



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year C

14th September 2025

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)
2. When he slew them then they would seek him,
return and seek him in earnest.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer. (R.)
3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;
they lied to him with their lips.
For their hearts were not truly with him;
they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)
4. Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger
when he might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are;

and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'



IONA-MARYKNOLL & KOOWEERUP

PARISHES IN PARTNERSHIP

Parish Office: Iona & Kooweerup - 0456000990

Parish Website: stjosephsionamaryknoll.com.au

Parish Team

Fr. Avinash George (Parish Priest)

Mob. 0451 997 904

Sharon Sparks (Parish Secretary Iona and Kooweerup)

Ph. 0456000990

ionamaryknoll@cdsale.org.au

kooweerup@cdsale.org.au

Columba Primary School 5629 5933

Andrew Greco (Principal)

St James' Primary School, 59425404

Bec Kollaris (Principal)

St John the Baptist Primary School, 5997 1653

Chris Dortmans (Principal)

Baptism Co-ordinators

Iona parish—Cath 0407444303

ionamaryknoll@cdsale.org.au

KWR parish—Eileen Crowley 0409971712

ecrowley@stjohnskwr.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding

Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. **Bernie Hance**(KWR) **Marlene Dalziel** (Lang Lang)

Email: kooweerup@cdsale.org.au

Liz Harrison & Ray Hearn (Iona)

Sharon Sparks (Maryknoll)

Email: ionamaryknoll@cdsale.org.au



This weekend in the Iona parish at
Holy Family Maryknoll
we welcome

Jesse James and Lexi Jayde Simpson

Children of Luke and Jenna

**Our parishes welcome these children with joy
into the Christian community
and life of Christ**

**..may the flame of light received today be kept alive
and shine and glow for others to see and to use..
..to be a light of Christ for all.**

Tuesday 16/9	Kooweerup	9.15am
Wednesday 17/9	Columba	9.15am
Thursday 18/9	*Iona	9.30am
Friday 19/9	NNG	9.30am
Saturday 20/9	NNG	5.00pm
Sunday 21/9	Lang Lang- Kooweerup Iona	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am
Liturgies	Lang Lang	9.30am
Latin Mass	Iona	1st Sunday each month 5pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Our parishes acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of this land, who have walked upon and cared for it for thousands of years.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

2025 Australian Catholic Youth Festival –

The ultimate Catholic youth experience!

ACYF is on again. It's going to be bigger, bolder, and more inspiring than ever! Join thousands of young people from across the country for Australia's largest gathering of Catholic youth!!

WHERE? Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre.

WHEN? Sunday AFTERNOON, 30th November to Tuesday EVENING, 2nd December 2025.

WHO? Anyone from Year 9 (in 2025) up to 25 years old.

WHAT'S IN STORE? Powerful keynote speakers, live music & concerts, interactive workshops, games & creative zones, justice discussions & community vibes, prayer, Mass, and a buzzing expo. Whether you're searching for meaning, a different community vibe, a new faith experience, or just an unforgettable experience – ACYF is your place to be!

INTERESTED? contact your Parish Priest or Parish Office to register your interest

Parish office: 0456000990 **Email:** ionamaryknoll@cdsale.org.au or kooweerup@cdsale.org.au

Parish News and Events

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Val Feltham, Colin Goldsmith, Fr Michael Willemsen, Fr Peter Slater, Natalie Hearn, Ray Rogers, Ellie Gardiner, Laura Cassar Jacqui Vandelight and Antoinetta Ventura.

Anniversaries : Bill O'Donohue, Maureen Goldsmith

Recent Deaths: Fr Andrew Wise (former parish priest of Kooweerup)

"Eternal rest grant unto them , O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."

OUR OFFERINGS LAST WEEKEND

Iona: Stewardship—\$1143.70 Presbytery \$367.45

KWR: Stewardship— \$509.00 Presbytery \$438.80

Father's Day collection— Iona \$540.00

Kooweerup \$616.00

Thank you for your contributions, they are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Upcoming meetings

Fr Avinash would like to meet with **ALL** communion ministers, including those who assist at Masses and/or take communion to the sick, as well as anyone interested in becoming a communion minister. This meeting will be on **Thursday October 9th at 4pm in the NNG office**

All current and aspiring Liturgy leaders are invited to meet with Fr Avinash on **Friday 17th October** 4pm at Kooweerup. The Diocese has put out new booklets and information to assist with the celebration of liturgies where there is no priest available. Your attendance will be appreciated. Thank you.

St Sofia festival

Sunday 26th October at St John's KWR
Mass at 9.30am followed by picnic lunch, food vans and loads of entertainment.

