

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: 9.00-3.00pm Monday to Friday

Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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[www.bundabergcatholic.net.au](http://www.bundabergcatholic.net.au)

07 4151 6666

Welcome to the Parish

1st Sunday of *Lent*

21st/22nd February 2026

## MAKING CHOICES

*Pauline Leahy*

Liturgy, Music, Sacramental &  
RCIA Co-ordinator

I often reflect on how hard it is for us to have free-will. Depending on where we live, we might take it for granted or it may be something we need to hold on to with strong hands. Either way, free will brings with it the challenging day-to-day decisions we must all make, and with freedom comes responsibility and accountability.

This weekend we begin our journey towards Easter. We are encouraged to look at these weeks as a time of inner reflection... to turn away from worldly distractions. Every day we are faced with choices we need to make. Some we may find simple and easy to make, but others may challenge us. We might try and justify making some choices... to pick the easier way... to choose what might benefit ourselves rather than what would be best to others.

Temptations are all around us each day. However, along with God's gift of free-will we are also given the support of the Holy Spirit. God's love for us means we are not left alone to struggle but can choose to lean on God's gifts of courage, wisdom and understanding brought to us by the Holy Spirit through our Baptism.

In our Christian life, free-will is linked to our human responsibility, moral decision-making and the process of salvation. We can freely choose to have a deep relationship with God, based on love, obedience, and service.

Free-will is fundamental to the concept of love. For love to be genuine, it must be freely given... a choice. Without this fundamental ability to choose, our expressions of love would not be authentic. God's gift to us of free-will allows us to freely choose to love God.

And from this choice to freely love and obey God comes the choice to extend that love to our neighbours. To care for those in need of physical, emotional and spiritual help. Our love of God draws us to reach out to those around us and can nurture a community founded on care for each other.

This theme echoes particularly throughout the New Testament. Christ calls each of us to follow him. He invites us to choose to help those in need, to give praise to our God, and to reflect on our choices. Remembering that our good choices can draw us closer to God's heart.

*So, as we begin our Lenten journey, I invite you to pray:  
Almighty and ever living God,  
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.  
May this time be one of outward focus;  
seeking you in those we often ignore.  
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.  
Give us hearts hungry to serve you  
and those who need what we have to give.*

Author Unknown (jesuitresource.org)

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev Don White PP**  
Parish Priest

**Fr Anthony Nguyen**  
Associate Pastor

**Mr Jeffrey Caluag**  
Operations Manager

**Ms Pauline Leahy**  
Liturgy, Music, Sacramental &  
RCIA Co-ordinator

**Ms Judy Pidcock**  
Pastoral Care Practitioner

**Mrs Jan Aplin**  
Safeguarding Representative

**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 Presly Varghese**

**Mr Matthias Visona**

**Mr Michael Walker**

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic  
Primary School**  
Mrs Monica White

Principal

✉ [sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
☎ 07 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic  
Primary School**  
Mr Bill Goodwin

Principal

✉ [smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
☎ 07 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic  
Primary School**  
Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard

Principal

✉ [spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
☎ 07 4152 1380

**Shalom College**  
Mr Dean Wearmouth

Principal

✉ [shalom@shalomcollege.com](mailto:shalom@shalomcollege.com)  
☎ 07 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

## Introducing Dean Wearmouth

Principal Shalom College



It is a true honour to be appointed as the 7th Principal of Shalom College and I promise to serve the school community wholeheartedly.

I arrive in Bundaberg from New Zealand, where I was principal of a Jesuit school in the southern Auckland region named St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College, prior to that I was the Principal of a Marist Brothers school in central Auckland named Marcellin College.

I am passionate about Catholic education, keeping Christ at the centre and opening up young hearts to the joy of the Gospel.

Over the past few weeks, as I have slowly begun to get to know the staff, students, families and Parish, I am filled with hope for where we can head over the coming years.

As an instrument of our Church, I have high hopes for how the school can develop the spirituality of young people to draw them further into our faith, to draw them further into our Parish.

Shalom is a place of excellence that we can continue to nurture and grow together, as one body. I look forward to seeing you at church and in the wider community. Peace be with you.

## Important Dates:

**HOLY ROSARY PRESBYTERY INFORMATION MEETING:** A meeting will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March after the 8.00am Mass in Holy Rosary Church. Everyone is invited to hear the plans for the future of this building at this time.

**CELEBRATION PLANNING FOR 150YRS OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BUNDABERG:** If you would like to contribute to the planning or have stories to share, we would love to see you at the next meeting on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm** in the Parish Office.

**FRIENDS OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY:** The next meeting will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Parish Office at 10.15am. New members are always welcome.

**BEREAVEMENT MEETING:** The February meeting will be held in the Parish Office on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> at 11.15am. If you would like to know more about this rewarding ministry we look forward to meeting you and introducing you to our wonderful team.

