

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: 9.00-2.00pm Monday to Friday

📍 Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

📧 PO BOX 79 Bundaberg Qld 4670

✉️ [sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au)

🌐 [www.bundabergcatholic.net.au](http://www.bundabergcatholic.net.au)

☎️ 07 4151 6666

Welcome to the Parish



First Sunday of Advent <sup>Year A</sup>

29th/30th November 2025

## A MEANINGFUL *Advent*

By: **Pauline Leahy**

Lit, Mus, Sac & RCIA Co-Ordinator

This weekend we find ourselves at a new beginning; the start of our new Church year.

Every Advent we begin anew as we prepare for Christ. As the church environment changes to purple and our Advent wreaths appear we are drawn into “a period for devout and joyful expectation” (GNLYC # 39). We are reminded to reflect on who Jesus is and why he came.

Simply put, Jesus come for **you**. In Matthew, we hear this of Jesus’ birth: “She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Everything Jesus did was to bring us salvation. The name “Jesus” comes from the Hebrew name Yeshua, which means “God saves” or “the Lord is salvation”. The word “salvation” means to rescue. Jesus’ purpose of coming to earth was to show us the Way, the Truth, and Life. Jesus gave us the way to become even closer to God.

Instead of waiting for New Years Day to reflect on the past year and set your new year’s resolutions, we are asked to take this time of Advent to reflect and prepare for Christ. We can be distracted by the worldly busyness of the past year, and concerns and eagerness for the coming year. But it’s important to take this time, pause, and prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

Every day we are journeying with, and towards, Christ. We can be distracted by the busy-ness of our lives, but Advent is an opportunity to pause. Spend more time in prayer and reflection. Make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. There are also still copies of the Advent booklet available in the Parish Office, which guide you through daily reflections. Maybe you would like to set up a quiet place to pray in your home, using purple (the colour for the season of Advent), and each week’s theme: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

As this Jubilee of Hope soon draws to a close it’s a good time to remember Pope Francis called us to reconnect with the beautiful mysteries of Advent, to rediscover ourselves, our faith, and the purpose of family. He asked us to rediscover hope. Hope is not easy to have by itself, but it is easy to find when we prepare ourselves and when we seek to understand the mysteries of Christ’s birth.

While addressing the crowds at St Peter’s Square for the Jubilee Audience a few months ago, Pope Leo highlighted that the Jubilee is a call for rekindled faith and trust in God’s promises. “This Jubilee may be a time of spiritual renewal, rekindling our hope for the forgiveness of our sins, for the help of God’s grace, and for life everlasting.”

Watching in joyful hope is what the season of Advent is all about. The texts of Advent we hear and pray during mass are some of the richest treasures of the Church’s liturgy and can draw us into the true spirit and purpose of the Advent season. I hope this Advent season gives you an opportunity to pause and focus on Jesus more during the lead up to Christmas.

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 our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev Don White PP VG**  
Parish Priest

**Rev Anthony Nguyen**  
Associate Pastor

**Grant Sutherland**  
Seminarian

**Mr Jeffrey Caluag**  
Operations Manager

**Ms Pauline Leahy**  
Lit, Mus, Sac & RCIA Co-ordinator

**Mrs Jan Aplin**  
Safeguarding Representative

**Ms Judy Pidcock**  
Pastoral Care Practitioner

**Mrs Sandra Fox**  
Receptionist

## 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 Principal**

**Mrs Monica White**  
[sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Ph: 4151 4771

**St Mary's Principal**

**Mr Bill Goodwin**  
[smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Ph: 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Principal**

**Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard**  
[spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Ph: 4152 1380

**Shalom College**

**Principal**  
**Mr Dan McMahon**  
[shalomcollege.com](http://shalomcollege.com)  
Ph: 4155 8111

## CHURCHES

**Holy Rosary Church**  
Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

**St Patrick's Church**  
14 Powers Street

**St James' Church**  
38 See Street Bargara

## Parish News and Announcements

**CATHOLIC CEMETERY WORKING BEE:** Help is required to assist a small group of volunteers on **Saturday 29th November** at **6.00am** to tidy and prepare the Catholic Cemetery for those who visit loved ones over this Christmas period. If you have any of the following please bring along to help on the day. Rakes, spades, whipper snipper, blowers or any garden tools you think may be useful.



**MATER HOSPITAL ADVENT MASS :** Mater Bundaberg Hospital invites you to attend our Advent Mass to be held **Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at **10.00am** in the Mater Chapel. You are most welcome to stay for morning tea after this celebration.