Catholic Young Adults Group

Catholic young adults (18-35 year olds) are invited to join us in Warragul for an afternoon of faith and friendship. We'll be having afternoon tea, playing boardgames, and praying together. Join us at 3:00 PM on Saturday, 20th September at St. Joseph's Church, Warragul. Bring along something to share for afternoon tea, your rosary beads and your favourite boardgame if you have one. We love meeting new people at our events and hope to see some new faces there!

Parish Reading Rosters

Sept 13th/14th	READERS	MUSIC / LEADER	SPECIAL MINISTER
NNG	Theresa V B	Sharon	Marg
KWR	Anne		Nella
IONA	Lucy		
MKNOLL	Bernadette	Sharon	Kerry
LANG LANG	Mick K	Marlene	
Sept 20th/21st	READERS	MUSIC/ LEADER	SPECIAL MINISTER
NNG	Sharon	Paul	
KWR	Joan		Sue
IONA	Sam		
MKNOLL	Kate	Jo	Gady
LANG LANG	Volunteer		MASS

Eucharistic Ministers for the Sick

DATE	IONA- MARYKNOLL	KOOWEERUP
Sept 14th	Veronica	
Sept 21st	Lucy/Frances	

Church cleaning/flowers

MKNOLL	IONA - cleaning - flowers	NNG—cleaning
September— Bernadette	Cleaning Oct 7th —Mary P, Arlyn, Miriam PB. & Liz	7/9 to 20/9— Meg
October - Jo	Flowers - Sept 21st Mary S	21/9 to 4/10— Rachel

FRIENDS OF JESUS DISCUSSION GROUP KWR

2nd Thursday of the month 1.00pm at St John's

****Next meeting Oct 9th ****

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US, ALL WELCOME

Parish Groups/Information

PARISH OFFICES Iona-Maryknoll parish office is located behind St James Church. 60 Nar Nar Goon Rd Nar Nar Goon -
Open Tuesdays 9.00am to 2.00pm and Friday 9.00 to 1.00—Sharon (Parish Secretary) Ph. 0456000990
Email: ionamaryknoll@cdsale.org.au

Kooweerup Parish office is located at the Presbytery. 166-168 Station Street Kooweerup (facing Salmon St) Office hours
are Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00pm Email: kooweerup@cdsale.org.au Ph. 0456000990

Contact Sharon Sparks Email: kooweerup@cdsale.org.au

IONA-MARYKNOLL PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE Des Wynne (Chair), Gady Noonan (minutes) Frank Rovers, Leo
Garvey, Sharon Sparks, Ray Hearn and John Van Bortel Next meeting: **Thursday September 11th at 7.00pm NNG**

KOOWEERUP FINANCE COMMITTEE: Members—John Hester, Enzo Buccheri, Harold Keily, Peter Feltham
Parish Finance committees advise the Parish Priest on financial policies and matters of the Parish.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Iona-Mknoll reps: Sam Franzi, KWR reps: Connie Bontorno, Minutes secretary—Sharon
Sparks Ex officio members: Andrew Greco, Chris Dortmans, Bec Kolaris

Next meeting Wednesday October 15th 5.30pm at Kooweerup

HALL HIRE: For hire information of our Parish halls please contact - **Iona hall**— Liz Harrison. Mob. 0437759844

OR TEXT Miriam 0417542134, **Fr Pooley Hall Maryknoll**— Sharon Sparks. Mob. 0411500364.

ST.VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: St Vinnies Contacts Koo We Rup /Iona Maryknoll Conference

Referral for material aid support needs to go via the Cranbourne Call Centre on 5995 0211

Anyone interested in volunteering locally ring Deb Kerr President on 0408 971 063

Our meeting is on the 4th Sunday of the Month. The next meeting is **September 28th 10.30am** (after Mass) at St Johns

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: The Iona branch of the CWL meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Iona hall

Next meeting: Wednesday September 24th 10.30am. ALL WELCOME.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of
charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your
Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May
those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure
expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of
Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and
peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

The message of the Cross is not condemnation, but salvation. Not despair, but hope.

Such themes are strongly evident in Pope Leo's comments on migrants and refugees. 'In a world darkened by
war and injustice,' he says, 'even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope.
Their courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can see and gives
them the strength to defy death.'

Indeed, he suggests, they 'remind the Church of her pilgrim dimension, perpetually journeying towards her final
homeland.'

'Their presence, then,' the pope declares, 'should be recognised and appreciated as a true divine blessing, an
opportunity to open oneself to the grace of God, who gives new energy and hope to his Church.'

We too, in turn, have the opportunity to 'be a living witness to hope, one that is understood as the promise of a
present and a future where the dignity of all as children of God is recognised.'

We are called therefore to be people who welcome the stranger, manifesting the hope of the Cross where and
when we can.