



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH



Serving the communities of Coraki, Woodburn and Evans Head.

4th Sunday of Advent

Year A

20th & 21st December 2025

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 Peter Jones

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

BAPTIST CARE CORAKI
31 December @ 10am



The Homily

It used to be called the sermon, so why this change of name? One of the definitions of homily in the Oxford English Dictionary is a “tedious moralising lecture”! ? The same dictionary defines sermon as “a long or tedious piece of admonition or reproof”. What both definitions have in common is the adjective tedious, i.e. boring. Well, what do you know?

The Church decided on this change of name to differentiate the homily from the kind of pulpit bashing oratory of old, as some of us well remember, all hell fire and brimstone. Getting away from that kind of rhetoric, the Church wants her ministers to speak to their congregations as a father talks to his family.

So if the homily is supposed to be like a father chatting to his children, why, according to the dictionary and our own experience, are people so frequently bored by it? Is it entirely the fault of the priest? I have known people leave the parish because the homily down the road was a few minutes shorter!

Maybe we get bored so easily because we have heard it all before - countless times. When you listen to a CD over and over again, it eventually gets stale, no matter how enthusiastic you were to start with.

But between listening repeatedly to a recording and listening to a homily, there is something fundamentally different. A clue to this, surprisingly, lies in the priest's vestments.

There are many reasons why he doesn't celebrate Mass in his suit like a nonconformist minister conducting a prayer service. Nor are vestments worn simply to add colour to the proceedings, though the Church does want the Mass to be a beautiful happening, with priest and people using all their available talent for the glory of God. Vestments are meant to put the priest in disguise, hiding the man and pointing to Christ. While the priest remains himself, using his own particular talents, the actual focus is on Christ, the One who is really preaching the homily and proclaiming the Gospel. And here lies the remedy to our boredom.

Our Lord frequently presents himself as the Sower, sowing seeds in all sorts of terrain, with some seed taking root and others falling on barren ground. So important does He consider this image of Himself that he meticulously explains this particular parable to the apostles. The seed, He tells us, is his word; the soil is our hearts, the sower is Himself. In the homily Christ is scattering and sowing the good seed of his word. The terrain before him is as mixed as anyone could possibly imagine: men, women and children from every conceivable background and with every imaginable potential.

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 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.



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.

Catholic Life
December Edition

The December edition of the Catholic Life Magazine is available to read online.



Kristie Coster | Acting Principal | crki@lism.catholic.edu.au | www.crkilism.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!
[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

Gospel:

November Masses have been requested for the
following: -

Syd & Gwenda West, George & Susan Hughes, Moya & Terry Doyle, Jack & Mick Martin, Jaci Whitworth, Lee & Philip Riordan, Pignat families, James families, Malone family, Graham & Marie Smith and families, John, Jon, Margaret, Tony & Robert Bell, Eric & Olive Smith, Addie & Gloria Kelly, Perry Kelly, May Brown, D F Brown, Lodovico (Eric) Grill & the Brussa family, Hazel & Des Enright, Barrie, Bill, Des & Michael Enright, Anne & Laurie Powell, Pat Sands, Phillip Ellem, Pay & Jack Ryan, Betty & Stan Crummy and Evelyn, Allen Robert Swift.



Interest Rate—3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516

Sharing the Spirit of Christmas - St Joseph's
School Visits Baptist Care Village

In the true spirit of Catholic mission and service, students from St Joseph's School visited our friends at Baptist Care Village this week, bringing the light of Christ to the residents through music and friendship. The children offered a joyful gift of Christmas carols, filling the room with warmth, hope and connection.

The visit was more than a performance—it was a chance for students and residents to share precious moments together. Many residents joined in the singing, clapping along to familiar favourites and expressing their delight at the children's enthusiasm. Teachers and staff said the experience was a beautiful way to help students understand the importance of community, kindness, and giving during the festive season.

Students spent time chatting with residents, wishing them a Merry Christmas and offering handmade cards and friendship bracelets. The St Joseph's community looks forward to continuing this treasured tradition—spreading hope, music, and the true spirit of Christmas.