



Welcome to the Parish

18^h/19th April 2026 Year A

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

3rd

Sunday of

Easter

Rediscovering the Spirit of the Early Church- Pope Saint John Paul II and Evangelization

Many years ago, I recall our former bishop, Bishop Wallace gave a talk on why the series readings we encounter from the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament during Easter is one of the great gifts of the Easter season. The book of Acts tells of how the early Church emerged, organized itself, and courageously proclaimed the resurrection of Christ.

This Sunday's first reading is one of the pivotal readings from Acts. It is the record of St. Peter's first and great homily on Pentecost Day and is the first public proclamation of Jesus' resurrection. Scholars call this proclamation the "kerygma" or first preaching which gives testimony that Jesus of Nazareth has become the Risen Lord and is now pouring out his Spirit upon his people. St. Peter tells how the story of God's salvation now enters its final and decisive phase. Salvation is found in the saving work of Jesus Christ, and His followers, the Church are now heralds of that salvation.

Saint Pope John Paul II repeatedly urged the Church to renew her commitment to evangelization by looking again at how the early Church lived and proclaimed the Gospel. In a time of growing secularization and declining faith practice, he insisted that the answer was not a new Gospel or a new ideology, but a return to the Church's original missionary spirit.

The first Christians, as described in the Acts of the Apostles, evangelized without power, prestige, or complex structures. Their strength came from a personal encounter with Christ, deep communion with one another, prayer, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Every baptized believer understood that sharing the faith was part of ordinary Christian life, not the task of a few specialists.

In his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, (1979) (John Paul II) taught that missionary zeal is the clearest sign of the Church's spiritual health. When the Church is alive in faith, she naturally evangelizes. When that zeal fades, it often reveals a deeper weakening of faith. For this reason, he reminded Catholics that no parish, ministry, or individual believer is exempt from the call to proclaim Christ. John Paul II described this renewal as the "New Evangelization." By "new," he did not mean a different message, but an evangelization renewed in ardour, methods, and expression, modelled on the example of the early Church. Like the first Christians, today's believers are called to evangelize first by witness—by lives shaped by faith, charity, and hope—and then by honest and joyful proclamation of the Gospel.

At the beginning of the new millennium in the year 2000, in his apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, the Pope emphasized that the Church does not need to invent a new program for the future. The program already exists in the Gospel and the Church's living tradition. To "start afresh from Christ" means returning again and again to the foundations that sustained the Church from the beginning: holiness of life, prayer, community, love of neighbour, and missionary courage.

For Pope Saint John Paul II, the early Church was not just a moment in history, but a permanent model. His call remains urgent today: if the Church is to evangelize effectively, she must continually rediscover the faith, simplicity, and missionary spirit of her first believers.

May we enjoy the blessing of the readings from Acts given to us in this Easter season.

Fr Don White
Parish Priest

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 respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



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Parish News and Announcements



ANOINTING MASS: All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the Anointing Mass, which will take place on **Thursday 23rd April at 10.00am** in **Holy Rosary Church**. Morning Tea will follow in the Novakoski Centre, providing an opportunity for fellowship and companionship. Everyone is welcome.

Anointing of the Sick

TEACHING MASS: Will be held on **Thursday, 23rd April** in Holy Rosary Church at **5.30pm**. This Mass forms part of the Sacramental program for parents and children. During this Mass, each part will be explained. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

ANZAC DAY MASS: The Anzac Day Mass will be celebrated on **Saturday 25th April** in St Patrick's Church commencing at **6.30am**.

After Mass Parishioners are invited to the hall for light refreshments. Everyone is welcome.



CHILDREN'S MASS: The Children's Mass will be celebrated at the St Patrick's Church **26th April at 9.00am**. Those attending are encouraged to bring a plate to share.



MEMORIAL SERVICE: A Memorial Service is scheduled for **Wednesday 29th April at 6.00pm** in **Holy Rosary Church** for all who have lost loved ones, especially those bereaved over the past six months.

ONLINE YOUTH GROUP: HOW TO READ THE BIBLE.

The NET team is hosting a six week course online over Zoom for anyone in Grades 9-12. They will be presenting a video series from The Bible Project looking at how to read and understand the Bible. The sessions will take place on Thursdays in Term 2 at 7.00pm starting on the 30th of April and will feature games, short videos and discussion. To register or for more information, scan the QR code.



BISHOP MICHAEL McCARTHY-Farewell Mass and Morning Tea.

On **Sunday, 3rd May**, we will show our sincere thanks and gratitude to Bishop Michael as he celebrates his final Mass with us in **Holy Rosary Church at 8.00am**. After Mass a morning tea will be held in his honour. Everyone is welcome.

EL SHADDAI FILIPINO PRAYER GROUP:

The El Shaddai Prayer Group now meets online every Sunday evening. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more, contact the Parish Office.

Baptism News

We give thanks for those recently baptised in our parish and pray that God's love will guide them always.

