



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24th December

4:30pm Christmas Carols – St Anthony's. Alexandra Hills
5:00pm Children's Pageant and Mass– St Anthony's. Alexandra Hills
6:30pm Christmas Carols – St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale
7:00pm Children's Pageant and Mass – St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

7:00am Mass – St Luke's, Capalaba
8:00am Mass – St Mary MacKillop, Birkdale
9:00am Mass – St Anthony's. Alexandra Hills

Gaza Crisis Appeal

Caritas Australia is working closely with our partners on the ground to address immediate needs, including access to food and water, emergency shelter, and essential hygiene items. Emergency shelter has been provided for over 1,200 people, and cash support has reached over 9,300 families.

With your compassionate generosity, our partners can contribute to sustaining emergency response efforts and offering relief to those affected by the recent hostilities. Donate now..... [Gaza Conflict Appeal](#) | [Caritas Australia](#)



THE SIGN: Advent Program 2023 on sale now!

Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with **The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023**—a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024).

Books Available in the Church—\$5.00



Our third Advent candle is the Shepherds' Candle or the Candle of Joy.

The colour of the candle this week is rose, which symbolises joy, the joy that the Lord is near. We are also reminded that God sent the angels to proclaim His arrival to common folk, shepherds: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION & PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14

Children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded. This means that everyone in the church must ensure that the fundamental rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults are respected. This will be achieved through the development of respectful relationships and a commitment to safety embracing appropriate boundaries, behaviours and practices, in accordance with the Archdiocese of Brisbane *Code of Ethical Behaviour for employees and volunteers who work in service of the Church* as well as adherence to the legislative imperatives of the State.

Support Your Parish

Thank you so much to all who support our Parish financially. Our planned giving bank account details for Electronic Funds Transfer deposits are as follows:

BSB: 064 786 Account No: 1000 17027 Account Name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving (this account number is NOT for over the counter deposits at the Bank).

Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.



St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale

"Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish is called to be a community of faith, hope and love centred on Christ, seeking to recognise the relevance of God in our lives., to live our Christian faith in a way that demonstrates and communicates the relevance of God in our lives, our Parish and the wider community"

Our Priests

Fr Regimon Gervasis Mcbs
(Parish Priest)
Email: gervasisr@bne.catholic.net.au
Fr Prem Kumar
(Associate Parish Priest)
Emergency Contact: 3822 2139,
Option 3

Parish Office

12 Hardy Rd Birkdale, Qld 4159,
Phone: 3822 2139
Email: birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au
www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au,
Facebook: [stmarymackillopparishbirkdale](https://www.facebook.com/stmarymackillopparishbirkdale)
Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:
9am to 2pm
Lisa Knight
(Parish Secretary, WH&S and
Safeguarding officer)
William Burton
(Chair, Parish Finance Council)
Chris Mahoney
(Chair, Parish Pastoral Council)
Members: Therese Evans, Cathy
McGrath, John Spillane

Education

St Mary MacKillop Primary School
Principal: John Spillane
10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Qld 4159
Phone: 3822 5500
Email: pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au
www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au
St Mary MacKillop OSHC
(Before - After School/Vacation Care)
10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale QLD 4159
Phone: 0477 550 445
Email:
birkdaleoshc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au
catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au

Welfare groups

St Vincent De Paul Society
1800 846 643. Meets every
second Tuesday at 7:00pm.
Next meeting 19th December 2023.

STOpline

To report 'reportable conduct' under
the Archdiocesan Whistleblower Policy
email to: aob@stopline.com.au
Phone: 1300 30 45 50

17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



Dear Parishioners and visitors,

John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29). John saw from a distance what the Messiah would come to accomplish - our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father. Do you recognise who you are in Christ? The Lord Jesus has come to restore us to friendship with God and he has made us citizens of heaven - his everlasting kingdom of peace and justice.

John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, the true Messiah and Saviour of the world. The Christian church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word. Do you point others to Jesus Christ by the example and witness of your life?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, make me a herald of your word of truth and grace. Help me to be a faithful witness of the joy of the Gospel and to point others to you as John did through his testimony.

18th - 24th December 2023		
MONDAY	9.00 AM	ST LUKE'S CHURCH, CAPALABA
TUESDAY	6:00PM	ST MARY MACKILLOP CHURCH, BIRKDALE
WEDNESDAY	5.00 PM	ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, ALEXANDRA HILLS
THURSDAY	9.00 AM	ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, ALEXANDRA HILLS
FRIDAY	9.30 AM	ST MARY MACKILLOP CHURCH, BIRKDALE (2nd Friday of each month is Anointing Mass)
SATURDAY	4.30 PM	ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, ALEXANDRA HILLS
	6.15 PM	ST MARY MACKILLOP CHURCH, BIRKDALE
SUNDAY	7.00 AM	ST LUKE'S CHURCH, CAPALABA
	8.00 AM	ST MARY MACKILLOP CHURCH, BIRKDALE
	9.00 AM	ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, ALEXANDRA HILLS

<i>The Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>	<i>Anointing Mass</i>
MONDAY 8.30 am: St Luke's Church, Capalaba TUESDAY 5.30pm: St Mary MacKillop Church, Birkdale SATURDAY 4.00pm: St Anthony's Church, Alexandra Hills. OR by appointment (phone 3822 2139 or 3820 0100)	<i>First Friday of the Month,</i> <i>(10.00 am to 11.00 am) at</i> <i>St Mary MacKillop Church,</i> <i>BIRKDALE</i>	Second Friday of each month at 9.30am. The next Anointing Mass will be on Friday 12th January.

