

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

PO BOX 79 Bundaberg Qld 4670

sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au

www.bundabergcatholic.net.au

07 4151 6666

Welcome to the Parish

5th Sunday of *Lent*
Year A

21st/22nd Mar 2026

The Great Hope

Fr John Daly

Sr Verna Holyhead, an Australian scripture scholar, in her commentary on this weekend's Scripture Readings (5th Sunday of Lent) writes about a character, Rodion Raskolnikov, taken from Dostoyevsky's novel "In Crime and Punishment".

Rodion is tortured and on the brink of total despair by his self-doubt and self-hatred as a murderer and is living a life he sees as close to death.

He meets Sonya, a woman who has come out of despair and close to suicide. Her secret that saved her came out of her reading and reflecting on the story of the raising of Lazarus (Our Gospel this weekend). She reads this precious story to Rodion. It has given her hope and gradually enabled her to come out of her life of despair and meaninglessness. She passes hope onto Rodion. He, in prison, rereads this story of Lazarus and does so with hope - hope to return to his humanity, hope in someone who loves him, hope in his chance to be "resurrected".

In the Gospel (John 11:1-45) this hope is proclaimed. The hope is this - there is no one so far gone into death that Jesus cannot call him or her back to life, for He is the resurrection and the life which is more than physical life in the present, as well as on the other side of death. (Sr Verna Holyhead- Welcoming the Word pg 40).

We are about to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus this Easter. It is central to our Faith that we will rise to life beyond our physical death. But Jesus also stands by the grave of our various deaths in this life - be it loss, pain, sickness, sin, disappointments, suffering from floods and experiencing violence, wars and famine in our world and so much more.

With Martha, the sister of Lazarus, we move away from fear busyness and distractions and encounter Jesus in his healing, hope filled ministry. We stand before Jesus witnessing his calling forth Lazarus from death, "Come Out! Unbind him and set him free." He does that also for each of us. But also, like Sonja in our story who enables Rodion to be set free, so too we are called to call others out of death - to unbind and set them free.

Like Martha we hear Jesus proclaim the Great Hope, "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Again like Martha we respond, "Yes Lord I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

Easter Mass Times

Holy Thursday

Lord's Supper

Holy Rosary 6.00pm

Good Friday

Passion of the Lord

Holy Rosary 3.00pm

St Patrick's 3.00pm

St James' 3.00pm

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil

Holy Rosary 6.30pm

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Don White PP
Parish Priest VC

Fr Anthony Nguyen
Associate Pastor

Mr Jeffrey Caluag
Operations Manager

Ms Pauline Leahy
Liturgy, Music, Sacramental &
RCA Co-ordinator

Ms Judy Pidcock
Pastoral Care Practitioner

Mrs Jan Aplin
Parish Safeguarding Representative

Mrs Lyn Callaghan
Bereavement Co-Ordinator

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 Catholic
Primary School**
Mrs Monica White

Principal

✉ sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au
☎ 07 4151 4771

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

Principal

✉ 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
☎ 07 4152 1380

Shalom College
Mr Dean Wearmouth

Principal

✉ 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

PROJECT COMPASSION

Fifth Sunday of Lent 21-22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

Parish News and Announcements

A MORNING OF MAKING PALM CROSSES: We will be holding a Cross Making morning in The Novakoski Centre on **Friday 27th March** from **9.00am - 12.00pm**. We need to make enough crosses for our churches/Masses for **Palm Sunday 29th March**. Parishioners are welcome to come whenever they can between these times for as long as they can. Some people already know how to make the palm crosses and are happy to show those who need help. Everyone is welcome.



FRIENDS OF THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY: Will be holding a working bee on March 21st at the Catholic Cemetery in Fitzgerald Street, from 6.00am-9.00am. If you are available to help please bring along gardening tools and whipper snipper. Morning tea will be provided.



CHILDREN'S MASS: Will be held at St Patrick's Church this Sunday **22nd March** at **9.00am**. This will be followed by morning tea. Those attending are encouraged to bring a plate to share. This weekend will also be the Ritual of Choosing for our Sacramental Candidates. We encourage those candidates to attend this Mass where possible.

MALAYALAM MASS: Friday 27th March, please note the changes to this Mass. This Mass will be held in Holy Rosary Church for this month only. Stations of the Cross will commence at **4.30pm** followed by penance, Adoration and Mass.

MENALIVE EVENT 1 FOR 2026 - POPE LEO AND HIS VISION FOR OUR CHURCH.

