



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

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Little Mountain | Maleny | Unity

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First Sunday of Advent - 30th Nov/1st Dec 2024 - Year B

Let's Consider our Perspective, the Things we Can't Change, and Pastoral Considerations

Friends, as we approach some key moments in our consultation process, this newsletter piece is exclusively aimed at providing an overview of how a new Mass roster will be decided. I appreciate that some people have experienced anxiety, uncertainty, and suspense during this consultation process, but it has been important to try to consult broadly before making any changes to the schedule. Together with the Leadership Team, I hope to find a practical solution within the broader context of our faith journey together and the opportunities for renewal that we are hoping to explore.

Community of Communities

Over the years, our parish has developed very strong independent community identities. This has been a blessing in a time when each community could have its own Sunday Mass. However, it becomes a challenge when priestly resources must be shared, and in a time when some of the communities are reliant on dwindling numbers of faithful volunteers. This model has served us well in the past, but it is time to embrace change with faith and goodwill, both of which are necessary to help us move forward. The drive toward unity between communities is one of the most important goals of this process and is fundamental to embracing the opportunity ahead of us.

What are our next steps?

As we wrap up the final Conversations in the Spirit next weekend (30th Nov), and the few community-only meetings the following weekend (8th Dec), now is the time to share the criteria and pastoral considerations (hereafter simply criteria) against which the Mass roster decision will be made. I do so in the hope that when the decision is made public on the weekend of 14/15th December, you will appreciate the challenge of the decision, as well as the opportunities which are revealed. I also share the criteria in the hope that you might participate in a *consultative* way.

What do I mean by consultative participation?

Every community who has completed both the first and second phases of our consultation process has extolled the warm, welcoming, and family-friendly nature of their community. In some cases, they have put the case as to why their Mass time should remain unchanged.

However, the focus on an individual community makes it difficult to take a *balcony perspective*. A balcony perspective takes into account all the fixed and moving parts of the board as a whole. While the consultation process continues to be incredibly valuable – since it will form a solid pastoral plan which each community can use to focus and grow – it has not yet yielded any proposals that would meet the needs of the whole parish.

“A balcony view helps us to consider alternative viewpoints and see the bigger picture, taking an objective view of events so that effective action can be taken”

Now is the time for effective action.

As Parish Priest, I will have to take responsibility for the final decision on the new Mass schedule. The consultation process is, however, essential in order to inform and guide me, and the Pastoral Leadership Team which advises me.

So, I now invite you to further collaborate with your community leader(s) to suggest a viable Mass roster that considers the criteria listed below and your understanding of the needs of the parish as a whole – not just each individual community.

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I ask that you **do not** email your suggestion to the parish office directly but discuss it with your community leader(s) who may then submit one proposal to the parish office which considers the wisdom of many suggestions. I encourage you to take a bold and courageous approach which meets both the criteria and pastoral considerations below. I look forward to receiving your community's proposal which will help me determine how best to meet the needs of all our communities while focusing on the strategies that will guide our way forward in faith.

Once again, thank you for participating in this important process. Amidst the challenges and opportunities ahead, I remain committed to a process of transparency as we take this journey together.

Peace and blessings, Fr Josh

PS. Let us continue to move from an ecclesial model of dispensing sacraments, to engaging and being the Sacrament - which is what we are drawn into in the Mass. Such worship is what changes the world.

Criteria:

- Two Priests
- 6 Weekend Masses (one Mass at Notre Dame College)
 - Mass count data:
 - Past five years (as published 2 weeks ago)
 - Last weekends Mass Count:
 - Mass count data. 5pm OLR - 180
 - 6.30am OLR - 106
 - 9.30am OLR - 215
 - 8am Kawana - 71
 - 5pm Beerwah - 49
 - 7am Landsborough - 48
 - 9am Maleny - 81
 - 8am Unity - 110
 - 5pm Unity - 247 (There were 12 teenagers initiated at this Mass)
 - We will continue to measure Mass-related data because we cannot manage what we cannot measure
- Proximity of neighboring worshipping communities
- Board consultation process including parishioners, other parishes who have gone through a similar process, Episcopal Council (Archdiocese leadership including the Archbishop)
- Jesus' commandment to participate in our Mission to make new followers of Jesus (Mt 28:19)

Pastoral Considerations:

- Acknowledgement of past, present and future community needs
 - ◊ Communities have named their warm, welcoming nature
 - ◊ Communities have named their aging population
 - ◊ Communities have named their desire for more people to be involved in ministry and service
 - ◊ Communities have named their desire for more families and younger people
- Priest's and Volunteer's sustainability, health, wellbeing, and workload
- Priest travel time for all pastoral ministries; since priestly time is our most scarce resource, thoughtful and effective allocation of this resource is therefore paramount.
- Priest's availability before and after Masses
- Pre-Mass welcome and post-Mass hospitality every weekend
- Need to bring communities together to renew and thrive

Pastoral Ministry Opportunity

One of the pastoral ministries which the priests have performed until now, is sitting down with families to prepare the funeral of a loved one. Funeral preparation is, however, something that is not sacramental (eg. something only the priest can do). With the reduction of priest's next year, I sense the need to have trained parishioners in each community serving in this vital ministry. Funeral preparation entails a flexibility of time due to the *ad hoc* nature of funeral planning. It also requires a pastoral sensitivity to gently accompany people at their most vulnerable. Practically, this ministry entails sitting down with a family - usually 2-3 people - to demonstrate, first and foremost, that you care about them and their deceased loved one. The programmatic element entails assisting the family to plan the funeral celebration, eg. helping to guide them through the decision-making process for music, readings and prayers. If you are *faithful*, *available* during the day, *affable*, and *teachable*, I invite you to email, call or call in to the parish office to discuss serving in this vital part of pastoral ministry in our parish.

Many thanks, Fr Josh

Naming Some of the Challenges I am Navigating

Throughout the parish-wide consultation process to date, I have done and will continue to do my best to respond to all the different queries and concerns that people have raised – both face-to-face and via email. Some people have expressed their desire that I would rip the band-aid off and announce a new Mass roster, while others have expressed their doubts regarding the consultation process itself, and who believe that I have already decided the Mass roster. In naming these 2 ends of the spectrum, I hope that you can appreciate the enormity and challenge of the task of listening to, and consulting with, as many people as possible in 11 different communities.

A significant two-fold challenge that I am also navigating is how to respond to the thinking that the priests should just do 4 Masses each weekend, and that the Mission is not everyone's (my) responsibility. While 4 Masses may be the pseudo-norm in some parishes of our Archdiocese, it is certainly contrary to Canon Law, which permits up to 3 Masses if there is a shortage of priests.

My leadership team and I have discussed the best way to break open & explain these related topics and have decided to publish a visual representation from my diary (see the back page). I offer this publicly, not to seek your empathy, but to offer a reason why our Mission is so much more than just Mass. Mass is just one hour out of the 168 hours we are gifted by God each week, and while a priest's role covers many aspects of our parish's Mission, we all have a role to play according to the unique gifts God has given us. For a priest, simply doing more Masses is also a workplace health and safety risk.

With Fr Francis departing, we are also losing around 60 working hours per week. The leadership and administration team are working through different options for taking both administration and pastoral ministry that can be done by lay people off a priest's responsibility. It is certainly not possible for Fr Gerard and I to assimilate all that Fr Francis presently does into our weekly diary. For our parish's future, and our capacity to engage in our Mission – to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus – this is a much larger discussion than just Mass times. I offer my diary from a busy week in the hope that it may help by way of explanation to this important two-fold challenge. Please note that I have sanitized some of the entries to maintain necessary confidentiality. *Fr Josh*

Sacramental Celebration for Teenagers (RCIT)

Last Sunday, 24 November, on the Feast of Christ the King, twelve teenagers were fully initiated by Fr Francis into the Catholic Church, and welcomed into the 5pm Sunday Mass at Unity Chapel. These young people have been journeying throughout Term 4 in the RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teenagers) process and were joyfully joined by their families, godparents, and sponsors last weekend. Ben, Robbie, Asher, Marnie, and Nate were baptised, confirmed, and received their first holy communion. Liam, Issy, Andy, Lucas, Jacob, Alessandro, and Sophia were confirmed and received their first holy communion. It was a beautiful celebration and there was a large turnout from the 5pm Unity community to celebrate. A big thank you to the other catechists, Fr Gerard and Sandy Kay, who journeyed so closely with the students. Please continue to pray for them as they are sent out into the world, sealed by the holy spirit and ready to contribute to the mission of our parish, by actively accompanying other young people to encounter Jesus.