<i>We remember and pray</i>	<i>We pray for the sick</i>
<p><u>For recently died:</u> Leo Topatigh, Gary Lopez, Gary Poke.</p> <p><u>Anniversaries for Remembrances December:</u> Joanna Versluis, Les and Ruby Richards, Alberto & Vittorio Poloniato, John Jorna Snr, Antonio Cailotto, Amalia Bandiera, John Williams, Madeline Gauci, Eve Buckmaster, Peter Moores, Carmen Jagga, Hans Adam, Fayline Fraser, Alma Prove, Mary Boyle, Josefina Wilcox, Rita Fantov, Michael Newman, Maria Bosso, Mark Ciavarella, Ron Tamatea, Meg Griffiths, Mal Carlson, Luigi Santarossa, Arnold Splatt, Arthur McCarthy, Ray Murphy, David Kearney, Sr Dot Newberry, Jack and Mary Ward, Graeme & Sonia Giles, David Boyd, Irene Kearney, Llewellyn Mills, Clare Rubach, Ivan Randall, Jordan Smith, Vladga Smith, Franco Peressini, Dorothy McInroy, Annie Neale, Fr Tom Boland, Departed members of Kakucska Family.</p>	<p>Dawn Montgomery, Bill Welsh, Andrew Hodgson, Cody-Lea Knight, Gwen Dillon, Raymond Davis, Michelle Russell, Helen Meade , Ned Robinson, Hilda Adam, Ava Voorn, Finn Voorn, Mike Quilty, Heather Voigt, Maureen Phillips, Terry Coles, Jo Murphy, Michael McGrath, Rosita Ganac, John Jorna, Agatha Ravaneschi, Liana Lo Presti, Amanda Ward, Ed Moloney, Colleen Van den Bosch, , Clara Elms, Henk Hoonhout, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Jodie Bromiley, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, Bade Family, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Lucia Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Pauline McNamee, Gina Mather.</p>

<i>Roster 23rd & 24th December</i>			<i>Scripture Readings</i>
Readers	6:15pm	8:00am	<p><u>This Sunday, Third Sunday of Advent</u> First Reading: Isa 61:1-2, 10-11 Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28</p> <p><u>Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12,14-16 Psalm: 88:2-5, 27, 29 Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38</p>
First Reading	Matty M	Rob S	
Second Reading	Janet B	Tim F	
Welcome & POF	Martin M	Peter M	
Communion Ministers	Paulina P, Elaine R, Catherine R	April MKayla S Maria S	
Music	Group 1	Group 4	
PowerPoint	Paul M	David C	
Counting	-----	Group 4	

<i>Parish Diary</i>
<p><u>Monday 18th December</u> 1:00pm Rosary Group 2:00pm Activities Group</p> <p><u>Tuesday 19th December</u> 3:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Wednesday 20th December</u> 11:00am Rosary Group</p> <p><u>Thursday 21st December</u> 3:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Friday 22nd December</u> 9:00am Rosary 10:00am Divine Mercy Prayers</p>


<i>Divine Mercy Prayers</i>
From 10:00am (following the 9:30am Mass) every Friday <u>except</u> the first Friday of the month, at St Mary MacKillop Church, BIRKDALE

We are inviting children to help tell the Christmas story at Christmas Eve Mass again this year. There are a variety of speaking and non speaking roles suitable for various ages. Costumes are available. Children must be available before 7pm Mass on Christmas Eve , as well as a number of rehearsals. These will be held at the church from 3:30 – 4:30 pm on:

Tuesday, 19 December
Thursday, 21 December

For more information, please contact Lisa Knight in the Parish Office or Tania Logan on 0407436643 or britania@optusnet.com.au





Are you New to the Parish?

If you are new to the Parish, please fill this form and drop it in the collection box or give us your details by phone, on 3822 2139 or email, birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au

The Parish Office will then be in touch with you to send you our weekly newsletter.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Congratulations!!!


St Mary MacKillop

Outside School Hours Care

Awarded with Catholic Early Ed Care's 2023 *Service of the Year*.

We are so proud of the team that we have at OSHC and the amazing job they do in caring for the children.

St Mary MacKillop OSHC
(Before - After School/Vacation Care),
10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale QLD 4159
Phone: 0477 550 445. Email: birkdale-oshc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au
catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au



SINCERE THANK YOU FROM THE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

for your generous response to our Christmas Appeal. We can assure all our Parishioners that every cent donated will find its way to someone in need in our local area.

On their behalf we thank you.

If you think you would like to help us in this important work of Christian Charity, we meet on Tuesday each fortnight in the Parish Centre at 7pm.

Our meetings for 2024 will recommence on 9th January. EFT donations can still be made to the following account (not for over the counter deposits at the bank)

BSB: 064 786
Account Number:1000 26127
Account Name: SVDP St Mary MacKillop

Your kindness and generosity is appreciated.



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