

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



27th/28th December 2025

Holiness Begins at Home

by: Fr Don White

Parish Priest V.G.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family to honour the life that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph shared together. And by reflecting on their life, this feast reminds us of something very simple yet profound: that God chose to enter the world through a family. Christ didn't come as a solitary figure or a powerful ruler, but as a child in a humble home, and so the value of the sanctity of family lies at the heart of God's plan of salvation. There are messages to take from this feast of the Church's Christmas season.

Perhaps the first message from the life of the Holy Family is to reflect on how it began; when Mary said "Yes" to God (cf. *Luke 1:38*), and when Joseph obeyed God's command in silence (cf. *Matthew 1:19-24*) to care for Mary and the Christ-child. Their trust in God teaches us that faith is not just words—it's lived out in daily decisions. Families are called to that same openness to God's will if family life is truly to be holy, or close to God.

The second message is found in the image from the Gospels that the Holy Family lived in simplicity and sacrifice. Joseph worked hard, Mary cared for Jesus, and Jesus Himself was obedient (cf. *Luke 2:51*). So, love in a family is shown not in grand gestures but in small acts of kindness, patience, and forgiveness.

The third message is found in how the child Jesus grew "in wisdom and stature" (cf. *Luke 2:52*)—and that happened in a home filled with faith. There are simple things we can do to place faith at the heart of family life – to pray together as a family or a short prayer before meals or before everyone retires at night.

This feast day reminds us that Holiness begins at home. The Holy Family is not just a picture on a Christmas card—it's a living example for us.

May God bless our families now and always.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

bless our families with unity and love.

Help us to imitate Mary's trust, Joseph's courage, and your humility.

May our homes reflect your presence.

Amen.

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 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 OFFICE CLOSURE: Please note the Parish Office will be closed from 1.00pm Wednesday 24th December and will reopen on Monday 5th January 2026. If a Priest is urgently required please call 4151 6666 and follow the prompts. The Staff at the parish office would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us over the year and we look forward to seeing you in 2026.

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.



Catholic Foundations Module 3: Being Sacramental. REGISTER NOW!

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Being-Sacramental-Rocky-Brochure.pdf>

Once again the diocese is delighted to offer the opportunity for formation to people across our diocese. This 9 week course is presented by Archdiocesan Ministries (Brisbane) and hosted online by Diocesan Pastoral Services (formation@rok.catholic.net.au). Check out the brochure link above for more information! Do not miss this wonderful opportunity.

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!!

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

RECENTLY DECEASED: Varghese Anthony (India), Barbara Waltho (Townsville), Janina Saffioti (Cronulla), Wendy Anne Campbell, Jozefa Dul, Cathryn King, Maximus Gordon Barford, Keith Balchin, Mary Annett, Joanne Curti (Brisbane).

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Gloria Mary Collins 26.12.2023, 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, Suzanne Boisen 10.11.2022.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Ernie Woods, Sue Boisen, Leone Munckton, Marin Family, Dalla Rizza Family, Terence Cagney, Sheelah Cagney, Margaret Cagney, 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.

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.**





1 December 2025

Dear Parishioners of the Parishes of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Mackay

Visit of Bishops of Latin and Syro-Malabar Rites

At the recent gathering of Australian Bishops at the St Mary Mackillop Centre in Sydney during the first week of November, the Bishop of the Diocese of Rockhampton and the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy met and discussed pastoral concerns. The discussion included the parishioners who reside in the Diocese of Rockhampton who identify with the Latin Diocese and the Syro-Malabar Eparchy. Bishop Michael McCarthy and Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI have written this joint pastoral letter to our parishioners of the two jurisdictions.

The Diocese of Rockhampton has welcomed the parishioners who have settled in the cities and towns and on the land within the geographical area of the diocese - from Mackay in the north, to Bundaberg in the south, Longreach in the west and the Capricorn Coast in the east. It is a large diocese and has been the place where sacramental and pastoral care has been offered to members of the Catholic family, from the original inhabitants of this land to the many people who have joined us from all over the world. The diocese welcomes people from all nations from within the big Catholic family. Our ancestors in faith, the priests and people, have built parishes, schools and outreach centres to support the Catholic people who live within the diocese and have built strong and vibrant parishes. As new people arrive, we welcome the richness of the faith of all Catholic people and their commitment to our parishes. As well, we have welcomed their commitment to our civil communities and supporting our people in the various secular employment. This has been a great gift to our cities, towns, and our parishes.

With the appointment of an Eparch for the Syro-Malabar community, Bishop Michael and Bishop John welcome the opportunity to meet with our parishioners. Bishop Michael and Bishop John have worked together for many years, which began when Bishop Michael was a priest for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and Bishop John as the superior of the CMI Fathers of Calicut. We now pledge ourselves to continue as colleagues to work for the pastoral and sacramental care of our parishioners to ensure that the next generation of Catholics grow in loving and nurturing communities.

Our Parishes have been built up over the decades and we rely on the generosity of our people. Without ongoing support over the decades, the parishes would not have the resources that are available. We welcome the working of all Catholics journeying closely together for the building up of the Kingdom of God, support and connecting with the mission of Jesus. We rejoice in the respectful and cooperative way our parishioners go about the mission of Jesus.

Bishop Michael and Bishop John will be travelling together in late February and early March 2026 to the cities of Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Mackay and meeting with the parishioners of our two jurisdictions, Latin and Syro-Malabar, and explore ways parishioners of the two rites can work closely together in the pastoral outreach.

Bishop Michael and Bishop John would welcome the opportunity to connect with you and we propose the following program:

- **Friday 27th February 2026**
 - o Bishop John flies into Bundaberg
 - o Bishop John and Bishop Michael with the Bundaberg Clergy celebrate Syro-Malabar Mass with the Bundaberg community, followed by hospitality.

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LITURGIES

Monday 29 December 2025

St Thomas Becket

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

6.00pm Holy Rosary

Adoration & Penance

Tuesday 30 December 2025

8.30am St James' - Penance

9.00am St James' - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's—Mass

Wednesday 31 December 2025

Collect of St Sylvester I

12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

6.00pm Holy Rosary

Vietnamese Mass

Thursday 1 January 2026

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9.00am Holy Rosary- Mass

Friday 2 January 2026

St Basil the Great and

St Gregory Nazianzen

11.00am Holy Rosary- Exposition

11.30am Holy Rosary-Penance

12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Saturday 3 January 2026

7.30am St Patrick's- Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary- Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's -Mass

Sunday 4 January 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

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 60: 1-6

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Gospel

Matthew 2: 1-12



PRAYER GROUPS

United Hearts Catholic Charismatic Group

Next gathering will be held on
Tuesday 6th January
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.rockhampton.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-
policies.html](http://www.rockhampton.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.

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- **Saturday 28th February 2026**

- o Bishop John and Bishop Michael meet formally with the Syro-Malabar community.

- o Late afternoon - Bishop John and Bishop Michael travel to Rockhampton.

- **Sunday 1st March 2026**

- o 9.30 am Bishop Michael and Bishop John celebrate Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral.

- o Meet with the Syro-Malabar Communities of Rockhampton and Gladstone, followed by hospitality.

- **Monday 2nd March 2026**

- o Bishop John and Bishop Michael travel to Mackay.

- o Bishop John and Bishop Michael meet with the Mackay Community.

- **Tuesday 3rd March 2026**

- o Bishop John and Bishop Michael travel home.

Bishop John and Bishop Michael look forward to meeting you all during our visit through the Diocese.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Most Rev Michael McCarthy
Bishop of Rockhampton

Most Rev John Panamthottathil CMI
Bishop of Syro-Malabar Eparchy



When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.