



Welcome to the Parish

5th/6th September 2026 Year A

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Father's Day

Dr Ken Avenell
Parish Stewardship Council

Father's Day is more than just a calendar date—it's a chance to pause and reflect on the gift of fatherhood through the lens of Christian life. When I think about my own dad, I remember simple moments: him teaching me how to knot a fishing line, or the way he always insisted we invite a stranger to Christmas lunch, even when we were doing it tough ourselves. Those small acts of guidance and faith remind me of St. Joseph, the quiet protector of Jesus and Mary, who showed love not through grand speeches but through steady presence and responsibility.

Christian tradition often speaks of God as Father, and that image can feel both comforting and challenging. Comforting, because it reminds us of unconditional love; challenging, because it calls earthly fathers to mirror that love in their own families. I've seen this lived out in contemporary life when friends who are dads juggle work, school runs, and bedtime reading and prayers. They are not perfect and may not feel heroic, but in those daily sacrifices they echo the patience and devotion of God's fatherhood.

Father's Day also invites us to broaden our view. It's not only about biological fathers, but also mentors, coaches, uncles, priests, and community leaders who step into fatherly roles. I think of a teacher who once encouraged me when I doubted myself – his words carried the same kind of steady reassurance that a father gives. In Christian life, these figures remind us that fatherhood is ultimately about service, guidance, and love.

So, as we celebrate Father's Day, it's worth remembering that honouring fathers is also a way of honouring God's design for community. It's a call to gratitude, to prayer for those who carry the weight of fatherhood, and to recognize the everyday holiness found in their quiet, faithful care.

A PRAYER FOR *Father's Day*

Gracious God,
bless fathers and all father
figures with such love and
faithfulness that children
flourish and grow in
uprightness and joy.
Bless those who long to be
fathers and those for whom
this day is difficult.

Amen



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 respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



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Phone 07 4151 - 6666

6 Weeks until we Celebrate 150 Years

October 16th-18th

A small wooden church called the Church of St Mary of the Holy Rosary was opened with Father Thomas O'Brien officiating. Father O'Brien had some years earlier been the first priest to celebrate mass in Bundaberg at the Adams Hotel (now the Metropolitan). This new church would come to be known by the shorter name Holy Rosary Church.

Friday 16th : A Thanksgiving Mass will be held in Holy Rosary Church at **5.30pm** presided over by Bishop Daniel Meagher. After Mass we are encouraging attendees to stay for fish and chips or sausage sizzle in St Joseph's School grounds provided free by the Parish. We will be asking parishioners to bring a slice to share on our dessert table. The Memorabilia display will be open during the evening at Novakoski Centre.



Saturday 17th : A Luncheon will be held at Brothers Sports Club from **11.00am** to raise money for cancer. The **"Do it for Cancer"** Luncheon is held annually as a part of our outreach to the wider community. A multi-draw raffle will also be held along with entertainment. 150 year merchandise will be on sale.



Sunday 18th : A Multi-Cultural morning tea will be held **after** the **8.00am** Mass at Holy Rosary. Those wishing to contribute are asked to contact the Parish Office. Novakoski Centre will also be open after Mass with the memorabilia display.



Volunteers will be required to make this weekend a success. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

MEMORABILIA DISPLAY FOR 150 YEARS CELEBRATION

The Parish would like to hear from you if you have memorabilia that can be displayed in Novakoski as part of the 150 years Celebration in **October 16th -18th**. The Parish Archives hold important documents but we are also looking for items from times gone by. If you have an item you would lend to us for the display, or if you have photos from significant events such as Ordinations, please contact the Parish Office.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL? The Parish is looking for parishioners to tell their story and connection to the Parish either to Holy Rosary, St Patrick's, St James and St Mary's communities. **Please contact the Parish Office.**

"DO IT FOR CANCER" - FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON.

WHEN: Saturday 17th October 2026 at 11.00am

WHERE: Brothers Sports Club, Takalvan Street.

