

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

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Palm Sunday 12/13 April 2025- Year C

Holy Week - It's the Most Sacred Time of the Year

Today, on Palm Sunday, we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We have now entered the most sacred time of the entire liturgical year. As Holy Week progresses to its final days, the solemnity heightens. This week offers us a profound opportunity to reflect on the most important moments of Jesus' earthly life leading to his passion, his death on the cross and his glorious resurrection. Through rich rituals and *re*-presentations we are drawn into the heart of the Christian story where we find God's free gift of



redemption for each one

The most solemn part of this week is the Easter Triduum (meaning "three days"): Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. Though three days chronologically, they form one liturgical celebration—the Paschal Mystery. You'll notice this in the seamless flow of the liturgies: Holy Thursday has no formal dismissal, Good Friday begins and ends in silence, and Easter Vigil bursts forth from darkness into light. It's a sacred trilogy, one great commemoration recounting Christ's final days, ultimate sacrifice, and triumph over death.

At church, we often hear Jesus called the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, a title fulfilled at Easter. The Jewish Passover "Pasch", commemorated God freeing the Israelites from slavery, with the blood of a spotless lamb saving them from death. This foreshadowed Jesus' actions at the Last Supper, where He offered Himself as the true Paschal Lamb. On Calvary, He became the ultimate sacrifice to free us from sin. In the Holy Eucharist, we receive the body and blood of Christ, the Lamb who gave His life for our salvation.

The Paschal Mystery is therefore God's plan of redemption for the fallen human race through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is one marvellous event stretched across three days.

Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood. He washed His disciples' feet as a sign of service and took bread and wine, saying, "Do this in memory of me." Priests continue this sacred offering at every Mass using the words of Christ. The Holy Thursday Mass ends with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose, inviting us to prayer and adoration.

Good Friday marks Jesus' crucifixion. The tabernacle is empty, the altar bare, and the statues covered. Jesus is gone. This powerful imagery reminds us that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer. Fasting and abstaining from meat help us enter into the sacrifice of a God who gave everything for us. Join us for Stations of the Cross and the Veneration of the Cross at various locations as we reflect on this most sacred and sorrowful day.

Holy Saturday is a day of silence and sorrow, as Christ lies in the tomb. There is no daytime Mass, and the faithful often continue their Good Friday fast. With Mary and the disciples, we remember the pain of His absence... until the Easter Vigil begins that evening. The Easter Vigil begins in complete darkness symbolising the tomb, and moves into the light with the blessing of the Easter fire and the Paschal Candle, signifying Jesus as the light of the world. It is a grand and solemn liturgy, often called *the mother of all vigils*. It includes extended Scripture readings, the baptism and confirmation of new members, and the first celebration of the Eucharist since Holy Thursday. Alleluia! Christ is risen! This is the day we've been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent have prepared our hearts to fully celebrate the completion of the Paschal Mystery, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Jesus' power was so great that He destroyed even death itself, so that we might have eternal life.

I warmly encourage you to attend these liturgies. A time where Jesus most tangibly transforms our tribulation into triumph, our sadness into song, and most importantly death into life. The Sacred Triduum is a powerful journey that draws us into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Do come along and take part in commemorating the greatest story ever told, a beautiful three-day trilogy known as the Sacred Triduum. *Blessings, Fr Gerard*

OLR - Pastoral Leaders (PLs)

As part of the ongoing implementation of our 5-Year Strategic Plan, I'm excited to introduce a new leadership role within our parish community. We are currently in the process of establishing a team of Pastoral Leaders (PLs) who will form the Faith Communities Council (FCC). This council will serve as a representative body, with the PL from each Mass Centre, and will meet monthly. The FCC will act as a synodal space, supporting and empowering parish leaders as they bring our strategic vision to life. I am looking forward to identifying the ways that we as a parish community can continue to grow, and particularly how the establishment of this council will provide more opportunities for us to actively accompany people to encounter Jesus. - Fr Josh



Amelia has been an active part of Emmanuel Community/Ignite Youth (Brisbane) for the last 10 years, helping plan and execute events such as Ignite Conference, before moving up to Caloundra last year and starting employment here as a Parish Secretary. She married Lucas in July 2023 (Fr Josh was their celebrant!) and had her first daughter, Ada, in May 2024. Amelia has an extensive background in youth ministry, particularly in the primary-aged space, along with creative arts (dance), and is passionate about creating a welcoming and accessible environment that actively accompanies all people, in all stages of life, to encounter Jesus.

Amelia Willmer (5pm Saturday Notre Dame)



Trish is married to Peter with four adult children and ten grandchildren. She has been involved in mission through her time working and volunteering with Catholic Mission in Toowoomba and remains passionate about reaching out to those in need. Although being a regular visitor to the OLR parish for the past fourteen years, she moved here permanently in July 2022. She has committed to the OLR vision by her various roles within the Parish but is now stepping down from her role as Service and Outreach team leader to focus on being Pastoral Leader for the Sunday evening Unity Family. Trish also volunteers at the office helping ensure that all our volunteers meet the Safeguarding requirements of the Diocese and heads up the new Pastoral Care Call Centre.

