

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.



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

Office Hours: 9.00-3.00pm Monday to Friday

📍 Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

📮 PO BOX 79 Bundaberg Qld 4670

✉️ sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au

🌐 www.bundabergcatholic.net.au

☎️ 07 4151 6666

Welcome to the Parish



9th/10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent Yr B

Prepare the way of the Lord

by: *Fr Sijo George*
Associate Pastor

As we enter into this second Sunday of Advent, we are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord by removing any obstacles that may hinder our relationship with God. The Gospel of Mark narrates how John the Baptist's message urges us to make a clear path for the Lord, which requires a time of spiritual preparation and reflection where we must carefully evaluate our priorities and make room for God in our hearts and homes. This season marks a time of anticipation, hopefulness and readiness for the arrival of the Lord, who brings light and salvation to our world.

As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, we are reminded of our responsibility to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and work towards building a more just and compassionate society. We are called to reflect on our lives and examine how we can serve others and make a positive difference.

As we reflect on this passage, we are urged to evaluate our lives and ponder how we are paving the way for the Lord in our hearts and our world. Let this season of Advent serve as a timely reminder to turn away from sin, cultivate a spirit of prayer, generosity, and humility, and welcome the Lord into our hearts and homes.

CHRISTMAS OBLIGATIONS

Sunday and Christmas Day: This year Advent is short. In fact, the last week of Advent is only one day long which will be the fourth Sunday.

Consequently, the obligations of Mass on Sunday and Christmas (a holy day of obligation) fall side by side and are only separated by hours.

It would be a pity to miss either celebration because of their significance liturgically and their rich spiritual message. The times for Sunday December 24th and the Christmas celebrations are advertised in this bulletin. Hopefully, we can complete the Advent season on the Sunday and then be truly ready to wholesomely greet the Lord in our Christmas Masses as He will surely be wanting to greet us in these holy days.

Fr. Don.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Don White PP
Parish Priest

Rev Sijo George
Associate Pastor

Br Ted Magee
Executive Officer/Stewardship

Mrs Anne Sheehan
Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

Mr Jeffrey Caluag
Finance & Marketing Officer

Mrs Marcia Sharp
Visitation Co-ordinator

Mrs Jan Aplin
Safeguarding Representative &
Bereavement Co-ordinator

Mrs Sandra Fox
Receptionist

Property
Jeffrey & Br Ted

PARISH STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Dr Preshy Varghese
Chair

Mrs Kaye Beston
Deputy-Chair

Ms Nadene Pettett
Secretary

Members:

Mr David Batt

Mr John Begea

Ms Madonna Davitt

Mr Michael Walker

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Principal
Mrs Monica White
sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 4151 4771

St Mary's Principal
Mr Bill Goodwin
smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 4152 2167

St Patrick's Principal
Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard
spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 4152 1380

Shalom College Principal
Mr Dan McMahon
shalomcollege.com
Ph: 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church
Corner Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church
14 Powers Street

St James' Church
38 See Street Bargara

Parish News and Announcements

WELCOME PAULINE LEAHY: This week sees the commencement of Pauline Leahy in the Parish Office. Pauline will be working with Anne Sheehan in a handover situation for the next fortnight.

Pauline is no stranger to Bundaberg and the Diocese. After graduating from Loyola College, she worked in the family business, then in other travel consultancy positions and in TAFE. In 2002 she was appointed as Administration Officer at Kepnock Retirement Village and followed this with assignments with St Vincent de Paul Society, Centacare (Catholic Care) and for the past ten or so years has been in parish office administration at Stella Maris Catholic Parish, Maroochydore. During her time in the Diocese, she served on various groups including the Liturgical Commission.

We extend a warm homecoming to Pauline and assure her of our support as she moves into the role of Liturgy/Music/Sacraments/R.C.I.A. Coordinator.

CHRISTMAS WISHES - your choice. Last weekend. On display in the foyer of Holy Rosary are some Christmas paintings produced by the Vanuatuan community presented to our Parish community with their best wishes.

