



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH



Serving the communities of Coraki, Woodburn and Evans Head.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Year A

27th & 28th 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 Max Gow

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

BAPTIST CARE CORAKI
31 December @ 10am



The Homily ... continued from last week

The word He speaks may strike good soil in one person's heart and leave another's barren. Occasionally it is something the priest throws out as an aside that Christ uses to touch the heart of a particular listener. I remember once meeting a young priest who told me that he became a priest because of something I had said in a sermon. I knew what he meant, though equally I knew that his vocation was not of my doing; my words had simply triggered off something that had been brewing for years in his inner self under the gentle influence of the Holy Spirit. But it took that sermon to trigger it. Only Christ can do that sort of thing.

So, approach the homily with expectation. Recognise that Christ is speaking to you. Expect to be enlightened and challenged. Expectation drives out boredom.

Something will strike you if you listen. So, what exactly is Christ saying to you? What does he want of you? Sense the excitement of it.

Often something strikes me in this way even when I myself am doing the preaching! I always preach to myself as much as to the congregation. I may be the preacher, but I am still a field of Christ's sowing, and my own sermon can often hit me squarely between the eyes. And for every inspiration I recognise, I am sure there are many others I don't. We have to train our ears. *Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.*

We all have ears, but only those who have received the Spirit have ears to hear the Voice of the Son of God. We hear the sermon as readily as we hear the one o'clock news; our ears have the necessary facility. But unless we listen in faith to the sermon, recognising the voice of Christ and open to the seed that is being sown, the homily will have little effect. If we only hear without really listening, for there is a real difference, we will inevitably be bored.

But if we listen in faith, we give Christ and the Spirit the opportunity they are looking for. While the preacher is doing his job in the pulpit, the Holy Spirit is doing his job in our hearts: divine cooperation, Christ and his Spirit. Without Christ there is no divine seed; without the Spirit there is no living water. On its own the soil is barren and unfit to receive the seed that is sown.

In every sermon, no matter what it is about, no matter how long or short it is, no matter how eloquent or otherwise the priest may be who is delivering it, there is seed there that Christ wants to sow in your heart while the Spirit is there eager to water, germinate and cultivate it. Remember Cardinal Newman's motto: *Cor ad cor loquitur* – heart speaks to heart. In the homily it happens: the Heart of Christ speaks to the human heart.

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



New parishioners are very welcome to Coraki/Evans Head Parish. We invite you to complete a census form from the rear of the church.

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 Mick Bell (Casino), Des & Michael Enright 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.



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!

Catholic Impact Report

The inaugural Catholic Impact Report highlights the collective mission, service, and outreach of the Diocesan of Lismore for the 2024 year. The report brings together the work occurring across ministries every day.

Some important points include:


- \$6.9 million contributed by diocesan ministries to the Australian community from fundraising programs, and in-kind services.
- 97,980 Catholics supported across 22 parishes with thousands receiving sacramental and pastoral care.
- 18,667 students educated by 2,847 staff in our Catholic schools.
- 1,097 children looked after through Out of School Hours services
- 15,514 patients cared for at St Vincent's Hospital
- 2,567 people supported through diocesan aged care and community care services.
- 144 hours of safeguarding training to clergy, employees and volunteers to strengthen safe environments.

this report reflects the generosity and service of thousands of people - clergy, staff, and volunteers who live the Gospel every day.

Catholic Life
December Edition

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





Diocesan Investment Fund

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

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!*

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

EPIPHANY BLESSING

Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year

The ancient custom of marking the door with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the Feast of Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk will be blessed at Masses for the Epiphany and parishioners are invited to take some home as well as the text provided for the home blessing, on the day.

This day also concludes the Jubilee Year of Hope when the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome will be closed, concluding a special time of prayer, spiritual renewal and experience of God's mercy, that began on Christmas Eve 2024.

For Sale - Licence to Occupy

A two-bedroom, single lock up garage, one-bathroom unit. Available for Licence to Occupy. Rear of 32 Queen Elizabeth Drive Coraki. Independent Living Care of the Aged. Contact the Coraki Parish Office for details on 6628 3047 or email parish@acrcc.org.au



Did you know?

1st & 2nd Collections

The 1st Collection is your donation to the support of our Priests and the Clergy of the Diocese.

The 2nd Collection is your donation to the upkeep and running of the Parish. This includes expenses such as electricity, insurances, building maintenance and upkeep of Church equipment.

A sincere thank you to all that continue to support our parish through planned giving and weekly collections. Your generosity supports the ongoing mission and pastoral life of our parish community.