Welcome to the Parish

7th/8th Nov 2026 Year A

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



Ritual in Life

Dean Wearmouth
Principal, Shalom College

As we travelled through Philippians for the first readings this week there was a reminder about ritual that resonated with me. "Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2: 9-11)

On All Souls Day at Shalom College, students and staff were invited into our Chapel to light a candle and pray for a loved one who may need help or who has passed away. We explained the symbolism and timing of the ritual in assembly and that our Chapel will be open every Monday afternoon for staff and students to come light a candle and do this.

In creating this space and ritual for our students, I reflected just how important ritual is to make and express meaning in our lives. Our faith tradition is rich in ritual, at Mass we pray, bow, kneel, share a sign of peace, stand to hear the Gospel, bow before receiving the Eucharist; all of these small rituals enable us to participate and deepen the meaning for us. They are shared and draw us together as a Catholic community.

I am fortunate that I work in a Catholic ministry in my day job, so naturally I lead and participate in ritual, which helps to sustain my faith. However, on reflection, my life is full of faith-sustaining ritual. The first thing I do every morning when I wake is to say the Our Father in gratitude for another day of life and another opportunity to serve, I also pray for my family and those in need. When I leave the house, I make a sign of the cross to dedicate my day to God and on the way to work I listen to the App 'Pray as you go' to hear one of the daily readings and a guided reflection. All of these small rituals help to set the day up in gratitude and to be ready to serve others.

There are many ways that we can pause to create ritual to encounter God throughout the day. The main way we do this is through our prayer life; morning and evening prayer and saying grace before meals. Some Catholics don't eat meat on a Friday as a small conscious sacrifice to remember the sacrifice of Jesus. I know some people who have developed their own personal rituals to make more meaning and give reverence to God. Someone I know takes seven sips of water with their medication to remind them to be grateful to God for their health. I saw a mother outside one of our primary schools make the sign of the cross on her children's foreheads as she dropped them off. I know somebody who makes time once per week to go to the beach and give thanks to God for our world.

Ritual is so important to help us express, sustain and nurture our faith. They help us to nurture the Theological virtues of faith, hope and love, gifted to us through Baptism. They provide us with the consolation that God is in our lives and working through and amongst us. More than the physical action, ritual helps us to pause and become more aware of the Grace of God, strengthen our sense of belonging to the church and help us to carry the message of Christ into our everyday lives and into the lives of others.

So, in addition to the familiar rituals of our faith that we experience at Mass, may we all take time to build them into our daily lives, participate in them with open hearts and allow them to renew and sustain us on the journey towards our loving God.

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.

Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St
PO BOX 79 Bundaberg Qld 4670
sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au
www.bundabergcatholic.net.au
Phone 07 4151 - 6666

Planning is well underway for the 2026 Bethlehem Live



Volunteers needed:

- Construction crew: work as part of the team to support the Construction Coordinator to set up and pack down the event.
- *Street Actors and Soldiers:* Need lots of people to be costumed visitors to Bethlehem, such as beggars, women at the well and walking around and Roman Soldiers (only male soldiers and must be 18 or older).
- Cleaners: to empty bins and keep thing clean. Must have a bluecard.
- Storytellers: to tell some of the more well-known Old Testament stories to the children.

If you are able to assist with any of these roles, please contact the Parish Office. Whether you can volunteer for just one day between 15–18 December or for the entire event, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Ladies Retreat





Last Saturday thirty seven ladies from our Parish gathered for a day of Prayer and Reflection at our second Annual Women's Retreat. Sr Anne Keim (rsm) led the Retreat, which she titled THE CUP OF OUR LIFE. Each participant chose a gift wrapped cup which was used as a metaphor for our lives; reflecting on the gift of life, our hopes, dreams, aspirations as well as the disappointments we experience.

We unwrapped the 'gift' of the mug, reflecting on its appearance and its purpose, and on how we fill our cup: the people, and the activities and how we manage these things in our lives.

