

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



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ST JAMES CHURCH

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## THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, YEAR A: 7 JUNE 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: we celebrate this Sunday the solemnity of the Eucharistic Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Collect, we express our faith in the Eucharist that it is the memorial of the Passion, that is, the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. It is a memorial not in the sense of mere recollection of the past but of making present in our midst the self-offering of Jesus on the cross. That is, when we celebrate the Eucharist, we do not merely recall his suffering and death, but rather we enter into these events. These events have become “the sacred mysteries” of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, that is, they are made present in our liturgical celebration of the Eucharist and especially in the Eucharistic Body and Blood of Christ. Through our celebration of the Eucharist, the fruits of redemption are offered to us and if we are properly disposed, we experience them in ourselves.

The first reading, Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16, affirms that God feeds us not only with physical bread that sustains our bodies, but also and more importantly with “everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” God gives us his truth that enlightens us, his moral law that directs our behaviour, his interior helps that enable us to do good and avoid evil. The Father has given us his Son to reveal fully the inner life of God and bring us back into communion with the Blessed Trinity. The Father and Son have given us the Holy Spirit to be our ever-present helper and guide. The triune God ordinarily works in and through the Church, and especially through the sacraments.

In the second reading, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, St Paul tells us that partaking of the Eucharist brings about communion with the Body and Blood of Christ. When we receive Holy Communion worthily, we are personally united with Christ. Holy Communion increases our union with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It preserves and renews the life of grace and makes us grow in our love of our neighbour. St Paul also teaches us that the Eucharist makes us one body. The Eucharistic Body and Blood of Christ makes the communicants into his ecclesial body, his Church, the Body of Christ. The Eucharist brings us closer

together, empowering and inspiring us to mutually love and support each other, mutually exchanging our persons and our spiritual gifts. We ask for this grace in the prayer over the offerings: that the Church may be granted “the gifts of unity and peace” in offering the Eucharist.

In the Gospel, John 6: 51-58, our Lord Jesus describes himself as the living bread that has come down from heaven. He is the “everything” that comes from the mouth of the Lord. In giving us his Son, the Father has given us everything. The Son, the Word made flesh, will also give his all, his flesh, the human life he has assumed, “for the life of the world.” His loving obedience to the Father, and his total self-giving accomplished in his suffering and death will obtain for us, for the world, the gift of divine life, God’s own life. This divine life is no other than our participation in the divine communion of the Father, the Son and the Spirit. We enter into this divine life and communion through baptism. This must be preserved and brought to maturity until we are permeated by it. To do so, we have to grow in our faith, prayer, involvement in parish life, sacramental life and charity expressed in good deeds.

More importantly, the Lord has given us the sacrament of his body and blood, the Eucharist, to nourish our divine life and communion with God. He says: “Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life.” That is, anyone who worthily receives him in Holy Communion will have divine life. “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.” It is Christ himself, whole and entire, body and blood, soul and divinity, who lives in us when we receive him in Communion. “Whoever eats me will draw life from me.” Jesus draws divine life from the Father and by being united with him, especially in Communion, we draw from him this divine life.

Let us ask the Lord to increase our Eucharistic faith and devotion that we worship him with lives enlightened by his word, and directed by his love present in the Eucharist. **Fr Roland**



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (*Iluka*)

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

**COLLECT**

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

*Deuteronomy 8:2-3. 14-16*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: ‘Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

‘Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.’

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 147:12-15. 19-20. R. v.12*

**(R.) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
he has blessed the children within you. (R.)
2. He has established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command. (R.)
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

*1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever.*

*Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL**

*John 6:51-58*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied: ‘I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace, whose signs are to be seen in mystery in the offerings we here present. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PREFACE**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, he offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity. And so, we approach the table of this wondrous Sacrament, so that, bathed in the sweetness of your grace, we may pass over to the heavenly realities here foreshadowed. Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth sing a new song in adoration, and we, with all the host of Angels, cry out, and without end we acclaim:

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

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### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

The first reading for today concentrates on the blessing of God and the responsibility that accompanies that blessing. God's graciousness is not to be squandered. Moses directs the people to remember events of their past and from them learn the lesson of total confidence in God. The manna was meant to teach them that the source of their life was not merely the bread, but the promise of God. A recital of various examples of the providence of God completes this reading.

'Cup of blessing' was a common Jewish expression for the cup of wine taken at the end of a meal. At the Passover meal, the third of the four cups taken is called 'the cup of blessing'. Here the significance of the cup of wine is not in its material substance but in its incorporation of the partakers in the blood of Christ. It is through Christ's death-blood that we participate in his life-blood. Community is established with the breaking of the bread, not with the subsequent eating of it. Paul insists that when we partake in the Eucharist, it does not so much become part of us as does other food, but we are transformed into it.