The paintings are numbered, and we ask you to nominate the one painting which you like and place that number in the box beside the paintings. The Company is offering a gift to the artist whose painting we select.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH: Exterior painting is now completed. We thank the contractors (R.A & J.A Solano) who were conscious of the various liturgical ceremonies over the past month and worked around these.

We thank all parishioners who accepted the changed circumstances of entry etc. during the time. The end result is one of which all can be very proud as we see Holy Rosary church suitably adorned as our church in the city centre.

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN SURVEY – final returns. We are collating the returns to our survey. There is a box to receive manually completed forms at the main door of each church **this weekend**. Or you may wish to complete the form by accessing the QR code



YOUNG ADULTS' CONVERSATIONS GROUP: will meet each Sunday evening **after 5.30pm Mass at the Novakoski Centre.**

HELP REQUIRED: If you are able to spare a couple of hours every 4-6 weeks, St Patrick's Church is in need of some cleaners. All equipment is supplied. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Contact the Parish Office on 4151 6666.

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday December 24th
Christmas Eve

Children's Mass-Holy Rosary Church 5.30pm

St Patrick's Church- 6.00pm

Holy Rosary Church-8.00pm

Monday December 25th
Christmas Day

St James' Church-7.00am

Holy Rosary Church-8.00am

St Patrick's Church-9.00am

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS CARDS : Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. **Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au**



 **Caritas AUSTRALIA**

Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact.

www.globalgifts.org.au

Give a gift card that represents a donation



DIRECT DEBIT GIVING: If you wish to make a donation to the Parish by direct debit, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. **Thank You.**



Parish News and Announcements

St Vincent De Paul
Christmas Appeal

To assist the Society to buy gifts,
Cash Donations
are greatly appreciated

Before Monday 18 December
Place money in an envelope and leave
in the gift box at each church

Thank you for your support!

Sacramental Preparation 2024

Children 8+ years

Registrations are being taken now.
Register online
<https://form.jotform.com/222899018048060>
or
Phone the parish office
4151 6666

QR code to Register for
Sacramental Preparation

Christmas Carols

St James Church

38 See Street, Bargara
Sunday, December 17th
4.30pm

Please join us for an afternoon of Christmas Music,
Christmas Hamper raffles,
Followed by a light supper.
Bring your family and friends and join in the spirit of Christmas

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE ON CALENDAR:
The date of the Christmas Carols at St James is
Sunday December 17th.

November Diocesan Newsletter
is now available at the main door of all the churches or on the Diocesan website

Live the Liturgy

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, **"The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."** It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

Recently Baptised: Bethany Clare Black.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED IN PRAYER

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael McBride, Betty Pengelly (Brisbane), Grahame McEnery, Dorothy Davis, Joan Tarling, Nanna Eccles, Jackie Carter (England).

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Marlo Cafolla 1.12.2019, Aurelio Cafolla 1.12.1989, Susan Boisen 10.11.2022, Len Potter 23.11.2019, Dulcie Schafer, Enzo Crappa 6.11.2012, Bill Della Vedova 12.11.2015, Sebastiano Lituri 09.06, Susan Bromwich 11.04.2013, Paul Formosa 5.03.2021.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Phil Marano, Joe Attard, Frank Attard, M'Angelo Theuma, Mary Jane Theuma, Joe and Mary Ellul, Martin Ellul, Kevin and Daphne McGuane, Barry McGuane, Peters and Harte Families, Eileen Egan, Mary Doud, Charles Doud, Elsie Kingsbury, Kathleen Burton, Ted Burton, Colleen Raines, Maglicco Family, Cafolla Family, Crawford Family, Bennett Family, Borza Family, Aprila Family, Forte Family, Baxter Family, Joe De Florian, Stan Bryant, Joyce Galea, Ron Cook, Amber Cooper, Margaret Morris, Leisa Dick, Mario Coco, Mary Galea, Holy Souls, Paul and Laurence Galea, Mick and Mary Galea deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families. Kevin and Doris Whalley.