We are grateful for Sr Anne's presence with us and for her gentle leadership of our time of Reflection. Thank you also to Sr Carolyn Hunt who accompanied Sr Anne.

Participants gave positive feedback and indicated the support for the program with comments including:

The best thing about today was "having some quiet time to ponder, reflect and pray"

"Taking the time out to listen to Sr Anne's presentation ….
It was excellent, just what I needed at this point in my life"; and "my cup of coffee will not be the same any more…but more enjoyable."

"Please do it again", and "…have other days like this."

We all hope that the Ladies Retreat will continue to be part of our Parish Calendar

November: A month of Devotion to the Holy Souls

In the Catholic Church, November is traditionally dedicated as the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory and a Month of Remembrance for the faithful departed.

- For Masses for deceased family members and friends to be offered throughout November please use the November envelopes.
- During November the book of Remembrance will be available in our churches for the general observance of our prayers for the Holy Soul. The book will be in our churches from 7th November.



Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Amen

Parish News and Announcements

St Joseph's Cathedral Appeal: This weekend (7-8 November) our annual St Joseph's Cathedral Appeal is being held in support of the Sanctuary Renewal Project. This important project will help create a permanent and fitting sanctuary within our Cathedral, enhancing both its beauty and its role as the spiritual heart of our Diocese. We thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous support. Please follow this link to Bishop Danny's video message in support of the Cathedral Appeal *https://youtu.be/ckY37t1P3vk.*

Mass at the Mater: All welcome next **Wednesday 11 November,** 10.00am, for Mass in the chapel.

CWL Christmas Dinner: CWL Christmas Dinner will once again be at the Brothers Club on **Tuesday 24th of November** in the Leprechaun Room. Arrive at 5.30 pm for sit down at 6.00pm. There will be a 2-course Christmas themed menu for $35. Please let us know your Dietary requirements when booking. Tickets can be purchased at the meeting on the 10th of November or after that at the Parish office for cash, up until the 16th of November. We have the options of participating in the Secret Santa (value of $20) or there will be a donation box for St Vinnies or simply come along and enjoy the night. Hope to see you there.

Memorial Service: A Memorial Service is scheduled for **Wednesday 11 November** at 6.00pm in Holy Rosary Church for all who have lost loved ones, especially those that bereaved over the past six months. Light refreshments will be served in the Novakoski Centre afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Head, Heart & Hands - 40 Years On (1986-2026): Join the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton for a reflection gathering commemorating Saint John Paul II's historic 1986 address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. **Saturday 14 November** 1:00pm - 5:30pm, Kevin Castles Conference Centre, Rockhampton. All welcome Registration essential. Register:
https://app.tickets.org.au/CDOR/HeadHeartHands2026

MenAlive Retreat - Join Fr Peter Doherty for a MenAlive Retreat at Shalom College on **Saturday 28 November**, 7:30am-11:30am. Breakfast included. Cost $20. Please contact the Parish Office to register.

Pageants of Lights: Thursday 3rd December. Come along and support the Bundaberg Pageant of Lights, the official switch-on of the CBD Christmas lights, followed by the festive Christmas Float Parade. Our parish will once again be participating with a float that shares the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the parish float. If you would like to be involved or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office.

Blanket Buddies Christmas Raffle: Tickets now available in a Christmas Hamper of goodies (1st Prize) and crocheted blanket (2nd Prize) from the Parish Office. Tickets $1 each until **Monday 1st December.**

World Youth Day Korea 2027: All young adults born in the years 1991-2008 are invited to join our diocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Korea next year. Join with over a million Catholics from around the world and Pope Leo himself! The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Danny and will travel to Hong Kong and then Busan, Jeonju and Seoul in South Korea. The dates for the pilgrimage are the 29th of July to the 10th of August. Partial sponsorship is available for a limited number of people. For more details and to express interest go to our diocesan website (*rok.catholic.net.au*) or scan the QR code.

