

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

4th

Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

31st Jan/1st Feb 2026

“You would love being a State School Religious Instruction Volunteer.”

Last week in Fr John Muir’s reflection, we were asked to take a moment to remember when and how Christ first called us to respond to our faith.

I remember distinctly being called to my role in State School RI. It was in Holy Rosary Church in 1987, when Fr Frank Gilbert was Parish Priest. My husband and I, along with our baby twins, had recently moved to Bundaberg. The State School RI coordinator stood at the beginning of Mass and pleaded for new volunteers to this ministry.

I am a trained teacher, but with two babies and no personal support, I thought I had the perfect excuse not to be involved. Throughout Mass this small voice kept saying, “You can do this, you would love it.” I kept arguing and pushing that voice away. But, at the end of Mass I went up to the coordinator and explained that I probably had the skills, but with very small babies I wouldn’t be able to. Maybe she could use me in the future. She explained that this was wonderful, she would find babysitters for the half hour I would need to take a class at Bundaberg North Primary School.

That was thirty-eight years ago. I have continued at North Bundaberg school but also attend many others. State School RI, in Bundaberg, has become a Cooperative organisation involving most of the Christian Churches. Children from all these Churches are in our classes. Most children whose parents opt their children into RI sessions belong to no recognised faith group but still want their children to hear about God.

These days, we use a very professionally designed curriculum to deliver our lessons. It is the Godspace program. This is a three-year, Education Queensland approved curriculum, that provides an age appropriate, enriching environment for kids to question and discover life’s issues in the context of the Christian faith. The lessons follow a cartoon character called “Goober”, who is a space creature whose job it is to “Discover God”, through the Bible, Jesus and the world around us. Teachers are provided with easy to prepare lessons which include songs, videos, PowerPoint slides and student workbooks along with lesson guides and support.

This ministry is so rewarding. I’m often humbled by the faith-filled responses the children provide in class. Just like our small team of State School Catechists, you would love being a State School Religious Instructor.

If you think you would like to be involved, fear not, we don’t put you in front of a class straight away but provide training and ask you to assist an existing teacher. Please contact the Parish Office if you can hear a small voice calling you to this ministry.

State School Religious Instruction Training Day

Date: Thursday 19th February 2026

Time: 9:00 for a 9:30 start to 2:00.

Place: Apostolic Church on Ashfield Rd.

Delicious morning tea and lunch provided.

For more information please contact the Parish office.



By: **Pauline Merefield**
RISS Co-Ordinator

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

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 Jenes

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 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

Parish News and Announcements

IMPORTANT DATES



Penance



Confirmation



First Holy Communion

Sacramental Program for 2026

Preparation for children eight years or older,
who are Baptised in the Catholic faith,
begins 11 February.

Enrol Now!

Enrol Now!

Enrol Now!

Use this QR Code or
go to our Sacraments page on our website
(www.bundabergcatholic.net.au)
to enrol now!

Enrol Now!



Enrol Now!

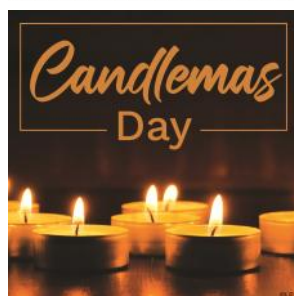
If your child is not yet Baptised or is 13 years or older please contact Pauline
at the Parish Office (4151 6666) for details for their preparation.

SAFEGUARDING WEEKEND: On the weekend of 14th/15th February all parishioners who participate in any ministry in the Church, and who have not completed their safeguarding training will be given an opportunity to view our Safeguarding video after every Mass on that weekend. If you are not available, the video is available to view at the Parish Office during office hours.

150th CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BUNDABERG

During the weekend of October 16th-18th 2026 the Parish will celebrate 150 years since the establishment of the first Catholic Church in Bundaberg. Proposed events include Mass, lunch and morning tea. A digital record of people and events that have shaped the Parish from past to present, is being prepared. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any memories or memorabilia you would be prepared to share. The planning committee would be most appreciative of any contribution.

SAVE THE DATE



Candlemas Day

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CANDLEMAS?

Candlemas commemorates two key events from the Gospel of Luke: the presentation of the infant Jesus at the temple in Bethlehem and the purification of Mary, following Jewish law. This dual celebration, occurring forty days after Christmas, intertwines themes of dedication, light, and prophecy.

Candlemas Day will be celebrated on Monday February 2nd.

Please bring along your candles to the 9.00am Mass at St Patrick's. This will also be the opening School Mass for St Patrick's.

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

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE-See below dates:

The **Annual General Meeting** for CWL will be held on **Tuesday, February 3rd** in St Patrick's Hall commencing with morning tea at **9.30am** and the meeting to follow at 10.00am. Please note membership is due at the AGM, it would be appreciated if you could bring it in an envelope with your name on it.

The CWL supports the Parish throughout the year and raises funds for local charities. New members are always welcome. We have a wonderful group of ladies who will make you feel right at home. Many great friendships have been formed over the years. We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month in St Patrick's Hall at 9.30am. We look forward to meeting you.

CWL MASS: To mark the beginning of a new year, a Mass will be held on **Monday 9th February** at **9.00am** in St Patrick's Church with a social morning afterwards. We would love to see all members there.

ANOINTING MASS FOR FEBRUARY: Due to conflicting dates the Anointing Mass will be held on **Thursday, February 12th** at **10.00am**. We apologise for the change but it was necessary to avoid the cancellation of the Mass.

NEW MUSICIANS: With the start of 2026, we are once again looking for people who can play a musical instrument or sing. Music enhances our Mass and forms a community bond. If you would like to know more please contact the Parish Office.

CHURCH CLEANING: We are again appealing for cleaners to clean our churches. Some of the cleaners feel they have no choice but to continue as there is no one else to take over from them and others are cleaning more than one church. If you have family or friends that could form a group (2-4 people) to clean either once a month or one month a year, depending on the church, it would be greatly appreciated. We require our churches to be cleaned prior to our weekend Masses. If you form a group, the time you clean is very flexible. As long as the time does not coincide with Mass or funerals the cleaning can be early in the morning or later in the evenings from Thursdays-Saturdays. If you can help with this very important mission, please contact the Parish Office.

GOD'S WORD 2026: The last copies of God's Word 2026 are available for \$20.00. If you would like a copy and they are no longer in your church, contact the Parish Office. They may be able to find one in one of the other churches.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Ledwith, Sam Allbury (UK), Sr Jeana Abejuela (AR) Doonside, Selena Cassar, Dominic Parise Malanda, Sophie Jefferey, Fr Ivan Herson (Cairns), Sr Bernadette Gadischkie, Sr Noeleen Watt, Evana Lines, Noel Chio Jr, Arnel Legarta Sr, Marie Janz, Philomena Whitworth, Mary Davitt, Varghese Anthony (India), Jozefa Dul, Cathryn King.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Arnold Hernandez Reyes 20.01, Sylvia Jendra 10.02.2000, Anne Andrewarthur 17.02.2020, Jim Potter 15.02.1990, Anthony Mooney 26.01.2023, Joseph Galea 12.02.2025, Kerry Lea Ahern 8.02.2025, Michelangelo Theuma 16.012.020, Moira Pendleton 17.12.2019, Jovita Espiritu 15.08.2012, Darryl Lambertson 18.01, Lily Ballinger 19.01, Betty Van Dalen 18.01.24, John Drent 5.01.2012, Stella Cafolla, 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 Gadischkie 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 Galea 24.12.1995.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Br Ted Magee, Giovanni De Paoli, Giovanni Pappagella, Francesca Pappagella, Fr Joseph Meade, Jem Ireland, Bill Ireland, Phillip Marano, Ramon D Andres, Rosa A Andres, Albino Modolo, Charles Galea, Lawrence Galea, Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families. Kevin and Doris Whalley.

LITURGIES

Monday 2 February 2026
Presentation of the Lord
9.00am Holy Rosary - Mass
6.00pm Holy Rosary
Adoration

Tuesday 3 February 2026
St Blaise & St Ansgar
8.30am St James' - Penance
9.00am St James' - Mass
5.30pm St Patrick's—LWC

Wednesday 4 February 2026
8.00am Shalom-Mass
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Thursday 5 February 2026
St Agatha
7.00am St Patrick's- Mass

Friday 6 February 2026
St Paul Miki and Companions
11.00am Holy Rosary- Exposition
11.30am Holy Rosary-Penance
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Saturday 7 February 2026
7.30am St Patrick's- Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary- Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's -Mass

Sunday 8 February 2026
5th 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 58: 7-10:

Second Reading

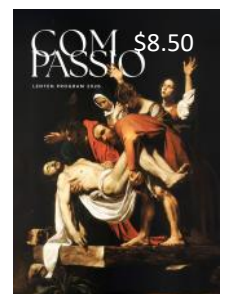
Cor 2:1-5

Gospel

Matthew 5: 13-16

Lenten Books

Limited copies Available NOW
at the Parish Office



St Mary's Sunday School

When: Each Sunday after 9.00am Mass

Where: St Patrick's Hall.

For children and youth
3yrs old —16years.

Contact:

Mr Alexy Joseph Panamkuzha
(Principal)

Mrs Deepa Mathew
(Vice Principal)

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.



A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege – and the burden – of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike – more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

©LPi



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!!



February 18th

MASS TIMES

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| 7.00am | St James |
| 8.00am | Shalom College |
| 12.15pm | Holy Rosary |
| 5.30pm | St Patrick's |