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH:** A meeting will be held in the Parish office on **Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** at **4.00pm** to discuss the celebrations for next year. We are looking for anyone who is willing to help prior to and on the weekend of the Anniversary on 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

**CATHOLIC PARISH FLOAT IN PAGEANT OF LIGHTS:** This Thursday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>** the Catholic Parish will again participate in the 2025 Christmas Pageant of Lights Parade up and down Bourbong Street. We would love to have as many Parishioners of all ages and all cultural groups to join us as a real showing of our faith and helping to spread the Christmas message. We will have a decorated float, on which a limited number of children will be able to sit. (Please note any children participating must have a parent walking with the float). Participants should turn up at the assembly point on the north/western End of Bourbong/Walla Street (Opposite GYG) between **6.20pm-6.35pm** and walk with other Parish members and parents behind our float (**Float number 16**). Cultural Groups are invited to dress in their traditional costumes. Those wanting to, can dress up as Joseph, Mary, a Shepherd, a Wise Man/Woman, an Angel, a Guard, or anything Christmassy (other than Santa - the only Santa allowed in the Parade is the official Santa).

There will be costumes available for those on the float surplus costumes will be given to walkers. An artificial candle will be provided to wave to the crowd as you walk along. It will be finished before 8.30pm. Please advise names to the Parish or School Office of all who wish to participate on the night by **Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS:** are now being prepared. If you are available to assist in Ministries over that time, please contact the Parish Office with your details by **Monday December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**TERM 1 ROSTERS FOR 2026:** Please contact the Parish Office by **Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** to advise if you are not available for **Term 1 (January-March)**. We greatly appreciate the time given in all Ministries of the Church. Once the Roster has been completed we ask that you arrange a swap and advise the Parish Office if you are unavailable for your rostered day. If you would like to know more, please contact the Parish Office.

**HOLY ROSARY MORNING TEA:** **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** after the 8.00am Mass. As we embrace Advent, we ask parishioners to come along and celebrate a "Christmas Around the World" morning tea. Please bring a plate of Christmas food from your home country to share with a cuppa. Take some time to connect with your fellow parishioners as we journey towards Christmas.

### CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

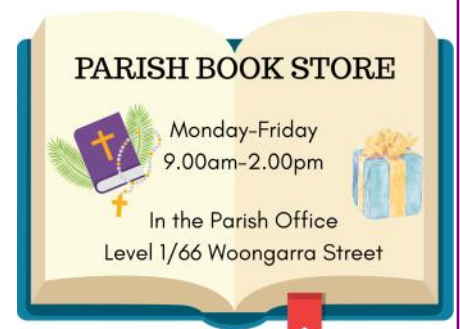
**In Holy Stillness (Daily reflections for advent) \$5.00**

**God's Word 2026 (Daily reflections) \$22.00**

**Columban Calendars \$8.00**

**Christmas Cards (Pack of eight) \$3.00**

If you would like to purchase any of these items please contact the Parish Office to arrange for delivery to your regular church. An envelope will be provided for cash payment and returned by placing in the weekly collection.



**DIRECT DEBIT GIVING:** If you wish to make a donation to our parish, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. **Thank you for your support.**



## Parish News and Announcements

**THANK YOU, FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS:** A gathering will be held in the Parish Office on **Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>** at **5.30pm**. This will be an opportunity to thank those that have contributed to the success of our parish in the many and varied ministries that they serve. This will also be a time of farewell as we say goodbye to Grant Sutherland our seminarian as he continues on his journey to Priesthood. Finally we congratulate Fr Don as he celebrates 35 years as an ordained priest.

Please **RSVP** your attendance to the Parish Office by **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER :** for November is available at the Main door of the churches or by clicking on the link below.

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/news-events/bishops-newsletter/?edition=november-2025>

**URGENTLY REQUIRED:** If you can help with the cleaning of our churches it would be greatly appreciated. The generosity of our church cleaners can not be taken for granted.

They offer their time freely once a month for one –two hours (depending on the church and number of cleaners). Our numbers are reducing due to age and moving away to be closer to family. There is no set time or day the churches must be cleaned (preferably closer to the weekend). If you think you may be able to help by joining a cleaning roster, contact the Parish Office 4151 6666.

**THEOLOGY OF THE BODY IMMERSION COURSE IN JANUARY:** The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton is offering sponsorship for an individual from our diocese to attend *Theology of the Body I: Head & Heart Immersion*. This course is being presented by the Theology of the Body Institute in partnership with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and will take place from the 18th-23rd of January 2026 at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Gorse Vale (NSW).