Liturgies

Monday 9 November 2026
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
9.00 am St Patrick's - Mass
6.00pm Adoration & Penance HR

Tuesday 10 November 2026
St Leo the Great
9.00am St James' - LWC
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Wednesday 11 November 2026
St Martin of Tours
8.00am Shalom - Mass
10.00am Mater - Mass
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass
6.00pm Holy Rosary-Memorial Service

Thursday 12 November 2026
St Josaphat
7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Friday 13 November 2026
11.00am Holy Rosary - Exposition
11.30am Holy Rosary - Penance
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 14 November 2026
7.30am St Patrick's - Mass
9.00 Holy Rosary' - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

Sunday 15 November 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
Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Second Reading
1 Thess 5:1-6
Gospel
Matthew 25:14-30



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 Jenes
Miss Clare O'Rourke
Mrs Helen Stanley
Dr Preshy 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



Every time my husband tells me he needs to take our car in for an oil change, I groan: "Didn't we just do that, like, six months ago?"

"Yeah," he replies. "And like I told you six months ago, that's roughly how often it needs to be done."

If I didn't have him, I would forget to change that oil until the engine came to a grinding halt in the middle of the interstate. It's not that I'm incapable — I remember when we're about to run out of butter, when we need to scrub out the kitchen sink so it doesn't get nasty, when it's time to schedule the kids' annual doctor visits. I just don't even think about the oil.

Why would I? My husband's on top of it.

Our brains reflexively prioritize certain tasks, delegating the rest to the care of others we trust. I do it with the oil in the car. My husband does it with the groceries.

Sometimes — too often, in fact — we do it with our spiritual lives. We let it go. We don't think about it. We trust. God's got us. We'll focus on that tomorrow.

It's beautiful to have a relationship with God based in confidence, not in anxiety. But do we sometimes take this further than is healthy? In trusting that God loves us unconditionally, do we slip into the habit of de-prioritizing him? Do we linger too long outside the wedding feast, trimming our neglected lamps, forgetting that once the door closes, it also locks?

We Pray for our Deceased

RECENTLY DECEASED: Catherine Castelli, Patricia Stevenson, Rosalina Laruan, Giuseppe Evorio Caniglia (Cleveland Ohio), Montana "Monica" Pearce, Helen Ryan, Esther Harte (Brisbane), Mary Nogorotto, Delma Hardstaff, Annette Francks (Perth), Colleen Geiger, David Allen, Alfio Bonanno, John Eagleson (Nth Ireland), Henry "John" Senini, Colleen Gahan.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: Renzo Crappa 6.11.12, Bill Della Vedova 12.11.12, Richard Rosolen 1.12.2024, Giorgio Asnicar 12.11.2016, Dulcie Schafer 28.10.95, Barry Sharp 7.11.2025, Frank Nella 7.10.2019, Sheelah Cagney 20.10.1995, Antonio De Zotti 20.10.2020, Sam Camilleri 15.10, Lawrence Formosa snr 30.10, Carmen Grima 4.11, Brian Fordham 15.10.2025, Gena Mode Bennett 16.10.1980, Elizabeth Maria Maglicco 22.10.2002, Frank Cafolla 29.10.2004, Lawrence Galea 1.10.2022, John S.V (Val) Gill 30.10.1987, Anthony Eric Arkinstall 30.10.1971, Olympia Cagatin 24.10.2024, Assunta Borza 30.09.1990, John Edward Clarke 25.09.1969, Eric Chapman, Cath Dwyer

MASS OFFERED FOR HOLY SOULS IN THE PURGATORY: Lisa Camilleri, Raimondo De Bernardinis, Giuseppina De Bernardinis, Alfio Bonanno, Deceased members of the Cross, Cagney,Collins & Martin Families, Sheelah Margaret Cagney, Terence James Cagney, Margaret Mary Cagney Gloria Mary Collins, Betty O'Keefe, Gerry Walsh, Formosa and Grima Families, Antonette Nordone (Italy), Alife Cafolla (Italy), Holy Souls inPurgatory, Holy Souls, Gino Troiani, Enio Troiani, Emma and Johnny Carossi, 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.



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.rok.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