Tickets will be on sale from the Parish Office. **\$40.00** per person will include a Two Course Meal and Lucky Door Prize. Entertainment will be supplied by students from our Catholic Schools. The popular multi-draw raffle will also be a feature.

DONATIONS OF PRIZES FOR OUR MULTI-DRAW RAFFLE CAN BE LEFT AT THE PARISH OFFICE.

150TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO:

The planning committee is preparing a short video to mark the anniversary. This will be a record of where we have come from but more importantly, who we are now as a parish, 150 years later. Over the next few weekends you may see a videographer at your Mass filming snippets for this video. No voices will be recorded. The Mass Centres will be advised the week prior to any filming. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

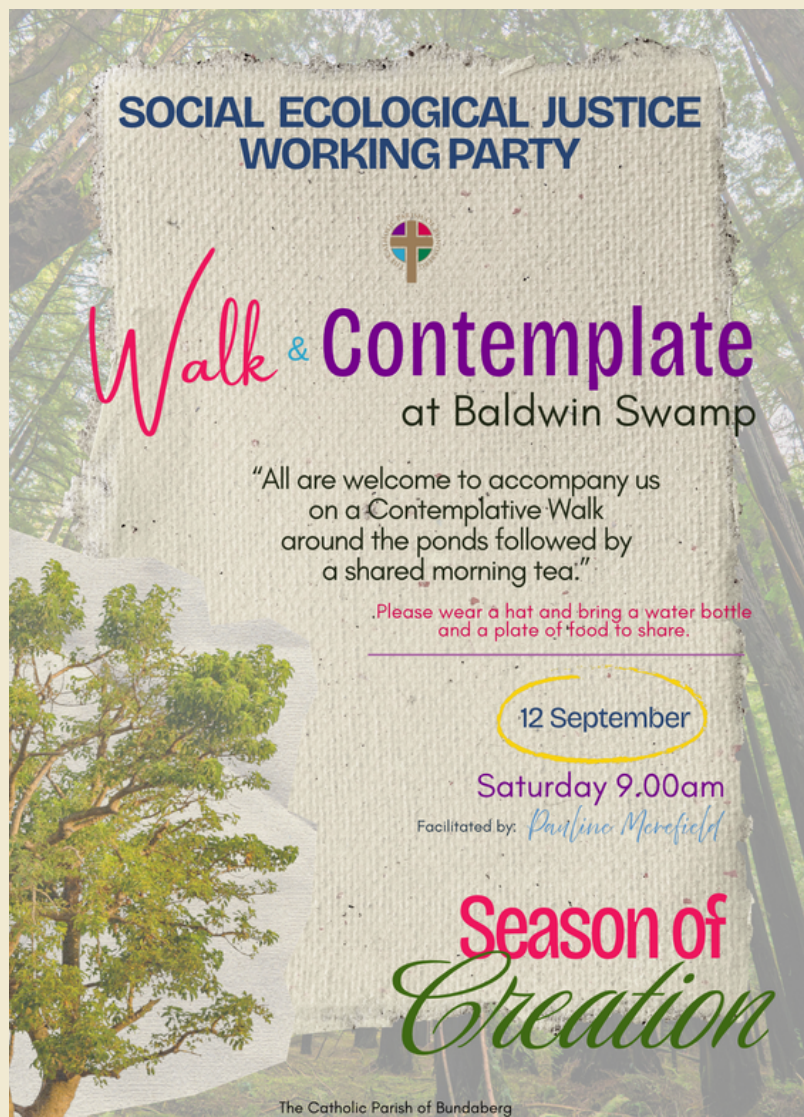


If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support.



CELEBRATING
150 years
1876
2026



OUR COMMON HOME - An opportunity to stop and reflect in the Season of Creation .

Please join us on **Monday 21st September** at The Haven Emu Park from **9.00am-midday**. Finishing with Eucharist and a shared Lunch. No cost, please bring a plate to share. **RSVP** Monday 14th September via email socialjustice@rok.catholic.net.au or call Derek on 0427 508 164.