LITURGIES

Monday 11 December 2023

St Damasus

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8.30am St James' - Penance

9.00am St James - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Wednesday 13 December 2023

St Lucy

11.45am Holy Rosary - Penance

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Thursday 14 December 2023

St John of the Cross

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Friday 15 December 2023

11.00 am Holy Rosary— Exposition

11.30 am Holy Rosary— Penance

12.15 pm Holy Rosary—Mass

Saturday 16 December 2023

7.30am St Patrick's - Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary— Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

17 December 2023 Year B(2)

7.00am St James'

8.00am Holy Rosary

9.00am St Patrick's

5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Readings

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second Reading

Thessalonians 5:16- 24

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

MEMORIAL MASS

A memorial Mass will be held
for **Grahame McEnery**

At **St Patrick's Church**

Monday, December 11th

10.30am

Light refreshments will follow
in St Patrick's Hall.



PRAYER GROUPS

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Where: St Patrick's Church

When:

First Sunday 2.00pm-5.00pm

Third Sunday 3.00pm-5.00pm

Everyone is Welcome

ROSARY GROUP: The Rosary Group meets every Tuesday at St Patrick's 5.00pm and Thursday at Holy Rosary Church 5.30pm.

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

Ms Judy Pidcock: 4887 3080
Diocesan Safeguarding

Catholic Care: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4339 3700

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Mater Hospital: 4153 9539

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

AFTER HOURS

**Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies**

Phone 4151 6666

& follow the prompts

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH OPEN HOURS

Some security has been put in place.

Holy Rosary Church will be open **weekdays from 9.00am - 3.00pm.**

On weekends and Public Holidays, it will be open a short time before and closed soon after any liturgies or rituals in the Church.

POPE FRANCIS SENDS STRONG MESSAGE TO COP28

The future of humanity depends on what people choose now, Pope Francis said in his message to global leaders at the World Climate Action Summit of the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP 28). **VATICAN CITY (CNS) see link below.**

"Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death?" he asked in his message. "To all of you I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future!"

"The purpose of power is to serve. It is useless to cling to an authority that will one day be remembered for its inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so. History will be grateful to you," the Pope wrote.

Excerpts from Pope Francis' full written message were read by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, Dec. 2 during the high-level segment with heads of state and government at the climate conference, COP28, being held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov. 30-Dec. 12.

The Vatican published the pope's full speech Dec. 2, although Cardinal Parolin read only excerpts at the summit to respect the three-minute limit on national statements. The text was submitted in full to the conference.

"Sadly, I am unable to be present with you, as I had greatly desired," the Pope's text said.

The destruction of the environment is "a sin" that not only "greatly endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable," he wrote, but it also "threatens to unleash a conflict between generations."

"The drive to produce and possess has become an obsession, resulting in an inordinate greed that has made the environment the object of unbridled exploitation," the Pope wrote. People must recognize their limits, with humility and courage, and seek authentic fulfillment.

"What stands in the way of this? The divisions that presently exist among us," he wrote.

The world "should not be un-connected by those who govern it, with international negotiations that 'cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good,'" he wrote, quoting from his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home."

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2023/pope-calls-world-leaders-end-divisions-fight-climate-change#:~:text=message%20to%20global-leaders,-at%20the%20World>

SUMMER CAMP 2024

Ignite Summer Camp Diocesan Group

When: 10-14 January, 2024

Where: QCCC Mapleton (Sunshine Coast)

Who: Any 2024 high school students

Ignite Summer Camp is back in 2024, with four days of huge outdoor games, amazing rallies, 200 new mates and connecting with Jesus. Our diocese will be taking a group to Summer Camp, providing transport to and from the event and even providing an extra night's accommodation so we will be ready to go when the camp begins on the morning of the 11th of January. To register with our diocesan group, scan the QR code or go to

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/services-agencies/pastoral-services/youth-ministry/summer-camp/>. For more details contact Mick at youth@rok.catholic.net.au or 0433 897 973.