Trish Harding (5pm Sunday Unity College)



Caroline has been a part of OLR parish since 1983, apart from time spent looking after her parents in England and helping her daughter in Melbourne (11 years away). She loves this parish, and its vitality. She enjoys helping with sacristan duties, and being involved in Alpha, RCIA and Bible Study. Her main passion is to encourage people to come to know Jesus the Living Word, and to be immersed in the written Word. St Jerome said 'Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ'. St Augustine said 'In the Old Testament the New is concealed, in the New the Old is revealed'.

Caroline Kettle (5pm Saturday OLR)



Diane (Di) moved to Beerwah with her husband Gio in June 2024. She is a retired Registered Nurse of over 40 years. She has been a parishioner of St Bernardine's in Browns Plains for 35 years, and was involved in the Finance Committee, Evangelisation Ministry along with being a reader & Eucharistic Minister both at church & home visitations. She is a Vincentian and has transferred to OLW Landsborough conference and attends home visits to those in need of food & finance. She strives to be the best person she can be with her God given gifts, and to reflect warmth, generosity & love in her every day." We have come to know and believe that God loves us. God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them" John 4:16

Dianne (Di) Fichera (9am Sunday Hinterland)



Donna is a mother of three adults, and loves gardening when she has free time. She is a people person, who loves interacting and helping others. She loves her involvement with volunteering in different positions with the church and giving back a portion of what she has received. God and the church have given her a new life and a feeling of protection with God watching over her, loving and caring for her. She is truly honoured and blessed to be asked to be the Pastoral Leader for 7.30 mass and promises to fulfil the role to the best of her ability. Likewise, the role of Safe Guarding Representative gives her great—satisfaction by ensuring the safety of our people, within the Parish.

Donna Bradshaw (7:30am Sunday OLR)



Therese moved to the Sunshine Coast around 20 years ago with her Husband Dom and 3 children who attended OLR primary and Sienna secondary school. They opened an Italian restaurant in Kings Beach that we operated for many years. Since closing the restaurant, we have enjoyed being Grandparents and active members of our beloved Catholic community. Our church has many rewarding benefits both spiritually and socially. I encourage everyone to utilise the same gifts and graces that are available in every age group in OLR Caloundra. God bless

Elaine has been apart of the OLR Parish for six years. She is married with five children and ten grandchildren. Elaine is also involved in sacristan duties, Alpha, ladies group, and her favourite prayer at the moment is the OLR Mission Statement – *Actively accompany people to encounter Jesus*.

Therese Pecora & Elaine Potter (9:30am Sunday OLR)

Rosters for Easter Triduum

If you have put your name down to read at one of the Easter services, please collect a copy from the office this week so you are familiar with your reading.



Term 2 Sacrament of Confirmation

All baptised children from grade 3 and up are welcome to celebrate their Confirmation in Term 2.

The program starts on *6th May at 5-6pm in the OLR Church*, and runs for 6 weeks with the Confirmation ceremony on **Friday 13th June**. You will need to attend all sessions to be able to celebrate the sacrament.

To register there are 2 steps:

<u>1st step</u> if you haven't already done so please join Flocknote and complete the details for your family via

the QR Code

Flocknote



2nd step please complete the registration form viathis QR code.

Registration form

For any questions please contact the Parish office at caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

If you ordered a badge please collect your badge from your Mass centre.



OLR School/Vinnies

We were overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support and generosity shown by everyone who contributed to our recent initiative to create care packs for people experiencing homelessness. Thanks to the collective efforts of our community, we were able to assemble ready for distribution over 20 packs. These packs

will provide much-needed relief and support to those in need.

A Special Thanks to Our Craft Group

We would like to extend a special thank you to our wonderful Craft Group. Your dedication and hard work in knitting beanies have not gone unnoticed. These warm, handmade beanies are not just items of clothing; they are symbols of care and compassion that will bring comfort to many during the colder months. Your craftsmanship and kindness are truly inspiring.

Dinner Dance is only 2 weeks away!

If you haven't already picked up your tickets please do so from Tuesday next week.

If you are still thinking of coming and haven't got around to it, call the office and talk to Vicki by Thursday 17th April.

Tickets are \$79 for a drink | 3 course meal | tea & Coffee | lucky door prizes and entertainment.

Sat - 26th April 5.30-11pm



Parish Diary Holy Week

Monday 14 April

Mass **(OLR)** 9am
Adoration **(OLR)** 9.30am
2nd Rite of Reconciliation **(M'dore)** 5pm

Tuesday 15 April

Adoration (Maleny) 8.30am Rosary 9am Mass (OLR) 9am Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Wednesday 16 April

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 17 April
No morning Mass
Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper

6pm Mass Caloundra
6pm Mass Landsborough

Friday 18 April
Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
10am Caloundra
10am Beerwah

Veneration of the Cross

10am Currimundi 3pm Little Mountain 3pm Caloundra 3pm Maleny

Saturday 19 April Easter Saturday

No Reconciliation or Adoration

Easter Vigil Masses

6pm Caloundra 6pm Notre Dame (at Notre Dame College)

> Sunday 20 April Easter Sunday

7am Landsborough
7.30am Caloundra
9am Maleny
9.30am Caloundra
9.15am Currimundi
10.30am Lt Mountain
NO EVENING MASS



Office closure - Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day (25/4) and Labour Day (5/5)

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