



Welcome to the Parish

11th/12th July 2026 Year A

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

SYCAMORE, *the tree Zacchaeus climbed*

Very Rev Don White
Parish Priest VG

Newman House is a chaplaincy for university students in central London, run by the Diocese of Westminster. In 2014 a group of young people, led by Fr Stephen Wang (former Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome and now bishop-elect of Arundel - Brighton) wanted to develop a programme that would make Christianity more accessible to their fellow students.

The goal was to introduce the Christian faith for those who knew little or nothing about it, and to create a welcoming atmosphere where people could relax and feel at home. The Sycamore course was developed with small resources. In 2014, a first set of films was produced on a budget and put online to share with others. And so, from a small beginning Sycamore started and it is now used in countries all over the world.

Why the name "Sycamore"? Luke's Gospel recalls an episode when Jesus comes to the town of Jericho. A man called Zacchaeus is so curious about Jesus that he climbs a Sycamore tree to get a better view. When he finally meets him, they begin a conversation, and his life is changed forever. The Sycamore tree is the symbol of something that helps others to get a wider perspective on life and faith.

I first came to know about Sycamore while working in a parish in England after I had completed my studies in Rome. Sycamore is used widely in England and aims to

present the Christian faith through the lens of the Catholic tradition across all age groups. I found it to be flexible in the way it is presented, aiming to meet the formation needs of where people find themselves on their faith journey. It focuses on what faith in God means, to understanding what prayer is, or the grace the sacraments bring into our lives. It explores what it means to encounter Christ right through to doctrinal beliefs that we express in our Creed each Sunday.

Fr. Stephen Wang who initially led the Sycamore project has now been appointed Bishop of Arundel-Brighton in England recently said that when a parish uses Sycamore to reach out to the wider community it is using a program that tries to appreciate where people are in their faith journey. He added, "We need to be really welcoming and opening to people, and to see that they're coming from very different places. As a Church, we need to have a big heart and open doors, and a flexibility. This might not be tidy." [1]

I am grateful to those who have taken up the challenge to offer Sycamore from 23rd July, running the Enquiry module of talks. It is my hope that our parish will take a good look at the Sycamore program and consider how it might become part of parish life. There may be someone that you know who might welcome an invitation to "climb the sycamore tree" and to see and hear the Lord Jesus calling them anew.

[1] The Tablet online 8th July 2026.



SYCAMORE

YOU ARE INVITED

space to meet other people • share ideas • explore your beliefs

Commencing Thursday 23rd July 4.00 pm
Loyola Centre Shalom College

Please register at the Parish office on 4151 6666



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg respectfully acknowledges the Taribelang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Bailai Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the country in which we live. We pay respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

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 PO BOX 79 Bundaberg Qld 4670
 sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au
 www.bundabergcatholic.net.au
 Phone 07 4151 - 6666

Parish News and Announcements



"Do it for Cancer" Luncheon

Saturday 17th October 2026
11.00am
Brothers Sports Club

More details
to come

This year our annual Cancer Fundraiser will be held in conjunction with our 150years Celebrations.

CELEBRATE 150YRS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BUNDABERG 16th - 18th OCTOBER:

This year we celebrate 150 years since the first Catholic Church was erected in Bundaberg with a resident priest. The weekend will include - Mass with Bishop Daniel Meagher presiding.

Memorabilia Display
"Do it for Cancer Luncheon"
Multi-Cultural Morning Tea.

If you would like to assist the organising committee with any of the events, have memorabilia to display or memories to share, please come to our next meeting on Wednesday 15th July in the Parish Office at 5.00pm.

EXCITING FORMATION OPPORTUNITY - XAVIER SCHOOL OF MISSION:

Are you a parish employee or volunteer, a Catholic school teacher or staff member of perhaps someone who would like to be more involved in the mission of the Church but are not sure where to start?

Join us on Saturday, 18th and Sunday, 19th July in Rockhampton for Xavier School of Mission - Renewed, Equipped and Connected.

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or contact formation@rok.catholic.net.au (hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton and the Holy Spirit Seminary).



