

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



ST MARY'S CHURCH



ST JAMES' CHURCH

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COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY): 2 NOVEMBER 2025

Dear brothers and sisters: our celebration this Sunday is called "the Commemoration of all the faithful departed." It is a day dedicated to remembering and praying for those who died in God's friendship.

Created in the image and likeness of God, we are a union of body and soul. We are capable of knowing and of loving our Creator in freedom. We are capable of self-knowledge and of freely giving ourselves and entering into communion with God and other persons. God has created us to know, serve and love him; to offer all of creation in this world in thanksgiving back to him and be raised up to life with him in heaven.

Death is the separation of the body and the soul. After death the body becomes corrupt while the soul, which is immortal, goes to meet the judgement of God. Each human person after death will receive from God in his/her immortal soul the particular judgement in accord with his/her faith and his/her works. One either enters into the happiness of heaven or into the eternal damnation of hell.

Those who die in the state of God's grace without any mortal sin will enter "the state of supreme and definitive happiness" either immediately or after an appropriate purification. "Those who die in the grace of God and have no need of further purification are gathered around Jesus and Mary, the angels and the saints ... They live in a communion of love with the Most Blessed Trinity and they intercede for us." Some of them are canonised by the Church.

Those who die in mortal sin through their own free choice will enter into the eternal damnation of hell. Our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed this reality of eternal separation from God. God desires the salvation of all. However, he has created us to be free and responsible; and he respects our decisions. If at the moment of death, the human person persists in mortal sin and refuses the merciful love of God, it is that person who excludes himself/herself from eternal communion with God and all the saints.

Those who die in God's friendship but who still have need of purification enter into the state called purgatory. We can help the souls being purified in purgatory. Explaining this practice of praying for the faithful departed, Benedict XVI says: "Early Jewish thought includes the idea that one can help the deceased in their intermediate state through prayer (see for example 2 Macc 12:38-45; first century BC). The equivalent practice was readily adopted by Christians ... The souls of the departed can ... receive "solace and refreshment" through the Eucharist, prayer and almsgiving. The belief that love can reach into the afterlife, that reciprocal giving and receiving is possible, in which our affection for one another continues beyond the limits of death – this has been a fundamental conviction of Christianity throughout the ages and it remains a source of comfort today. Who would not feel the need to convey to their departed loved ones a sign of kindness, a gesture of gratitude or even a request for pardon? Now a further question arises: if "Purgatory" is simply purification through fire in the encounter with the Lord, Judge and Saviour, how can a third person intervene, even if he or she is particularly close to the other? When we ask such a question, we should recall that no man is an island, entire of itself. Our lives are involved with one another, through innumerable interactions they are linked together. No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone. The lives of others continually spill over into mine: in what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse. So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to the other - my prayer for him - can play a small part in his purification." (*Spe Salvi*, On Christian Hope, 48)

In this Mass let us pray in a special way for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."

Fr Roland



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be brought to life.

COLLECT

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;

my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.'

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look favourably on our offerings, O Lord, so that your departed servants may be taken up into glory with your Son, in whose great mystery of love we are all united. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

PREFACE; EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant we pray, O Lord, that your departed servants, for whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament, may pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

“Isaiah 25:6-9, is a magnificent passage to begin the commemoration. The prophet promises that ‘on this mountain’ – that is, on the mountain of Sion in Jerusalem – God will prepare a banquet for all nations, wiping away the tears and ‘the shroud cast over all peoples’. The ‘shroud’ is the threat of death – the prospect of our own death, and that of our loved ones. The prophecy makes clear that God’s only intent in respect to human beings is to have them as guests at a rich ‘banquet’ of eternal life. Later, passages such as this led to the image of the ‘messianic banquet’ becoming the key symbol of the Kingdom of God. The occasions upon which Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes in the wilderness were a foretaste and pledge of the full divine ‘hospitality’ to come – as of course is also the Eucharist celebrated in his memory.” (Fr Brendan Byrne SJ)

“The responsorial psalm, one of the most familiar and best loved psalms of the entire psalter, paints vivid pictures of a carefree existence, peaceful rest

and abundant fruitfulness. Two metaphors characterise God: the shepherd and the host. As shepherd, God finds pastures that will provide enough grazing and abundant water for the entire flock, leads them there without allowing any of the sheep to stray or be lost, guards them from predators or dangers of any kind, and attends to their every need. As host, God spreads out a banquet that not only affords nourishment, but also is a public witness to God’s high regard for the psalmist.” (Sr Dianne Bergant CSA)

“In Romans 5:5-11, St Paul asserts the hope of salvation that flows from God’s faithful love. The first sentence speaks of the Spirit in terms of the standard biblical image of water gushing forth or, as here, ‘poured out’. What has been ‘poured out’ in our hearts through the gift of the Spirit is an assurance of God’s love. It is not our love for God that is in view – though that should follow – but a felt sense of God’s love for us. In Paul’s view this is what should engender hope for the future, despite our inability to see beyond the veil of death.

