



# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH



Serving the communities of Coraki, Woodburn and Evans Head.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Parish Administrator:

- Fr Max Gow (Alstonville)

### Supply Priest:

- Fr Peter Jones

### Parish Secretary:

- Mrs Tanya Pagotto

**PARISH OFFICE PH: 02 6628 3047**

### Web Address:

<https://stjosephscoraki.wixsite.com/website>

**Email:** parish@acrcc.org.au

**Address:** 11 Perry St Alstonville  
(PO Box 102 Alstonville)

**Hours:** Monday - Friday  
9.00am – 3:30pm

### SCHOOLS

#### St Joseph's Primary Coraki

**Principal:** Mrs Kristie Coster

**Phone:** 02 6683 2248

#### St Joseph's Primary Woodburn

**Principal:** Ms Jeanette Wilkins

**Phone:** 02 6682 2468

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

#### SATURDAY VIGIL @

**EVANS HEAD: 5.00PM**

#### SUNDAY MASS @

**CORAKI: 9.15AM**

Weekend Celebrant: Fr Max Gow

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

#### BAPTIST CARE CORAKI

17 December @ 10am

## The Gospel

*The Gospel (continued from last week)*

### Liturgical Symbols Surrounding the Proclamation of the Gospel

The Liturgy loads the Gospel with various honorary signs to emphasise its primacy within the Liturgy of the Word.

The Gospel Book is given great honour. Solemnly it is carried aloft in the entrance procession, the Word of God leading us, a light to our path. It is laid on the Altar where it remains until the Priest or Deacon retrieves it and, accompanied by acolytes, proceeds ceremoniously to the lectern. We all stand, singing our Alleluias and welcoming Christ, the Word of God and Light of the World, who speaks to his people through the human voice.

It is an ancient tradition that only the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel. The candles which led the procession flank him, emphasising the theme of light. Incense is used, reminding us that the words we are about to hear are holy; a Reading from the Holy Gospel, he says. We all sign ourselves with that ancient form of the Sign of the Cross, made with thumb, on forehead, lips and breast, praying that the Word and Light of Christ may be in our mind, on our lips and in our heart. When the Priest has finished the proclamation, he kisses the Gospel Book, showing it all the reverence it deserves.

Christ's Gospel opens to us a new vision of what it really means to be human. What He proposes is wholly contrary to what we and society take for granted as being the normal way of living, and completely opposed to the gods we have created for ourselves. If you want to be rich, give your things away; if you want to be powerful, get down on your knees, wash the feet of the poor and be content with the lowest place of all; if you want to be truly clever, become a fool in the eyes of the world, so foolish as to believe that the one true God loved the world so much that He became Man, stretched out his arms on a Cross and died for us. This is the Gospel and it is only when we believe it wholeheartedly and rise courageously to its challenge that we find our horizons broadened immeasurably, discover we are made of sterner stuff than we first thought, and experience the true freedom of the children of God.

*Antony Jones STL. PhL 'The Revised Mass in Close-up'*



### Christmas Mass Times

**December 24th—Christmas Eve**

**Evans Head—4.30pm**

**Coraki—6.30pm**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** For Luke Boland and Sr. Monica Hogan and for all the recently deceased relatives and friends of parishioners.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** For Fr. Arthur Stidwell and for all whose anniversary occurs at this time.

**THE SICK:** Ray O'Donnell, Paul Grill, Maria Cameron, Anita Watt, Ashley Watt, Bob Barney (Linda Barney's husband), Pat Brickley, Fr Anthony Lemon, (Priest of Murwillumbah), Reg Milgate.



**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:** Greg Moss, our friends & family at Baptist Care Centre Coraki, all who are feeling the loneliness of isolation; Enright family and friends, Shayne & Rachel & family, Fr John Casey, Christopher (Beverly's Son), David Smith, Robert Smith, Trisha & Joshua Moore, David Layton, McCowan-Dan, Smith, Webber, Layton, Hawkins & Anderson families, Sandy, Shannon & Dion, Jamie & Jodie Smith & family, relatives and friends of Margaret Aleckson and all victims of sexual abuse.

### FROM OUR SCHOOLS

#### Joy at Joeys: Carols in the Open 2025 Wrap-Up

What a truly wonderful night it was as our community came together to celebrate the end of 2025! We shared food, laughter, beautiful Christmas carols, and precious time together, reminding us all of the strength of our community and the true meaning of the season.

The event was a joy-filled culmination of our year, highlighted by the heartfelt Nativity Hymn and reenactment, a special reminder of the birth of Jesus.

We have so many people to thank for the success of the evening:

The St Joseph's School Woodburn Community Forum: Their commitment this year—from adapting to the new structure and constitution to their tireless work on the Christmas raffle, securing sponsors, and cooking and serving the sausage sandwiches at the Carols—was truly remarkable.

Our Staff and students: Thank you for the inspiring Carol presentations and the beautiful class art pieces created for the auction.

Our Auctioneer Extrordinaire, Mr Marty Walsh for stepping up and leading the fun auction with such enthusiasm! Congratulations to everyone who took home a piece of beautiful student artwork.

Our Parish Family: Thank you to all parents and parishioners who attended, supported their children, shared their company, and generously participated in the raffles and auction.

And, of course, our very merry man in red—Santa Claus!

May the joy and community spirit we shared continue to bless you throughout the Christmas season and into the New Year!



Jeanette Wilkins | Principal | [wdbp@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:wdbp@lism.catholic.edu.au) | [www.wdbplism.catholic.edu.au](http://www.wdbplism.catholic.edu.au)

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4  
**Lord, come and save us.**

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to  
the poor.

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11

### FOR OUR COMMUNITY

#### ST. JOSEPH'S OP SHOP QUEEN ELIZABETH DRIVE, CORAKI

The Op Shop will be closed from Friday 12th December and will reopen on Monday 9th February 2026.

We warmly thank all our customers and supporters for their generosity throughout the year.

Please DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS during the closure, as no one will be on-site to receive or process them.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



#### Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Christmas can be a challenging time for many people and the continuing cost-of-living pressures means this Christmas will be particularly hard for those struggling to make ends meet. The Christmas Appeal is one of the most significant events for the Society in highlighting our good works and raising vital funds to support people in need. By supporting the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, you will be directly assisting at a local level those people within our community. There are a number of ways you can donate. Envelopes will be available in the Church, please place the envelope in the offertory collections as it will be passed on the SVDP, (do not pin it on the Giving Tree in the church), or you can scan the QR code on the poster, or phone 131812 or go online at <http://www.vinnies.org.au>

Thank you for your continuing support.



Welcome to the Christian community

**Abel Green**

who will be baptised in our parish this Sunday.



Interest Rate—3.40%  
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