- Maci Maree Gatt
- Huey David Gatt
- Eli Jimmy Burke
- Emery Aster Durant
- Edward Kerry Boylan
- Henley Casey Turner



*St Joseph's Primary School
Celebrating*

**150
Years**

Saturday, August 8th

Thanks Giving Mass
Holy Rosary Church
10.30am

Followed by

Open School- Visit classrooms, memorabilia, student artworks.
Food and drink vans
Souvenirs for sale

A Dinner will be held in the evening at Bothers Sports Club

For more information contact
St Joseph's
4151 4771

If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support.



Parish News and Announcements

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA

Do you know anyone interested
in becoming a Catholic?

©LPI

A Journey in Faith

Everyone's journey is unique...
just like yours...

For more information, please contact
Pauline at 07 4151 6666



Liturgies

Monday 20 April 2026

9.00am St Patrick's Church
6.00pm Holy Rosary Church
Adoration and Penance

Tuesday 21 April 2026

St Anselm

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

Wednesday 22 April 2026

8.00am Shalom-Mass
5.30pm Holy Rosary
Teaching Mass

Thursday 23 April 2026
St George & St Adalbert

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass
10.00am Holy Rosary Church
Anointing Mass

Friday 24 April 2026

St Fidelis

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

Saturday 25 April 2026

Anzac Day

6.30am St Patrick's - Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

Sunday 26 April 2026

7.00am St James' - Mass
8.00am Holy Rosary - Mass
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass
12.00pm Baffle Creek - Mass
5.30pm Holy Rosary - Mass

SCRIPTURES

First Reading
Acts 2:14,36-41
Second Reading
1 Peter 2:20-25
Gospel
John 10:1-10

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.



AFTER HOURS

Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies
Phone 07 4151 6666
& follow the prompts.



United Hearts Catholic Charismatic
Group Bundaberg

The Grace of Baptism *Retreat*

led by NET Team

Saturday 2nd May - 9.30-4.00pm

Holy Rosary Church & Novakoski Hall

All are
welcome

RSVP 29th April
Parish Office 07 4151666

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!!



PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Don White PP, VG
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

Mrs Lyn Callaghan
Bereavement Coordinator



When I first read Homer's *Odyssey* as a teenager, one scene captured my imagination: Odysseus finally returning home after 20 years, yet no one recognized him. Disguised as a beggar, he speaks with his wife, his son, and even his enemies. He is fully present, yet hidden. Only at the right moment does he reveal himself, and everyone realizes he has been with them all along. I was struck by the mystery that he could be so close to his loved ones, and yet they simply could not identify him.

A similar mystery is at the heart of today's Gospel. Two disciples walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus, but "their eyes were prevented from recognizing him." (Luke 24:16) He listens, teaches, and eats with them, yet they remain blind until he breaks the bread. Suddenly their eyes are opened – and at that very moment, he vanishes. His disappearance is not absence. Rather, it is revelation. The Risen Lord is now present in a new way, in the breaking of the bread and in the life of His Church.

Faith is this shift of vision. Instead of searching for a visible Jesus as if he were absent, we learn to recognize him unveiled in hidden ways – in Scripture proclaimed, in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in the very life of the Church.

And what is true of him is true of us. Just as he disappears into the mission of his Body, we too are meant to be hidden in him. When we live hidden in Christ, we are seen for who we really are.

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 Preshy Varghese

Mr Matthias Visona

Mr Michael Walker

We Pray for our Deceased

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kaylene Smith, Dra Bebe Clarita Bajarias Alcantara (Philippines), Jomon Joseph (India), Verity Jane Hubbard, John McConville, Evelyn Grohn, Kevin Hunter, Roy Byrne, Elaine Seary.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Gerry Walsh 14.04.2025, Willemina Drent 6.04.2019, Ron Cook 5.04.2006, Sharlie Arkinstall 19.04.2023, Phil Marano 5.04.2018, Mariantonia Cafolla 12.04.1984, Michele Grosso 4.04.2007, Teresa Brillante 27.04.2009, Graham Haines 21.03.2008, Jim Fitzgerald 25.03.1995, JohnWildenberg 1.04.1982, Mary Elizabeth Fordham 27.03.2023, Albi Modolo 4.04.2019, Leonard "Len" Schneider 8.04.2021, 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, Marcus Roberts 3.11.2014, Virginio Zorzan 12.02.2013.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Stanley Green, Dulcie Schafer, Siebert Schafer, Antonia Evancia Cutas, Dominique Attard, Deceased members of Attard & Zammit Families, Princess Diana, Paz Alesna, Giovanni De Zotti, Liza Camilleri, Zeppa Formosa, The Formosa Families, Zillah Geiger, George Geiger & George Jnr, Ingabeth Geiger, Feltrin Family (Italy), Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea, deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families, Kevin and Doris Whalley, Holy Souls in Purgatory.

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church
14 Powers Street

St James' Church
38 See Street Bargara

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: 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