MAX26 National Gathering

The MAX26 event is another step in your journey to find the deeper purpose of your life.

Be inspired, challenged, and energised to navigate the oceans of life alongside other men as you share your stories, faith, and experiences together.

The conference will be held at:
Luther Heights Camp
1592-1606 David Low Way
Coolool Beach QLD

The event will run from Friday evening to Sunday early afternoon and include a mix of talks, panel discussions and small group sessions. There will also be opportunities for personal quiet time and reflection, as well as fellowship and recreational activity.

The cost of attending all days and evenings, starting Friday is \$250.00. If on-site accommodation is required as well as attendance the cost is \$450.00.

The Bundaberg branch of MenAlive is considering taking a small bus if there is sufficient interest to travel together. If so please register yourself for the conference and advise the Parish Office 4151 6666 so numbers can be gauged.

Registration is at: https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MAX2026Sunshine_Coast

If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support.



Parish News and Announcements

St Joseph's School Community Celebrating 150yrs.

10.30am- Parish Mass in Holy Rosary Church
Feast Day of Mary MacKillop

11.45am- Open School: visit classrooms, memorabilia, student artwork.
Opening of new Paver Path Garden.
Food and Drink vans onsite.
150th Merchandise for sale.

6.30pm- Dinner at the Brothers Club with entertainment
Pre-purchased tickets available through the School.

**Community Celebration Day
Saturday 8th August**

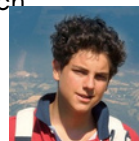
VISITATION MEETING: Wednesday 15th July in the Parish Office, 10.00am for morning tea prior to **10.30am** start. New and existing members always welcome.

CEMETERY PRAYERS: Thursday 16th July, 9.30am in the Catholic Cemetery.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S ROSARY: Please join with us in Holy Rosary Church
Thursday 16th July at 3.30pm

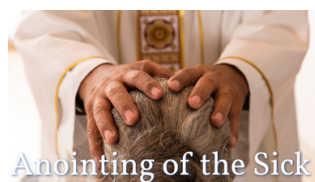


"The Rosary is the shortest ladder to Heaven"
St Carlo Acutis



CHILDREN'S MASS: Sunday 19th July, 9.00am at St Patrick's Church. Morning Tea will follow after Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

SOCIAL, ECOLOGICAL & JUSTICE WORKING PARTY: Will hold their next meeting on **Monday, 20th July** in the Parish Office at **4.00pm**. If you are interested and would like to know more, we would love to see you.



Anointing of the Sick

ANOINTING MASS: Our monthly Anointing Mass will be held on **Thursday, 23rd July at 10.00am** in Holy Rosary Church. All wishing for this special blessing are encouraged to come.

Morning Tea will be served after the Mass.



*Immaculate Heart of Mary
Bundaberg Conference*

**Request the pleasure of your company at
their 71st Anniversary Festival Gathering**

WHERE: St Patrick's Hall, Power Street, Bundaberg

WHEN: Saturday 25th July 2026 commencing at 3.30pm.

Please join us for Afternoon Tea and Spiritual Reflection from Fr Don White.
Mass will be held in St Patrick's Church at 6.00pm where the New Leadership Team of St Vincent de Paul Bundaberg will be commissioned.

RSVP your attendance: contact the Parish Office (4151 6666) by 21st July

Liturgies

**Monday 13 July 2026
St Henry**

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass
6.00pm Holy Rosary
Adoration & Penance

**Tuesday 14 July 2026
St Camillus de Lellis**

8.30am St James' Penance
9.00am St James' - Mass
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

**Wednesday 15 July 2026
St Bonaventure**

8.00am Shalom- LWC
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

**Thursday 16 July 2026
Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

7.00am St Patrick's - LWC

Friday 17 July 2026

11.00am Holy Rosary - Exposition
11.30am Holy Rosary-Penance
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 18 July 2026

7.30am St Patrick's - Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary' - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

Sunday 19 July 2026

7.00am St James' - Mass
8.00am Holy Rosary - Mass
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass
5.30pm Holy Rosary - Mass

SCRIPTURES

First Reading
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19:
Second Reading
Romans 8:26-27:
Gospel
Matthew 13:24-43:

Our Vision:

Nourished by
Word and Sacraments,
we go out,
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
to welcome and share
God's Love respectfully,
with all people.