The cost of the course is \$2100 but the diocese will completely cover this cost for the successful applicant. The successful applicant will still need to arrange for their own transport to and from the event. Applications for sponsorship will close on the 8th of December and the successful applicant will be notified shortly after. To apply for sponsorship or for more information go to <https://forms.office.com/r/SEQ5Csz4m9> or scan the QR code.



**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Jenesis Liz Jijo



### WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ernie Woods, Mary Law-nee Curran (Mackay), Br Vin Stallard (Brisbane), Annie Giannangelo, Barry Sharp, Joseph Theuma, Lino De Zotti, Vince Farrelly, Bill Taylor (Curra), Di Ahmat (Mackay) Isla Scott (Sydney).

**MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES:** Richie Rosolen 1.12.2024, Veronica Mafalda de Jesus 18.11.2016, Shane Hocking 23.11.2018, Len Potter 23.11.2019, Elizabeth (Bessie) Mooney 18.11.1973, Bill Ireland 17.10, Eva Dorian 6.11.2024, Floria Maria Cafolla 20.11.2015, Vittario Cafolla 13.11.1948, Mrs Baxter 20.10, Margaret Cagney 4.11.2007, Suzanne Boisen 10.11.2022, Sheelah Cagney 20.10.1995, Antonio De Zotti 20.10.2020.

**MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST:** Cameron Hocking, Riley Poppy Lawrence, Dominic Attard, Brian Fordham, Terence Cagney, Sheelah Margaret Cagney, Margaret Cagney, Gloria Collins, deceased members of the Cagney, Cross, Collins & Martin Families, Renzo Crappa, Gian Franco Crappa, Bill Della Vedova, Vera Robinson, Bede Robinson, Gerry Walsh, Antonio De Zotti, Jem Ireland, Darryl Lamberton, Paul Formosa, Lawrence Formosa, Formosa and Grima Families, Lisa Camilleri, Joe Formosa & Family, Albino Modolo, Romon D Andres, Rosa A Andres, Lawrence Galea, Paul Galea, Joseph Attard, Joyce Galea, Br Ted Magee, John Boniface Edwards, Joseph Galea, Giuseppe Matteo Marin, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families. Kevin and Doris Whalley.

## LITURGIES

### Monday 1 December 2025

9.00am St Patrick's – Mass  
6.00pm Holy Rosary  
**Adoration**

### Tuesday 2 December 2025

5.30pm St Patrick's—LWC

### Wednesday 3 December 2025

#### St Francis Xavier

10.00am Mater-Mass  
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

### Thursday 4 December 2025

#### St John Damascene

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

### Friday 5 December 2025

8.30am St James' - Penance  
9.00am St James' - Mass  
9.30am Holy Rosary- Exposition  
10.45am Holy Rosary- Mass  
**St Joseph's end of year Mass**

### Saturday 6 December 2025

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

### Sunday 7 December 2025

#### Second Sunday of Advent

7.00am St James' - Mass  
8.00am Holy Rosary-Mass  
9.00am St Patrick's-Mass  
12.00pm Baffle Creek-Mass  
5.30pm Holy Rosary- Mass

### SCRIPTURES

#### First Reading

*Isaiah 11: 1-10*

#### Second Reading

*Romans 15:4-9*

#### Gospel

*Matthew 3: 1-12*



*Christmas  
Carols*

**Christmas in Australia**

*St James' Church*

**Saturday**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 4.30pm**

**Come along and enjoy  
Carols, Christmas  
hamper raffles and  
light refreshments.**

**FR JOHN MAIN  
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

Weekly Session

**Tuesday: 10.00am-10.30am**

Sessions are held in the Chapel in the Parish Office.  
New members welcome.

**MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS**

**CENACLE:** every Monday at St Patrick's Church after the 9.00am Mass. All are welcome.

**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](mailto: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.roc.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html](http://www.roc.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html)

**OTHER CONTACTS**

Graham White: 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**

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.

# Encourage

Deeper Understanding of Scripture

— Father John Muir

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing – someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos will come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief – not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

©LPi

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS**

If you have a child who would like to participate in the re-telling of the Christmas Story during the Children's Mass at 5.30pm on Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, registering for roles will be held on **Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>** in The Navokoski Centre at **3.30pm**.



**Summer Camp 2026 Bulletin Notice**

**Ignite Summer Camp Diocesan Group**

**When:** 7-11 January, 2026

**Where:** QCCC Mapleton (Sunshine Coast)

**Who:** Any 2026 high school students



Ignite Summer Camp is back in 2026, 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 8<sup>th</sup> of January. To register with our diocesan group, scan the QR code or go to

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/services-agencies/youth-ministry/summer-camp/>.

For more details contact Mick at [youth@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:youth@rok.catholic.net.au) or 0433 897 973.