



# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

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## First Sunday of Lent 8/9 March 2025- Year C

### Living Our Mission in Faithful Service

As we enter the sacred season of Lent once again, the Lord invites reflection on our faith, leadership, engagement and to renew our commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—the three pillars that guide us toward greater holiness. These practices are not just obligations but opportunities - conduits even - to the deeply personal experience of relationship with Jesus, allowing Him to shape our hearts and align us more fully with His will.

#### Keeping Our Focus on the Mission

In a world filled with strong opinions and debates—especially about Church policies and leadership—it is easy to become distracted by what we cannot change. While there is value in dialogue, our primary call as disciples is to focus on what we *can* do. Instead of asking, *Why aren't things different?*, a better question is, *What role can I play right now?* God has given us everything we need to grow in holiness within the Church as it stands. When we stay focused on what He is asking of us in the present, we remain mission-focussed, rather than consumed by distractions.

#### Leading by Example

Frustrations within our workplaces, (even faith) communities, and families often lead us to critique leadership. While it's natural to want better leadership, the real question for each of us is: *Am I leading well?* If we don't like how we are being led and long for better leadership, are we striving to embody those qualities ourselves?

True leadership is not about power but about service, encouragement, and prayer. Before criticizing, we should ask: *Am I setting the example I want to see?* Real change begins when we take responsibility for how we lead in our own spheres of influence.

#### Serving Where We Are Planted

Lent reminds us that faithfulness is not about waiting for perfect circumstances but about serving where we are. There are seasons when our gifts may not be fully recognized, and it can be tempting to withdraw. However, at the end of our lives, God will not ask if we *tried* to serve—He will ask where we *did*. Even when our circumstances feel challenging, we are called to actively offer the unique gifts we have been given. Perhaps a better question than *Where am I called?* is *How am I obedient with what I've been given?*

#### More Than Turning Up

There is absolute value in *turning up*—attending Mass, showing up for our communities, and being present. But faithfulness is about more than attendance. True discipleship calls us to participate with our *hearts, minds, and actions*. Simply being present is not enough; we are called to grow, to give, and to seek a relationship with Jesus. If we settle for a passive faith, we risk missing the transformation that God offers us.

Lent challenges us to go beyond surface-level engagement. Prayer invites us into deeper communion with God. Fasting helps us detach from distractions and focus on what truly matters. Almsgiving reminds us that our time, wisdom, and resources are meant to be shared. For those in later seasons of life, active engagement may look different than it once did, but it remains just as valuable—whether through mentorship, intercessory prayer, or offering encouragement. Faithfulness is not measured by physical ability but by a heart willing to give.

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### **Wisdom from the Church**

The Catechism reminds us that *"God... entrusts to every creature the functions it is capable of performing, according to the capacities of its own nature. This mode of governance ought to be followed in social life. The way God acts in governing the world should be imitated in the governance of human communities."* (CCC 1884). St. John Henry Newman beautifully captures this truth: *"God has created me to do Him some definite service... He has not created me for naught. I shall do good. I shall do His work."* Each of us has a personal mission within our parish mission. The question is how we are fulfilling it.

### **A Question for Reflection**

As we journey through Lent, let's ask ourselves: *If I stood before God today, would I have no excuses for how I used my gifts? What can I change? How am I embracing prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in my daily life?* May this season be one of renewal—not dwelling on what we cannot control but embracing what we can do today. Let's live with no excuses, only a heart ready to serve.

*Peace and blessings, Fr Josh*

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### **Mini Mission 2025!**

This year, we are delighted to welcome to our Parish Dr Richard Leonard, SJ. Fr Leonard is no stranger to many of us - the author of 14 books, he has been published in America Magazine, Eureka Street, US Catholics, is a regular columnist with The London Tablet and is a regular guest on ABC radio. He has degrees in arts and education, as well as a Master's degree in theology. He is an excellent communicator and will provide us with a solid foundation for our Lenten journey this year.

*Fr Richard will lead our Parish Mini Mission this Monday for 3 days, from the 10-12th March.*

**Mass will be at 9am** followed by morning tea **from 9.30am** sponsored by **Holy Cross Funerals.**

Then the Mission will start at **10am in the OLR Church, Caloundra .**

Fr Richard will also lead a Mini Mission in the evenings at **Stella Maris Parish, Maroochydore from 5pm** on the same days. Don't let this Lenten opportunity slip by!

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### **Worship Ministry Leadership Team**

The Worship Committee covers a large range of functions that enhance the rituals and performance of the Mass and other Catholic Faith activities that are our way of life.

On the 22 February this year Michael Mangan of Liturgy Brisbane held a workshop for interested members of the Music teams that enrich the Mass in our Parish's many centres.