In today's gospel Jesus identifies his flesh as the bread of heaven, and he alludes to his death given for the life of the world. He declares this four times (vv.53-56). Jesus is 'flesh and blood' first as the sacrificial victim on the cross and then as food and drink. Like the manna, the flesh and blood of Jesus have become the source of life for those who partake of it. Eternal life comes from feeding on Jesus, not simply from believing in him. Jesus teaches that eternal life is not merely something that believers hope to enjoy in the future. Rather, those who share in this meal already possess eternal life. Jesus further maintains that just as we and the substance that we

eat and drink become one, so Jesus and those who feed on him form an intimate union. They abide in him and he abides in them. © *Dianne Bergant CSA*

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

***What is the Eucharist?*** The Eucharist is the very sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus which he instituted to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until his return in glory. Thus he entrusted to his Church this memorial of his death and Resurrection. It is a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet, in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

#### ***When did Jesus Christ institute the Eucharist?***

Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday "the night on which he was betrayed" (1 Cor 11:23), as he celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles. After he had gathered with his apostles in the Cenacle, Jesus took bread in his hands. He broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take this and eat it, all of you; this is my Body which will be given up for you". Then, he took the cup of wine in his hands and said, "Take this and drink of this, all of you. This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me".

#### ***In what way is the Eucharist a memorial of the sacrifice of Christ?***

The Eucharist is a memorial in the sense that it makes present and actual the sacrifice which Christ offered to the Father on the cross, once and for all on behalf of mankind. The sacrificial character of the Holy Eucharist is manifested in the very words of institution, "This is my Body which is given for you" and "This cup is the New Covenant in my Blood that will be shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20). The sacrifice of the cross and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one and the same sacrifice. The priest and the victim are the same; only the manner of offering is different: in a bloody manner on the cross, in an unbloody manner in the Eucharist.

#### ***How is Christ present in the Eucharist?***

Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist in a unique and incomparable way. He is present in a true, real and substantial way, with his Body and his Blood, with his Soul and his Divinity. In the Eucharist, therefore, there is present in a sacramental way, that is, under the Eucharistic species of bread and wine, Christ whole and entire, God and Man.

#### ***Why is the Holy Eucharist the paschal banquet?***

The Holy Eucharist is the paschal banquet in as much as Christ sacramentally makes present his Passover and gives us his Body and Blood, offered as food and drink, uniting us to himself and to one another in his sacrifice.



## 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:** Clive McLachlan, Audrey Hancock, Ben & Nadine Shaw, Patrick Wheeler, Denise & Bob, Tim Scherger, Jan Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Jennifer Nicholson, Judith Want, Sally Towns. **Anniversary:** Bill Wolff, Kathleen Sullivan, John McMahon. **Pray for:** Dulc Sinderberry, Valerie Woodroffe. 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: 10:30am (SUN).

**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday, 9:00am: Iluka; Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Friday, 12:00am, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

## RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba

Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean

Tuesday, 9:30am, Iluka

Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

## MINISTRY ROSTER: 13/14 JUNE 2026

**Readers:** Yamba: A Ricketts/F Robertson; Maclean: St Josephs; Iluka: T Sullivan. **Commentators:** Yamba: M Dee; Maclean: St Josephs, Iluka: I Durham. **E Communion:** Maclean: J de Roos. **Count team:** Davies/Stephenson.

## READINGS: 13/14 JUNE 2026

**First:** Exodus 19:2-6; **Second:** Romans 5:6-11; **Gospel:** Matthew 9:36-10:8.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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

**New office days/times:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am-2:30pm.

**Parish bulletin online:** Our bulletin is now uploaded weekly to our website <http://stmarysparish.org.au>

**Thinking of Becoming a Catholic?** Contact Fr Roland 0401508 812

**Mission Today Autumn/Winter 2026 issue:** please

find copies at the church entrance.

**Ignite Conference 2026:** This youth conference will be held in Darwin on 19-21 June, Sydney 9-12 July, and Brisbane 24-27 September. This national youth conference is a real world formation with something for everyone. For more information see [hello@igniteyouth.com](mailto:hello@igniteyouth.com) or the poster on the notice board.

**Diocesan Investment Fund Interest rate 3.90% effective 1/6/26:** For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516.

## ASPIRE Young Adults Spiritual Formation

**invitation:** Please see the noticeboard for the dates on the poster.

**Subscribe to our Diocesan newsletters:** Join our online community and receive news, inspiration and updates across the diocese. Catholic Life Magazine, The Light, Youth Newsletter and Renewal Journey Newsletter. Subscribe to our newsletters to stay connected via the QR code on the noticeboard.

**Aid to the Church in Need:** An estimated one in seven Christians worldwide experiences persecution or discrimination because of their faith. Through Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), discover their stories and be inspired by the courage of Mathieu and Pauline, catechists from Burkina Faso who were kidnapped for their faith. Read their remarkable story on [aidtochurch.org/bulletin](http://aidtochurch.org/bulletin)

**The diocese are recruiting a Casual Person/Relief Coordinator** for the St Joseph's Out of School Hours (OSHC) Service (Maclean). Applications can be made through Seek and close on 20 June. See poster on the noticeboard.

**Eucharist28 Update—Hearts Set Ablaze!:** The international Eucharistic Congress in Sydney 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich and worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music—a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)

**Baptisms:** Please welcome to the family of God: Olive and Sandon who were baptised in our parish last weekend.

**No Weekday Masses:** in Iluka on Tuesday, 9 June, and in Yamba, on Wednesday 10 June.