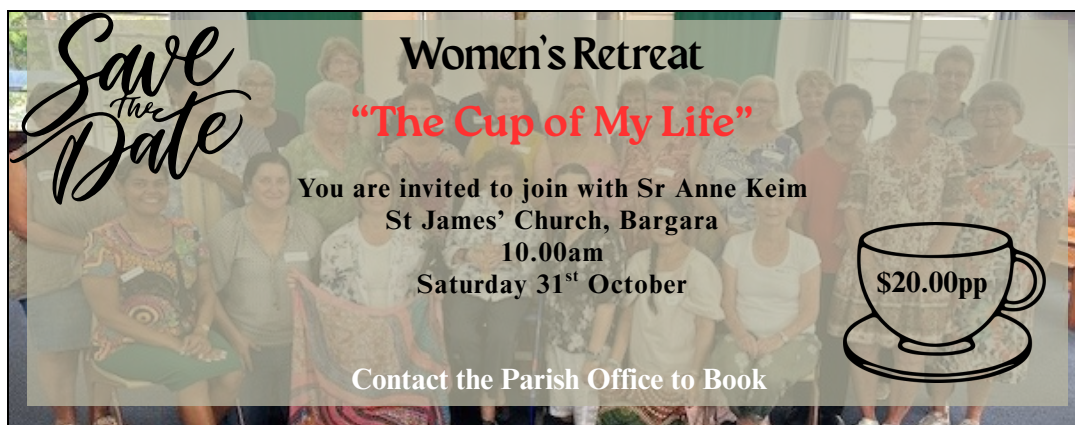


ASCEND IGNITE CONFERENCE 2026

Ignite is a National Catholic Conference for young Catholics to experience real world formation, powerful worship and encouragement in their Catholic faith in an exciting, and ground-breaking way. All students in Years 7-12 are invited to travel to Brisbane for the 2026 conference as part of our diocesan group.



For more details scan the QR code or contact Mick on 0433 897 973 or youth@rok.catholic.net.au.



Liturgies

Monday 7 September 2026

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

Tuesday 8 September 2026

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Wednesday 9 September 2026

St Peter Claver

8.00am Shalom - Mass
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Thursday 10 September 2026

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Friday 11 September 2026

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

Saturday 12 September 2026

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

Sunday 13 September 2026

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

SCRIPTURES

Ecc 27: 30 - 28:7

Second Reading

Romans 14: 7-9:

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35:

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.

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

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



A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily together with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, "Go and tell your brother his fault," He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, "If he listens to you, you have won over your brother," we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

We Pray for our Deceased

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bro Peter Sheldon (Brisbane), Bill Willett (Sydney), Joe Galea, Bruce Patrick Gillespie, Graham Hocking, Patricia "Pat" Sawtell, Frank Castelli, Mary Attard.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Malcolm Bell 05.09.2012, Edna Christensen 20.09.2014, Jim Dunphy 10.09.2018, Edna Callaghan 26.09.2019, Jack Callaghan 28.10.1956, Sergio De Paoli 20.09.2016, Mario Crawford 7.09.2025, Ken Bennett 6.09.2024, Phillip Cafolla 5.09.1995, Shane Hocking 23.11.2018, Cameron Hocking 20.07.2022, Damian Mullins 1.09.2024, Agostino Asnicar 1.09.2019, John Blundell 28.09.2019, Attilio D'Addario 30.08.2010, Siebert Schafer 13.09.2002, Fr Pat Mooney 10.08.2023, Levene Bailey 3.08.2023, Jovita P Espiritu 15.08.2012, Genoveffa Lituri 7.08.2023, Mary Patterson 27.09.2023.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Formosa and Grima Families, Holy Souls, George, Zillah and George Jnr, Dominic Attard, Philly's Micolas, Ramon D Andres, Rosa Andres, Gerry Walsh, Corrado Barazza, Gino Barazza, Deceased relatives of the Benvenuto Barazza & Parussini Families, Fetrin Family, Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea, deceased relatives of the Galea, & Zahra Families, Kevin and Doris Whalley.



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

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