His presentation, and the invitation to join with him in singing hymns and other acclamations used in the Mass, the importance of the sung responses and the role of the singers and musicians of the Parish as 'servants of the Liturgy', was highlighted. As with the responsibility of the Liturgy of the Word, the congregation is an integral part of the Mass. It is not the Priest and us, it is US together with the Priest who celebrates that most joyous and meaningful celebration of the presence of God on earth with us and for us.

The presence of Music in our lives is all pervasive, and no more so than the celebration of Mass and so the whole-hearted response from the congregation is required in singing the hymns and importantly the responses of the Mass. As our Parish adjusts now to the changes in our comfort zones of where and when Mass is celebrated, the one common and most important of all activities is the inclusion of every Catholic with the family of Catholic people of our Parish, wherever that may be.

Music is vital to our Mass, our participation in the music of Mass is essential, we miss so much when we do not engage with our neighbour in singing praises to our Lord.

As we enter this season of Lent when our thoughts turn to the ultimate sacrifice God made for us, let us respond to Him with the joy of active participation in the celebration of his gift to us in the presence of his Son, for where two or more are gathered in his name, there also is Jesus.

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### **Baptism Preparation Evening for Infants**

We wish to remind parents with children up to the age of 7, wishing for them to be baptized, that the next preparation meeting is at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Caloundra, on **Thursday 13th March 7-8pm**. At this short preparation meeting we outline some of the symbols used at the ceremony, answer any questions and confirm dates. To book in for the preparation evening please email the Parish office [caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au)

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We acknowledge the First Peoples of the land on which we celebrate our Eucharist and live out our faith.



### Shrove Tuesday at OLR School!

During the week, we marked Shrove Tuesday, the traditional feast day before the season of Lent begins. It was a joy to see our school community come together as we prepare our hearts for this special time of reflection, prayer, and renewal.

A huge thank you to Mr Haigh (Principal) and Fr Gerard, who took to the BBQ and cooked up a storm—who knew they were such pancake connoisseurs? We are also so grateful for the wonderful OLR staff who helped cook

and the Year 6 students who served with smiles. Your efforts made the morning extra special for everyone.

As we enter Lent, we reflect on the values of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, preparing ourselves to grow in faith and kindness. May this season be a time of renewal for all.



### Children and Families

#### Encounter Kids Fun day is back!

📅 Thursday, 10th April (School Holidays)

🕒 9:00am – 3:00pm 📍 OLR Parish Centre

Get ready for an action-packed day filled with games, activities, engaging messages, and prayer, all designed to give kids a joyful and powerful encounter with the Catholic faith.

#### Who's it for:

Children from Prep to Grade 6

#### Cost:

\$20 per child; \$50 per family of 3 or more

#### How to Register:

Visit our Parish website at [caloundracatholicparish.net](http://caloundracatholicparish.net) and sign up

via the Linktree

or QR code



Spaces are limited,  
so register today!  
We look forward to  
seeing you there.



### St Vinnies Dignity Packs

OLR Primary School are collecting for the St Vinnies Lenten Appeal for 2024 again this year. St Vinnies has asked if we can bring items that are needed every day and in travel sized containers. They will put them into packs and distribute where needed. *Please see Newsletter for ideas.*

Please ensure all items are as small as possible. Please remember that weight and volume matter when carrying all you own. If you can assist, please send into the Parish office for the OLR Primary School.

Thankyou in advance for supporting this worthy cause.

## Parish Diary

### Monday 10 Mar

Mass (OLR) 9am

M/tea (OLR) 9.30am

Mini Mission (OLR) 10am

### Tuesday 11 Mar

Mass (OLR) 9am

M/tea (OLR) 9.30am

Mini Mission (OLR) 10am

### Wednesday 12 Mar

Mass (OLR) 9am

M/tea (OLR) 9.30am

Mini Mission (OLR) 10am

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

### Thursday 13 Mar

Mass (OLR) 9am

Adoration for Vocations (Lands) 9am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

### Friday 14 Mar

Mass (OLR) 9am

Stations of the Cross 9.30am (OLR)

Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Stations of the Cross 9.30am (Beerwah)

### Saturday 15 Mar

NO Morning Mass (OLR)

9-9.45am Caloundra – Reconciliation  
and Adoration

### Vigil Masses

#### 2nd Sunday of Lent

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Notre Dame) 5pm

Held at Unity Chapel till Easter

### Sunday 16 Mar

#### 2nd Sunday of Lent

Mass (OLR) 7.30am

Mass (Lands) 9am (1/3/5 Sunday)

Mass (Maleny) 9am (2/4 Sunday)

Mass (OLR) 9.30am

Mass (Unity) 5pm

Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am

## On the Journey

We congratulate **Harriet Keane-Kelly, Roman & Piper White** who will be baptised at OLR Caloundra this weekend.

We pray for all who have recently died, may their souls and the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners

**Rest in Peace.**



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