**VISIT FROM Bishop Michael McCarthy and Bishop John Panamthottam:** We are very fortunate to have Bishop Michael and Bishop John (Bishop from Melbourne Syro-Malabar Eparchy) visit our parish on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February. A Malayalam Mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm** with Bishop Michael and Bishop John. Hospitality will be offered after Mass. A community meeting will be held in the Parish Office, **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Change of Time:** Due to the Mass at St Patrick's on **Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> February** with Bishop Michael and Bishop John, Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's will be held at 5.00pm. Stations of the Cross at Holy Rosary Church will be cancelled for that week only. We apologise for any inconvenience.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March in St Peters Anglican Church commencing at 9.30am with refreshments after the service.

**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.**



First Sunday of Lent  
21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Please donate today

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through envelopes or by scanning the QR code. Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate) Or by calling: 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.



### PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES: Available Now

Envelopes can be found on the end of your seats or at the front doors the church. This year we once again have only one envelope to return. If you would prefer to take an envelope for each week you are welcome to do so.

**SAFEGUARDING WEEKEND:** Thank you to everyone who watched the Safeguarding video at the Masses last weekend. It was a huge success.

**CHILDREN'S MASS:** This weekend in St Patrick's Church at 9.00am followed by morning tea. Please bring along a plate to share.



**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS AUTUMN EDITION:** Is now available at the doors of all churches. Featuring articles that explore the Magic of the Mass.



*A Celebration for the life of*

**Donna Marie Hansen**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 11.00am

**Branyan Gardens**  
Cummins Road, Branyan



### WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Francis James Valks, Elaine Seery, Ernesto Sontousidad (Philippines) Patricia Ledwith, Sam Allbury (UK).

**MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES:** Paul Formosa 5.03.2021, Maria Alesna 18.02, Nilo Fr Cutas 20.02, Pat Tyrell 1.02.1988, Tim Tyrell 13.02.2020, Mary Banner 18.02.2009, John Joseph Mooney 21.02.2009, 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,

**MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST:** Lawrence Formosa, The Formosa and Grima Families, Gerry Walsh, Sylvia Maynard, Ron Cook, Chirayath Devassy & Family, Ernie Woods, Br Ted Magee, Giovanni DE Paoli, Giovanni Pappagella, Francesca Pappagella, 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 23 Feb 2026

**Collect of St Polycarp**  
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass  
6.00pm Holy Rosary  
**Penance & Adoration**

### Tuesday 24 Feb 2026

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

### Wednesday 25 Feb 2026

8.00am Shalom- Mass  
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

### Thursday 26 Feb 2026

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

### Friday 27 Feb 2026

**Collect of St Gregory**  
11.00am Holy Rosary- Exposition  
11.30am Holy Rosary- Penance  
12.15pm Holy Rosary- Mass  
6.00pm St Patrick's -Mass  
**Malayalam**

### Saturday 28 Feb 2026

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

### Sunday 1 Mar 2026

7.00am St James' - Mass  
8.00am Holy Rosary-Mass  
9.00am St Patrick's-Mass  
5.30pm Holy Rosary- Mass

## SCRIPTURES

### First Reading

Genesis 12: 1-4

### Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

### Gospel

Matthew 17: 1-9

## Stations of the Cross

St James 5.30pm  
St Patrick's 5.30pm  
Holy Rosary 6.00pm  
Malayalam

**Every Friday during Lent**

Refer to Bulletin for changes on Friday 27th

## 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: [pssadmin@rok.catholic.net](mailto:pssadmin@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:](http://www.rockhampton.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html)  
[www.rockhampton.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html](http://www.rockhampton.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html)

### Other Contacts

Graham White: 07 4887 3080

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Catholic Care: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4339 3700

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Mater Hospital: 4153 9539

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

### HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

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 letter from the Bishop

12 February 2026

Prot: 26047:MMsp\_0705.4

Dear Parishioners of the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

### Visit of Bishops of Latin and Syro-Malabar Rites

On 1st December 2025, I sent you a letter announcing that Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI, Eparch of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, and myself will visit the communities in this Diocese.

Bishop John and I will celebrate a Syro-Malabar Mass with the Bundaberg community at 6pm at St Patrick's Church, West Bundaberg on Friday, 27th February. We would be grateful if we had an opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the Bundaberg community following this Mass.

We would also wish to meet formally with the Syro-Malabar community on Saturday morning, 28th February, from 9am to 11am. This meeting will be held at the Parish Office. Bishop John and I will leave for Rockhampton Saturday afternoon.

Father Don White, Parish Priest of Bundaberg, will accompany Bishop John and myself during the pastoral visitation and will be present for all the visit. This will be a marvellous opportunity to interact with our communities who are present in Bundaberg.

Yours sincerely

Most Rev Michael McCarthy  
Bishop of Rockhampton



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!!



Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen