

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

The Baptism of the Lord



10th/11th January 2026

WHY BAPTISM?

This weekend we hear Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism by his cousin, John. The fact that Jesus, God-made-man, submitted himself to baptism seems odd. Even more so, to be baptised by John who baptised for repentance and confession of sins. John, as we know, was hesitant to baptise Jesus. "But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented." (Matthew 3: 14-15)

Jesus repents not in the sense of turning from sin, but in the sense of re-orientation, dedicating himself to follow God's will fully on earth, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own baptism. Why are we baptized? What difference does my baptism make in my life? These or similar questions are asked of young parents who come to prepare for their child's baptism. We all know someone who is not baptized yet who is a "good person", very considerate of their elders and peers, very aware of societal issues and intent on doing good. So the question of "why baptism?" is worth pondering.

Pope Leo XIV, speaking to a group of young French neophytes (newly baptized) last year reminds us that "we are not born Christians; we become so when we are touched by the grace of God. However, this "touch" is expressed through our duly considered choice and our personal approach. Without these true requirements, we will bear the label Christian, but Christians of convenience, habit, or comfort. We become authentic Christians when we allow

ourselves to be personally touched in our daily lives by the word and testimony of Jesus."

Pope Leo pointed to the powerful moment in the Rite of receiving a candle lit from the Paschal candle. "This flame has been entrusted to each believer, one that must be nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist." Why? So that, as Christians who have "clothed themselves in Christ", we may be Christ-like to others, and like Jesus in the waters of the Jordan, dedicate ourselves to follow God's will fully on earth, guided by the Holy Spirit.

"Each of you," he said, "makes a personal encounter with the Lord within the community that welcomes you." He described Baptism not simply as a rite, but as "the beginning of a lifelong communion with the living God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Baptism is not a one-off event or a box to be ticked. Our baptism is a lived experience. We live out our baptism daily. How and why? Think about it.

ⁱ⁻ⁱⁱⁱ www.vaticannews.va, "Pope to catechumens and neophytes: You are the salt of the world and the light of the earth", 29 July 2025



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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

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 Dean Wearmouth

shalom@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

A MESSAGE FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL:

Our St Vincent de Paul Society Warehouses are always looking for volunteers – but particularly over the Summer Holidays. We have a lot of donations that come in that need to be sorted ready for selling in our Vinnies fundraising shops.

If you have time to spare during the New Year season – and the rest of January before school starts, we'd love to have you.

Just go to your local Vinnies store and enquire about volunteering.

If you have children who would like to help out – we do ask that they are over the age of 15 and have parental consent.

Over the age of 18 we ask for a police check. There is also an induction process.

For enquiries, please contact the Diocesan Office 07 4924 8170."

JANUARY DATES:

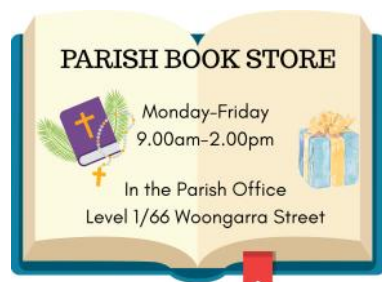
- **Wednesday 14th January:** Blanket Buddies recommences at **9.00am** in the Novakoski Centre. All previous and new members are welcome. Blanket Buddies is a not for profit, ecumenical service ministry, providing hand knitted or crocheted items to all parts of Australia where there is a need or a disaster has occurred.
- **Thursday 15th January:** Cemetery Prayers are held in the Catholic Cemetery every third Thursday at **9.30am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Monday 19th January:** The next meeting of the Social Ecological Justice Working Party (SEJWP) will be held in the Parish Office at **4.00pm**. If you would like to know more about how this working group enhances our parish, please come to the next meeting or contact the parish office.
- **Friday 23rd January:** Friends of the Catholic Cemetery will hold the next monthly meeting in the Parish Office at **10.15am**. If the care and maintenance of the Catholic Cemetery is of interest, we encourage you to come along to the next meeting.
- **Friday 23rd January:** The Bereavement Group will gather at the Parish Office at **11.15am**. This worthwhile ministry assists the Bereavement Co-ordinator in the pastoral care of those who have lost a loved one.



Adults who are interested in becoming Catholic can enrol in the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* (RCIA) journey. The journey is a time to learn about the teachings of the Church and grow in one's relationship with God; and culminates in receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Christians who have been baptised in other Christian denominations can also become Catholic. They also join our RCIA journey which, for them, ends with their profession of faith and reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

The RCIA is a wonderful journey for adults who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith, and become one with the Church. It is a time when people can ask questions in a safe, informal environment. Why not contact the Parish Office this week? Ask for Pauline, and have a chat. Just ring 4151 6666.



The following items are available for purchase from the Parish Bookstore. Missals, Rosary Beads,

God's Word
2026
\$22.00

Mass and sympathy cards,
Baptismal candles and Gifts.
And much more



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

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH- INTERNAL PAINTING:

The internal painting of Holy Rosary Church will commence on or about Monday, January 12th and we will look to have it completed by Friday 13th February 2026.

The painting will not interrupt any of the weekly Masses. We are sorry for any inconvenience but ask for your patience as we proceed with this important project.

CHILDREN'S MASS- St Patrick's Church: Will recommence on **Sunday, February 22nd, 2026** at 9.00am. We look forward to welcoming everyone in 2026.

CLEANERS URGENTLY REQUIRED: If you can help with the cleaning of any of our three churches it would be greatly appreciated. The generosity of our church cleaners can not be taken for granted. We come into our Churches without noticing the care and effort volunteers have taken to ensure a clean and comfortable place for everyone. If you can offer one-two hours per month (depending on the church and number of cleaners) please contact the Parish Office. 4151 6666.

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Ted Walter Nicholson



A Celebration for the life of

Mary Davitt

Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 9.30am
Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Philomena Whitworth

Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 2.00pm
Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Marie Janz

Friday 16th January 2026 at 9.30am
Holy Rosary Catholic Church



WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

RECENTLY DECEASED: Evana Lines, Visminda Duroy, Noel Chio Jr, Arnel Legarta Sr, Marie Janz, Philomena Whitworth, Mary Davitt, 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: Robert Potter 25.02.1983, David Potter 2.02.2024, Moira Pendleton 17.12.2019, Skaria Annamne 11.01, Kurian Annamina Kurian 25.01, Joanne Oudejans 2.01.2013, Bernadette Gadischke 16.01.2025, Owen Dwyer 1.01.1994, Drencio R Cruz 3.01, Jayk Allen 5.01, Maria Giuseppina Ciocca 31.01.2005, Paul Galea 9.01.2017, Joseph Attard 25.01.2023, Mary 24.12.1995, 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, Suzanne Boisen 10.11.2022.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Ramon D Andres, Rosa A Andres, Albino Modolo, Charles Galea, Ron Cook, George, Zillah & Gregory Geiger, Sue Boisen, Leone Munckton, 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.

LITURGIES

Monday 12 January 2026

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

Tuesday 13 January 2026

St Hilary

8.30am St James' - Penance
9.00am St James' - Mass
5.30pm St Patrick's—Mass

Wednesday 14 January 2026

12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Thursday 15 January 2026

7.00am St Patrick's- Mass

Friday 16 January 2026

11.00am Holy Rosary- Exposition
11.30am Holy Rosary-Penance
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Saturday 17 January 2026

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

Sunday 18 January 2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 49: 3, 5-6

Second Reading

Cor 1:1-3

Gospel

John 1: 29-34

" Take the first step
in faith.
You don't have to see
the whole staircase,
just take the first step



Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, JR

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

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

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.



Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac - Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

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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!!

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.

Week 1 commences Monday 2nd February.