Felicity, Youth Minister



More photos on the website

Parish Diary

Monday 2 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

Tuesday 3 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Adoration/Rosary (Maleny) 8am
Mass (Maleny) 9am

Wednesday 4 Dec

Mass (UNITY) 7.50am
Unity School Liturgy (OLR) 8.30am
(Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 5 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am
(Currimundi) 9:15am

Friday 6 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration/Rosary (Lands) 8am
Mass (Lands) 9am

Saturday 7 Dec

Reconciliation (OLR) 8.30am
Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

2nd Sunday of Advent

Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

Sunday 8th Dec

2nd Sunday of Advent

Mass (OLR) 6.30am
Mass (Landsborough) 7am
Mass (Unity) 8am
Mass (Kawana) 8am
Mass (Maleny) 9am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am
Mass (OLR) 9:30am
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am
Mass (Unity) 5pm

Linktree QR Code



11/18/2024 to 11/24/2024

Whitehead, Joshua

Mon 18	Tue 19	Wed 20	Thu 21	Fri 22	Sat 23	Sun 24
Fr Josh Day Off		Gerard Annual Leave - 20Nov-4Dec La, Gerard				
4:30 AM	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up	Wake Up
5:30 AM	Prayer and Exercise	Prayer and Exercise	Prayer and Exercise	Prayer and Exercise	Prayer and Exercise	Prayer
6:30 AM	Breakfast/Ablutions	Breakfast/Ablutions	Breakfast/Ablutions	Breakfast/Ablutions	Breakfast/Ablutions	Pre-0630 Mass hospitalit Draft Newsletter Communication
7:30 AM	8-9am Preaching Prep - out of office	Emails/Admin 8.30am Teams Call wit	8-8.45 Preaching Prep	Preaching Prep - out c	Emails/Admin	Pre-Mass hospitality 8am Unity Mass
8:30 AM	9am emails	9am funeral meeting - xxxxxxxx Caloundra Parish	9am OLR Mass	Emails/Admin	Reconciliation OLR ch	Travel Pre-Mass Hospitality 9.30am OLR Mass
9:30 AM	10am pastoral planning with xxxxxx Whitehead, Josh	10am Don Ops Mtg W	Administration Fr Josh's office	9am OLR Mass OLR Parish Finance Meeting Caloundra Parish - Opera	Write Homily	Post-Mass Hospitality Pre-Baptism Hospitality 11am Baptism x 3 OLR Caloundra - OLR Ch Caloundra Parish
10:30 AM	Evangelisation Prioritization	10.30am Staff Meeting		XXXXXX mtg [In-person] Pastoral Mtg Whitehead	Draft Newsletter Communication	Travel to Maroochyda Lunch at Peter's
11:30 AM		11.30am Ops Mtg: Vick	OLGC Dicky Beach Surf Club lunch	Presbytery Lunch		Travel home
12:30 PM		Lunch Break				Surf with friend
1:30 PM	Interview Microsoft Mamie Ad 1pm Zoom LDC at Not	Email/Admin		Travel to Unity Pre-Libury Hospitality	Travel to Maroochyda	Travel home
2:30 PM	2pm SD Facetime Whitehead, Josh	Beth Davies weekly mee Parish Office Whitehead, Josh	Priest's Team Preaching Office Whitehead, Joshua	2pm P-6 Unity Advent liturgy	2.20pm Stella Maris Primary School recco for women's retreat	Travel to Unity Pre-Mass meet RCIT fam
3:30 PM	SLT Meeting Preparation	DR Priest's New Small Group Meeting Chris Ryan Parish Di	Email/Admin	1500 - Get out of office		Travel home
4:30 PM	Senior Leadership Team meeting Parish Offi Whitehe	4pm Kawana 1st Consultation [In-person] Caloundra Parish			Pre-Mass Hospitality 5pm OLR Mass	Travel home
5:30 PM	Alpha course (1st Oct-3rd Dec) Egan Room Caloundra Parish					
6:30 PM		6.30pm Dinner with parishioners		Mens Group Catch Up Caloundra RSL (19 West Terrace, Caloundra Queensland 4551, Australia) Dan Thomasson		
7:30 PM						
8:30 PM						

Family Beach BBQ



The Children and Families Team warmly invites you to a Young Families Beach BBQ on **Saturday, December 14th, at Happy Valley from 11am to 1pm.**



Join us for a morning of fellowship and fun as we come together to celebrate our parish community! We'll have games and activities for the kids and a free sausage sizzle BBQ. All are welcome, especially families with infants, primary or high school aged kids! Please RSVP via the Linktree for catering purpose. (QR code on inside page, under parish diary).

"Jesus is the Reason for the Season"

In tracking the lights in Caloundra don't forget with the focus on the activity and the reminder "Jesus in the Reason for the Season", you are welcome to visit Bishop Brian's Christmas Lights any evening after 6.30pm - 5 & 7 Buderim St Currimundi.

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