“Paul then develops this ‘proof’ from God’s love in a series of statements featuring a kind of a fortiori logic. If when we were sinners (‘enemies’), God loved us so much as to give up his Son in a costly death to bring about reconciliation, how much more, now that we are reconciled and ‘friends’, will God not ensure that we are brought ‘the full distance’, so to speak, that is, to final salvation. Having paid so great a cost (the death of the Son) God will hardly leave us ‘half-way’. [Note that at the end of v 9, despite popular translations (Jerusalem Bible; NRSV), the Greek original simply refers to being saved ‘from the wrath’ – no mention of ‘God’ in this connection.] In the face of death, the passage flings a defiant act of hope based upon Paul’s keen sense of God’s faithfulness and love ...” (Fr Brendan Byrne SJ)

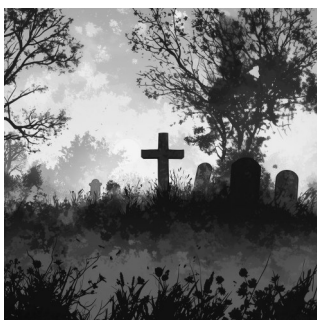
PRAYING FOR SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED IN PURGATORY

What is purgatory?

Purgatory is the state of those who die in God’s friendship, assured of their eternal salvation, but who still have need of purification to enter into the happiness of heaven.

How can we help the souls being purified in purgatory?

Because of the communion of saints, the faithful who are still pilgrims on earth are able to help the souls in purgatory by offering prayers in suffrage for them, especially the Eucharistic sacrifice. They also help them by almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance.



ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the Sick: Miriam Scherger, Tony Murphy, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Donna Ellis, Jom Jose Akkarathakidiyil, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Margaret Donges, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Graham Courte, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Matt Mohorovic, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Eva Bailey, Susan Hennesy. **Anniversary:** Stan Fomal, Jude Castle, John Deasy, Hazel Starr, Neville Dodds. **Pray for:** Gordon & Kym Eckersley. All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Masses: Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 5:00pm (SUN).

Weekday Masses: Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Thursday, 10:00am: Iluka; Friday, 12:00pm, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 6:30pm, Yamba

Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean

Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

Thursday, 10:30am, Iluka

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

MINISTRY ROSTER: 8/9 NOVEMBER 2025

Readers: Yamba: A Ricketts/ B Cullen; Maclean: St Joseph's School; Iluka: C Leseberg, **Commentators:** Yamba: A Schofield, Maclean: St Joseph's School, Iluka: A Speirs. **E Communion:** Maclean: S Winter. **Count Team:** Eckersley.

READINGS 8/9 NOVEMBER 2025

First: Ezekiel 47:1-2. 8-9. 12; **Second:** 1 Corinthians 3:9-11. 16-17; **Gospel:** John 2:13-22.

NEWS & EVENTS

Emergency contact: In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

Change of Mass times: Beginning the First Week of Advent (29/30 November). Please note the following changes:

- Iluka Sunday Mass will begin at 10:30am.
- Baptisms in Maclean will be celebrated on Sundays at 12:30pm.
- Confession in Yamba will held before Saturday evening Mass at 5pm.

November Masses: The month of November is dedicated to prayer for the Holy Souls. Mass offering envelopes are now available at each church.

Save the date—November 23: All welcome to the Parish celebration of the Feast of Christ the King – the last Sunday of the Liturgical year. A special morning tea will be served in the Cranney room after the 8.30am mass in Maclean. There will be special bingo with Bernii, a guessing competition (2 prizes), a duet by 2 well known choristers and “name that song” competition.

Parish Pastoral Council: This consultative group will be established in our parish in December this year. In this council, presided over by the parish priest, parishioners “give their help in fostering pastoral action.” Members are appointed by the parish priest, and are accountable to him. Their counsel assists him in his responsibilities for the governance of the parish. It is an exercise of collaboration with him and other parishioners. “The orientation of the pastoral council is to propose, study, and facilitate pastoral initiatives responding to the needs of the local community.” Those interested in joining the council are asked to write a letter to Fr Roland by 8 Nov, addressed to office@stmarysparish.org.au.

Supporting Halle McClymont – NET Ministries

Missionary 2026: Next year, Halle will begin missionary service with NET Ministries Australia, supporting youth evangelisation through retreats, discipleship and parish outreach. If you would like to support Halle in this mission, please take home one of the envelopes available at the church entrance. Let us continue to keep Halle in our prayers as she prepares for this exciting journey of faith and service.

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. By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card. View the range of Global Gifts: www.globalgifts.org.au

Columban calendars 2026: Please place your order through the parish office or add your name to the list at the back of the Church by November 2. Calendars are \$10 each.

Josephite calendars 2026: This year we are also offering Josephite calendars for purchase. Calendars are \$10. If you would like to order one, please contact the parish office or add your name to the list at the back of the Church by November 2.