

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

🌐 www.bundabergcatholic.net.au

☎️ 07 4151 6666

Welcome to the Parish



Second Sunday of Advent Year A

6th/7th December 2025

Walking Together in Mission during this year of Jubilee of Hope

The Parish Stewardship Council (PSC) works in partnership with our priests to live out the mission of the Church in Bundaberg, guided by a spirit of **Synodality**. During 2025, members of the council have explored practical implications of Synodality through formation opportunities.

Formation is a key focus of our PSC meetings and time is allocated at each meeting to deepen our understanding and commitment to our role as council members. We have listened to and discussed Pope Leo's Interview with Crux, during recent meetings.



Celebrating 2025 Achievements

Our Mission Plan continues to evolve, responding to global, diocesan, and parish needs. Some highlights include:

Reaching Out in Love

- Jubilee events, including celebration of Volunteers and Catechists
- Launch of SEJWP (Social & Educational Justice Working Party) focusing on Laudato Si, Reconciliation Action Plan, Seasonal Workers, and FIFO

Faith Formation

- Two Alpha programs, including our first home-based course
- Formation opportunities: *Pilgrims of Hope*, *Spirituality of Leadership*, Synodality
- Exploration of Sycamore as a resource
- Women's Retreat

Building Community

- Monthly morning teas after Mass
- Welcome functions for new parishioners

Children & Youth

- Monthly Children's Mass

Future Planning

- Subcommittee formed and meeting regularly to prepare for the 2026 Parish 150th Anniversary celebrations



Looking Ahead

Included in our focus for 2026 are:

- Further exploration of possibilities of implementation of the Sycamore Program
- Establishment of a Faith Formation subcommittee
- Involvement in Diocesan Synod

With Gratitude

We give thanks for **Brother Ted's inspirational leadership** as Parish Executive Officer. His contributions to PSC Guidelines, Jubilee planning, and SEJWP leadership were invaluable. He is greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Thank you for your support and prayers as together, we continue to live our Parish Vision in word and action.

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By: **Kaye Beston**
Chairperson
Parish Stewardship Council

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

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

Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church

14 Powers Street

St James' Church

38 See Street Bargara

Parish News and Announcements

HOLY ROSARY MORNING TEA: Sunday, December 14th 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.

CEMETERY BEE THANK YOU: Thank you to those who volunteered last Saturday for the working bee at the Catholic Cemetery. After the recent rains it was in need of a tidy up. We appreciate those that gave their time and equipment to help on the day.



Join the Conversation

YOUNG ADULTS CONVERSATION GROUPS

If you are aged between 17 to 35 years old, you are invited to come along to the Parish Office every Sunday at 6.30pm. The group shares food, fellowship and conversation about the Catholic Faith.

New members are warmly welcome!!

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 8th 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 or 0433 897 973.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH BOOKSTORE

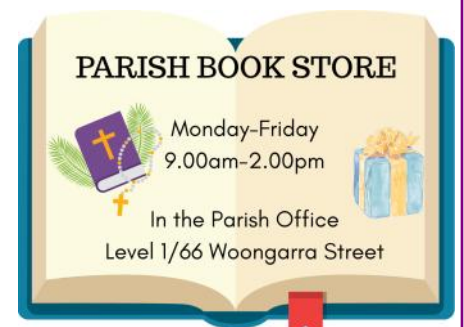
In Holy Stillness (Daily reflections for advent) \$5.00

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 12th** 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. To allow for catering please **RSVP** your attendance to the Parish Office by **Monday, December 8th**.

CELEBRATION MASS FOR FR DON 35th ANNIVERSARY: A Mass will be held on Saturday 13th December in St Patrick's Church at 7.30am. Following the Mass you are welcome to stay for a cuppa afterwards. **PLEASE NOTE**, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for this Saturday will be transferred to Holy Rosary Church starting at 9.00am with Special Prayer Intention of Vocations to the Priesthood.

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.



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 23rd December

St Patrick's

4.45pm-5.15pm

6.00pm-6.30pm

Wednesday 24th December

Holy Rosary

9.00am-10.00am



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.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: 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, Len Potter 23.11.2019, Elizabeth (Bessie) Mooney 18.11.1973, Suzanne Boisen 10.11.2022, Sheelah Cagney 20.10.1995.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Marin Family, Dalla Rizza Family, Cameron Hocking, Riley Poppy Lawrence, Dominic Attard, 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, 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 8 December 2025

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

6.00pm Holy Rosary

Adoration

Penance

Tuesday 9 December 2025

St Juan Diego

8.30am St James' - Penance

9.00am St James' - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's—Mass

Wednesday 10 December 2025

Our Lady of Loreto

12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Thursday 11 December 2025

St Damasus

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Friday 12 December 2025

Our Lady of Guadalupe

11.00 Holy Rosary- Exposition

11.30am Holy Rosary- Penance

12.15pm Holy Rosary- Mass

Saturday 13 December 2025

7.30am St Patrick's- Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary- Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's -Mass

Sunday 14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

7.00am St James' - Mass

8.00am Holy Rosary-Mass

9.00am St Patrick's-Mass

5.30pm Holy Rosary- Mass

SCRIPTURES

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Gospel

Matthew 11: 2-11

ST JOSEPH'S

CATHEDRAL APPEAL

A big thank you to the Parish for their generous donation of \$7325.80 to the Cathedral Appeal, it is greatly appreciated.



PRAYER GROUPS

United Hearts Catholic Charismatic Group

Next gathering will be held on
Tuesday 16th December
commencing at 7.00pm in
Novakoski Centre.

ROSARY GROUP

The Rosary Group meets every
Tuesday at St Patrick's Church
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/](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
rituals in the Church.

Encourage

Deeper Understanding of Scripture

— Father John Muir

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

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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.



Christmas Carols “Christmas in Australia”

St James' Church, Bargara

Saturday, 21st December 4.30pm

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

