle him to new clerical assignments – produced a furious backlash against the Church and calls for the resignation of Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, who had been involved in the case as a young priest. Cardinal Brady – who stepped down last year, having reached retirement age – is due to testify later this week for the Historical Institutional Abuse probe. - CNS