When: Saturday 28th March

Where: Parish Office

Commencing with breakfast at 7.30am

Finishing at 10.30am

\$20.00
Payable on
the day

Register at the Parish
Office for Catering
**by Wednesday
25th March**

Pope Leo has been Bishop of Rome for 300 days, but who is this man and what clear themes are emerging in his ministry? Already we see a vision that is both deeply traditional and yet strikingly responsive to the wounds and possibilities of the present moment.



Join MenAlive as we learn how life, career and experiences now shape how a 70 year old American born Robert Francis Prevost, sees authority as service, leadership as humility, and mission as the overflow of a deep inner life.

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

PRIESTS PRE-EASTER RETREAT: This week will see all Priests from the Diocese gather in Yeppoon to pray and prepare for the upcoming Easter Season. We will hold them in our prayers over this time. Refer to the Bulletin for Mass times.

CHRISM MASS: The Chrism Mass will be held at St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton on Thursday 26th March at 10.00am. The Mass will be livestreamed in the Parish Office for those wishing to watch.

FLOOD RECOVERY SUPPORT: If you have been isolated by floodwaters and need financial or wellbeing support, help is available.

Queensland Community Recovery Hotline

Call 1800 173 349 anytime (24/7).

You can also apply online: www.qld.gov.au/disasterhelp

For residents experiencing hardship who are unable to apply online/phone, there are two Bundaberg Community Recovery Hubs available.

Bundaberg West Community Recovery Hub

Bundaberg TAFE, 118 Walker St

9 am - 4 pm daily

Bundaberg South Pop Up Hub

Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre, 111 Targo St

9 am - 4 pm daily



A celebration for the life of

ROY LESLIE BYRNE

*Graveside - Catholic Cemetery
Monday 30th March 11.30am*



KEVIN EDWARD HUNTER

*Graveside - Bundaberg General Cemetery
Tuesday 31st March 11.00am*



WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kevin Hunter, Roy Byrne, Mario Luigi Calligaris, Tony Swanton, Helen Andrews, John Gatt (Malta), Cecily Thorne.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Br Ted Magee 28.04.2025, Joe Formosa (Malta), 2.04.2025, Catherine Therese Harding 18.04.2025, Leone Munckton 29.03.2023, Helen Johnston (Cairns) 3.04.2004, Rita Hyde 27.04.2024, Jim Roberts 23.04.2025, Daryl Roberts 28.04.1987, Marcello De Paoli 6.03.2024, Mary Jane Theuma 7.03.2013, Lucie Wildenberg 4.03.1994, Mario Baggetto 6.03.2014, Bill Noble 5.03.2025, Virginio Zorzan 21.02.2013, Celeste Magliocco 2.03.2006, Patricia Waters 5.03.2005, Kathleen Burton 9.03.2008, Edward (Ted) Burton 23.04.2019.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Paz Alesna, Giovanni De Zotti, Liza Camilleri, Zeppa Formosa, The Formosa Families, Gerry Walsh, Aminta Castro, Elizabeth Castro, Zillah Geiger, George Geiger & George Jnr, Ingabritth Geiger, Annam and Varghese, Feltrin Family (Italy), Jock & Jean Simpson, Olivia Cafolla, 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 Mar 2026

Collect of St Turibius

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

6.00pm Holy Rosary

Adoration

Tuesday 24 Mar 2026

9.00am St James' - LWC

5.30pm St Patrick's - LWC

Wednesday 25 Mar 2026

The Annunciation of the Lord

8.00am Shalom- LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary-LWC

Thursday 26 Mar 2026

7.00am St Patrick's - LWC

Friday 27 Mar 2026

11.00am Holy Rosary- Exposition

11.30am Holy Rosary- Penance

12.15pm Holy Rosary- Mass

Saturday 28 Mar 2026

7.30am St Patrick's- Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary- Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

Sunday 29 Mar 2026

Palm Sunday

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 50: 4-7

Second Reading

Phil 2: 6-11

Gospel

Matthew 26: 14-27:66:



St James 5.30pm

St Patrick's 5.30pm

Holy Rosary 6.00pm

Malayalam

Every Friday during Lent

PRAYER GROUPS

CHRISTIAN UNITY GROUP:

An Ecumenical gathering for prayer and fellowship will be held on Tuesday, 24th March at 10.00am



in the Parish Office.

New members 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.au.

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/commitment-statement-and-policy):
www.rockhampton.catholic.net.au/commitment-statement-and-policy
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 friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43) The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, "Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44).

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

Lenten challenge: Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.

Jesus Youth Queensland Invites you to

ABLAZE

Stay-in Retreat
April 10-12
Grades 6-12



One Day Program
April 12
Prep-Grade 5

*"Your word
is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"*

Psalm 119:105

Chaverim Camp, South Bingera

**To register or for more information
please contact the Parish Office 4151 6666**

**Registration
closes on
25/03/2026**

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!!