

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



Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

17th/18th January 2026

Your Baptismal Call - a call to Ministry

Last weekend we heard Matthew's account of Jesus' Baptism and this weekend we reflect again through John's Gospel. Although he felt unworthy to Baptise Jesus, John the Baptist agreed to Jesus' request. As Catholics, we too also agreed to be Baptised (either personally or through our parent's choice), and each year others journey towards their Baptism when they become Catholic as adults.

So, what does this choice mean to you? As you read in last weekend's bulletin, Pope Leo described Baptism not simply as a rite, but as "the beginning of a lifelong communion with the living God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

As with all relationships we need to actively nurture the connection by what we say and do. Through our Baptism we are initiated into a community of servants called by Jesus Christ to serve with him in his mission for the world. Our Baptism calls us to a life-long mission – to be involved, to participate, to share our talents and abilities in whatever way we can.

Every role within our Catholic community is a ministry, and all are equally important. "All ministries are an expression of the sole mission of the Church, and they are all forms of service to others," our Pope said during a meeting with members of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life a few years ago.

Ministry includes those behind the scenes like the cleaners who make sure God's house (our church) is clean, and the sacristans who open the church before Mass and prepare the physical elements and sacred objects needed for Mass. It includes those who ensure the church is properly prepared for the season (banners, palms, place of repose at Easter, nativity scene at Christmas...), and those who look after the PowerPoint during Mass so all can participate more fully.

There are those who prepare parents when they ask for their child to be Baptised, those who prepare the children (and their parents) for Confirmation and First Holy Communion, those who prepare adults when they ask to become Catholic, and those who take communion to those who are sick or housebound (they too are a precious part of our community).

Other ministries are more visible. During Mass we have those who proclaim the Word as *Ministers of the Word*, *Ministers of Communion* who distribute Holy Communion, Mass Assistants who bring us together into one Body of Christ as Mass begins and who share the prayers of our community in the *Prayers of the Faithful*. There are those who sing and play musical instruments during Mass unifying us in our praise and thanksgiving, and those who play the pre-recorded music during Mass when we unfortunately don't have anyone to play an instrument.

Whatever ministry you are involved in is very important for the vitality of our community. It is your participation which ensures we continue to flourish as a community of faith. Through our Baptism we are each of us called to activity. Thank you to all who share your gifts, talents and faith with us; and we invite those who might be uncertain to consider what ways they can be involved. All ministries are vital – those behind the scenes and those that are more visible.

As you leave the church after Mass this weekend, spend a moment (or two) to reflect on the words of the Psalm you just heard... "Here I am, Lord" and "I come to do your will". What does that mean to you? How do you respond?

By: Pauline Leahy

Lit, Mus, Sac & RCIA 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

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 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

JANUARY DATES:

- **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.
- **Tuesday 27th January:** Christian Unity Group will have an Ecumenical gathering for a coffee and chat at Pacific Coffee commencing at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome.



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 February 2nd.**

JOHN MAIN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ONLINE -BUNDABERG:

Silent Prayer of the Heart.

A Journey towards the gift of Contemplative Prayer.

You are invited to participate in this silent form of prayer, **Wednesdays at 7.00pm online** at a zoom gathering. If you are interested, leave your email address with the Parish Office and a link will be forwarded to you. A Guide and Trial is available if you haven't prayed this way before. For more information contact the Parish Office.

The order of the prayer gathering will be:

3-5 minute (Welcome and relaxing preparation) Opening John Main prayer.

20 minute (Meditation) 3-5 minute (Closing Prayer and conclusion).

Everyone is welcome.

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 has commenced. We hope to have it completed in February. 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.

GOD'S WORD 2026: The last copies of God's Word 2026 are available for sale in the churches for \$20.00. If you would like one of these books, please place \$20.00 in the envelope inside the book at the front door of the churches and place it in the weekly



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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The name RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has been updated to the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)** to more accurately reflect the original Latin text and the nature of the process as an "order of rites" rather than a single "rite". This change has not been universally mandated or widely adopted in Australia **at this time**. Our Diocese will gradually introduce the new terminology.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

RECENTLY DECEASED: 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), Barbara Waltho (Townsville), Janina Saffioti (Cronulla), Wendy Anne Campbell, Jozefa Dul, Cathryn King.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: 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, Gloria Mary Collins 26.12.2023, 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, 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 19 January 2026

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

Tuesday 20 January 2026

St Fabian & St Sebastian

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

Wednesday 21 January 2026

St Agnes

12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Thursday 22 January 2026

St Vincent

7.00am St Patrick's- Mass

Friday 23 January 2026

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

Saturday 24 January 2026

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

Sunday 25 January 2026

3rd 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 8: 23-9:3:

Second Reading

Cor 4:10-13, 17

Gospel

Matthew 4: 12-23



PRAYER GROUPS

United Hearts Catholic Charismatic Group

Next gathering will be held on
Tuesday 20th 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.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.



It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something – or Someone – we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness – carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church – has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

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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, and 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."



PARISH BOOK STORE



Monday-Friday
9.00am-2.00pm



In the Parish Office
Level 1/66 Woongarra Street

The following items are available for
purchase from the Parish Bookstore.

Missals, Rosary Beads,

Mass and sympathy cards,

Baptismal candles and gifts.

And much more