AFTER HOURS

Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies
Phone 07 4151 6666
& follow the prompts.

Church Funeral Liturgy

Funeral Mass

Joe Gatt
Holy Rosary Church
Mon 13 July 10.00am

Funeral Mass

Kevin Lines
Holy Rosary Church
Fri 17 July 9.30am

Funeral Mass

Mary Attard
Holy Rosary Church
Mon 20 July 10.00am

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Don White PP VG

Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Nguyen

Associate Pastor

Mr Jeffrey Caluag

Operations Manager

Ms Pauline Leahy

Liturgy, Music, Sacramental &
RCIA Co-ordinator

Ms Judy Pidcock

Pastoral Care Practitioner

Mrs Jan Aplin

Safeguarding Representative

Mrs Sandra Fox

Receptionist

Mrs Lyn Callaghan

Bereavement Coordinator



Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word?

Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it." By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed "understand the Word." Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

*Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart.
Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire.
Amen.*

PARISH STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Mrs Kaye Beston

Chair

Ms Madonna Davitt

Deputy Chair

Ms Nadene Pettett

Secretary

Members:

Dr Ken Avenell

Mr Steve Jenés

Miss Clare O'Rourke

Mrs Helen Stanley

Dr Preshy Varghese

Mr Matthias Visona

Mr Michael Walker

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**

Mrs Monica White

Principal

✉ sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au

☎ 07 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School**

Mr Bill Goodwin

Principal

✉ smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au

☎ 07 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**

Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard

Principal

✉ spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au

☎ 07 4152 1380

Shalom College

Mr Dean Wearmouth

Principal

✉ shalom@shalomcollege.com

☎ 07 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church

14 Powers Street

St James' Church

38 See Street Barga

We Pray for our Deceased

RECENTLY DECEASED: Daphne Harriott, Mary Attard, Shannyn Connor, Kevin Lines, Joe Gatt, Moya Cuppitt, Frederick Kitching, Emily Dingle Rudd (Gosford), Bishop Emilio Bataclan (Philippines), Myrl Naske, David Barnes, Norberto Saporne (Philippines) Dan Lavender, Moya Cupitt (Clifton), Rhianna Blacker, Taylisha "T.J" Schnabel (Howard), Terence Dovell.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Beatrice (Beattie) Gill 16.07.1982, Barry Southern 18.07.2025, Joyce Galea 17.07.2023, Mary Mathew 15.07.2025, Virginio Zorzan 22.03.2013, Marie Schneider 05.07.2024, Ann Baxter 3.06.2025, Olivia Cafolla 4.07.2019, Margareta Fitzgerald (Gladstone) 13.06.2000, Joe Della-Vedova 20.06, Kathleen Clarke 17.06.2012, Ronald John Pizaro 29.06.2024, Ann Rosacinda Cruz 17.06.2022, Luigi Zuppichiati 22.06, Francesco Cafolla 22.06.1948, Tonino Crawford 9.06.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Gerry Walsh, Fetrin Family, Rev Fr Aurelio Ocarol Jr, Ernesto Fernando Aguila, Cesarina Della-Vedova, Alma Della, Lew Della, Ron Cook, deceased members of the Geiger, & Cook Families, Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea, deceased relatives of the Galea, & Zahra Families, Kevin and Doris Whalley.



The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2022), and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults. For further information or support please contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office: Response Line: 1800 830 113 (free call) Email: pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net, Diocesan website for more information: <https://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/> To view the Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk commitment statement and policy: www.rock.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html

OTHER CONTACTS

Graham White: 07 4887 3080
Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Catholic Care: 1300 523 985
St Vincent de Paul: 4339 3700
Ozcare: 1800 692 273
Mater Hospital: 4153 9539