

*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



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

20th/21st December 2025



### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE DIOCESE

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

I wish everyone and all your families and friends a blessed Christmas and a good New Year.

As I write to you after nearly 12 years as your bishop, I have enjoyed visiting the diocese during 2025 and thank each one of you for your support and encouragement for us all.

I pray that God will continue to bless our diocese in the year ahead as we look forward with hope.

During this time of the year, our minds turn towards the birth of our saviour in a little village a long way away. The town of Bethlehem and just this week, the lights went back on in Manger Square leading into the Church of the Nativity. Christians from all over will gather in this place and remember the Prince of Peace was born in Bethlehem and pray for the prized gift of peace. Let us join with them with our prayers and as we hold onto the hope of Christ's gift of peace for all people of good will in the Holy Lands, in our hearts, our hopes, our communities and across the world.

May this Christmas be filled with joy and peace for you and your loved ones.

Yours sincerely

*Michael McCarthy*

**Most Rev Michael McCarthy**

Bishop of Rockhampton

### *A Christmas Message*

by: Fr Don White

*Parish Priest V.G.*

Pope Leo has sent his prayerful support to Australia in the light of the tragic happening over the last week. Now we especially look to the light of Christmas to inspire peace and goodwill among all people and for Christ's healing presence to be in the hearts of so many. Let's continue to hold all those caught up the Bondi shooting in our prayers, knowing evil cannot be allowed to overcome truth and goodness. Fr. Anthony, Fr. John and I say thank you for your support over last year, and wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas, a time to draw close once again to the mystery of the Incarnation all that Christ's birth holds and promises for us.



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.

## Parish News and Announcements

### 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 Presly 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

# Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday 24 December

*Christmas Eve*

Childrens' Mass – Holy Rosary Church 5.30pm

22 Barolin Street, Bundaberg

St Patrick's Church 6.00pm

14 Powers Street, Bundaberg

Holy Rosary Church 8.00pm

22 Barolin Street, Bundaberg

Thursday 25 December

*Christmas Day*

St James' Church 7.00am

38 See Street, Bargara

Holy Rosary Church 8.00am

22 Barolin Street, Bundaberg

St Patrick's Church 9.00am

14 Powers Street, Bundaberg

*The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg*

### PLEASE NOTE

Prior to the Christmas Masses we have scheduled extra Reconciliation times.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**St Patrick's**

4.45pm-5.15pm

6.00pm-6.30pm

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Holy Rosary**

9.00am-10.00am



*Christmas Carols*

**“Christmas in Australia”**

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

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

*St James' Church, Bargara*

**38 See Street, Bargara.**



**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

**THANKYOU, FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS:** Thank you to those who came to the gathering in the Parish Office last Friday night. It was a great success. We thanked our volunteers, wished Grant all the best for his final years at the Seminary and congratulated Fr Don on 35 years in the Priesthood. Saturday Morning Mass was celebrated by Fr Don, Fr Anthony, Fr John and Fr BJ to mark this special occasion for Fr Don.



## 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.



### Catholic Foundations Module 3: Being Sacramental. REGISTER NOW!

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Being-Sacramental-Rocky-Brochure.pdf>. This 9 week course is presented by Archdiocesan Ministries (Brisbane) and hosted online by Diocesan Pastoral Services ([formation@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:formation@rok.catholic.net.au)). Check out the brochure link above for more information!

## LITURGIES

### Monday 22 December 2025

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

### Tuesday 23 December 2025

8.30am St James' - Penance  
9.00am St James' - Mass  
**St Patrick's Penance**  
4.45pm-5.15pm & 6.00pm-6.30pm  
5.30pm St Patrick's—Mass

### Wednesday 24 December 2025

7.00am St Patrick's-Mass  
9.00am Holy Rosary-Penance  
5.30pm Holy Rosary  
**Children's Mass**  
6.00pm St Patrick's- Mass  
8.00pm Holy Rosary  
**Solemn Mass**

### Thursday 25 December 2025

**The Nativity of the Lord**  
7.00am St Patrick's - Mass  
8.00am Holy Rosary- Mass  
9.00am St Patrick's- Mass

### Friday 26 December 2025

9.00am Holy Rosary- Mass  
6.30pm St Patrick's  
**Malayalam Mass**

### Saturday 27 December 2025

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

### Sunday 28 December 2025

**The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH**  
7.00am St James' - Mass  
8.00am Holy Rosary-Mass  
9.00am St Patrick's-Mass  
5.30pm Holy Rosary- Mass

*A Celebration for the life of*  
**CATHRYN JANET KING**  
MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2025 10.00AM  
Holy Rosary Catholic Church  
*JOZEFA DUL*  
WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 9.30AM  
ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

### WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Janina Safioti (Cronulla), Dominic Parise (Malanda), Wendy Anne Campbell, Jozefa Dul, Cathryn King, Maximus Gordon Barford, Keith Balchin, Mary Annett, Joanne Curti (Brisbane), Ernie Woods, Mary Law-nee Curran (Mackay), Br Vin Stallard (Brisbane), Annie Giannangelo, Barry Sharp.

**MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES:** Terry Crawford 31.12.1979, Annunziata Crawford 15.12.1991, Marco Cafolla 1.12.2019, Aurelio Cafolla 1.12.1989, Claire Fitzgerald 14.12.1995, Giuseppe Marin 19.12.2004, Richie Rosolen 1.12.2024, Veronica Mafalda de Jesus 18.11.2016, Shane Hocking 23.11.2018, Suzanne Boisen 10.11.2022, Sheelah Cagney 20.10.1995.

**MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST:** Phillip Marano, Sue, Boisen, Leone Munckton, Marin Family, Dalla Rizza Family, Cameron Hocking, Riley Poppy Lawrence, Terence Cagney, Sheelah Cagney, Margaret Cagney, Gloria Collins, deceased members of the Cagney, Cross, Collins & Martin Families, Lawrence Galea, Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Br Ted Magee, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families. Kevin and Doris Whalley.

### SCRIPTURES

#### First Reading

*Ecc 3: 2-6, 12-14*

#### Second Reading

*Colossians 3:12-21*

#### Gospel

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



## PRAYER GROUPS

### Divine Mercy

Wednesday Weekly Devotions  
Holy Rosary Church  
after 12.15pm Mass.  
All are welcome.

### The Angelus

Friday Weekly Devotions  
Holy Rosary Church  
12.00pm.  
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.rock.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html](http://www.rock.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

# Encourage

Deeper Understanding of Scripture

— Father John Muir

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly 10 years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20). When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks – not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

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**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.



## CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

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.

