



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Office (9am - 1pm) –Ph: 07 5430 9390 (After hours pastoral emergency 0431 099 854)

Email – caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au **Website** – www.caloundracatholicparish.net

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 6/7 SEPTEMBER 2025 - YEAR C

Choosing Unity: A Gift and a Call

Unity is at the heart of our Christian faith. Gathered around the altar, our prayers remind us that **God's deepest desire is communion – with God and one another** (Mt 22:34-40). In our third Eucharistic Prayer, we ask God to *"gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world."* In the second Eucharistic Prayer, we pray that, *"partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit."*

Unity is not just a nice idea. It is Jesus' will for His Church. In John 17, Jesus prays for us: *"that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me"* (John 17:21). For Jesus, **the credibility of the Gospel depends on the unity of His followers.**

Our love for one another and willingness to serve one another – both inside and outside of our Mass communities – makes Jesus visible in the world.

Unity does not erase diversity – nor does it erase identity. The Catholic Church is living proof. Across the globe, we worship in thousands of languages, cultures, and styles, yet profess the same creed, break the same bread, and share the same mission. Unity and diversity enrich one another. Like many parts of the body making up the whole (cf. 1 Corinthians 12), our parish is strongest when each Mass community, each ministry, and each parishioner contributes their gifts.

But unity is not automatic. **God does not force communion; God invites it.** Perhaps the image of the man in the flood is helpful. As the waters rise, he climbs onto his roof and prays, "God, save me!" A boat comes by, but he refuses, saying, "No, God will save me." After the third boat, the flood overtakes him. In heaven he asks, "Why didn't you save me?" God replies, "I sent you three boats."

Sometimes we are like that man. We pray for God to act in our lives and parish. And God does act – but not always as we expect or desire. **Often God's answer is in the ordinary:** the invitation to serve, the opportunity to listen, the challenge to let go of personal preference for the sake of the greater good. Unity is one of those "boats." God offers us the chance to climb aboard and move together.

At this time in our parish, I believe God is offering us precisely this invitation. We can hold tightly to independence – "my Mass time," "my way of doing things," "my community apart from others" – or we can accept the grace of unity, which may stretch us but ultimately makes us stronger. **Unity is not uniformity.** It does not erase what is unique and beautiful about each community. But it does mean recognising that we belong to one another – that my flourishing is tied to yours, and yours to mine, and that together we bear Christ's light in ways we never could alone.

As we gather around the Lord's table, let us remember the prayer we hear at every Mass: "Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity." May we choose unity, not as a burden but as a gift – the very gift Christ prayed for on the night before He died. May we not let His prayer go unanswered in our parish.

Peace and love, Fr Josh

Our Parish's Mission is to be a vibrant community that actively
accompanies people to encounter Jesus



Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork
is essential to a life of virtue.
Laudato Si' #217

Service and Outreach Ministry Update

🌳 Season of Creation

During this **Season of Creation** (1 September to 4 October), Laudato Si banners are being displayed at three schools and at three Mass centres in the Parish to remind us to care for our common home and to care for each other. Pope Leo xiv has repeated the call of Pope Francis for greater attention to social justice, climate justice and intergenerational justice. We join with Christians worldwide to pray for the people suffering through wars and for the end of wars.

🌍 Caring for our Common Home

Thanks to the generous efforts of our parish community, our **Containers for Change recycling initiative has now raised over \$900** and, since our last update, **five additional bins of aluminium blister packs have been sent for recycling through Chemist Warehouse**, helping to keep valuable materials out of landfill. As we enter this Season of Creation, we invite every parishioner to reflect on how we might deepen our care for the Earth, our shared home. Whether it's planting a garden, starting a compost to reduce food waste, picking up litter in your neighbourhood, or simply renewing your commitment to recycling—every action matters.

If you'd like to support our parish recycling efforts:

Return eligible bottles and cans to any Containers for Change depot using our Parish Scheme ID: C11072500. Blister packs and containers can also be returned using the bins near the Parish centre.

🍴 Community Outreach

The Service & Outreach Ministry continues to be a faithful presence at the **Happy Valley Share-A-Meal Outreach**, offering food, fellowship, and dignity to those doing it tough. In addition, the team is working to establish a new partnership with **Rosies – Friends on the Street**, exploring fresh ways to live out the call of the Bishops' 2025–2026 Social Justice Statement, "Signs of Hope on the Edge." These initiatives reflect our parish's ongoing commitment to walk alongside our sisters and brothers experiencing hardship, not just with words, but through tangible acts of love. Stay tuned for updates as these efforts unfold.

If you'd like to learn more or get involved, please reach out via email cp.serviceandoutreach@bne.catholic.net.au

Ladies Lunch

The next Ladies Lunch will be on **Friday 19th September, 12 noon** at Acqua Cnr Esplanade and Otranto Avenue Bulcock Beach. All ladies are welcome to attend. This is a great way to meet other ladies and make new friends. Please contact Deborah 0410531901 by Monday 15th to register your attendance!

🌿 Happy Father's Day! 🌿

This weekend (7th September), we give thanks and pray for all **fathers, grandfathers, and father figures** in our parish and beyond. May God bless you for the love, strength, and guidance you share each day. May St. Joseph continue to inspire and intercede for all men called to the vocation of fatherhood.

OLR Parish Over 60's Outing

Thursday, Sept 18, 10:30am

Bulcock Beach Boardwalk (exact location to be confirmed)

Join us for a relaxed morning by the water! Bring a fishing rod to try your luck, or simply enjoy a stroll, a chat, and some fish and chips.

☀️ Don't forget a hat, sunscreen, and comfy shoes.

This is the first of our new monthly gatherings – mark the dates:

Oct 15, Nov 14, Dec 22.

👉 Register your interest via the **QR code** here, or contact the Parish Office.

On The Journey

We congratulate **Amelia Villalba, Lily Ziebarth, Charlotte Johnstone & Theodore Leao** who will be baptised at OLR this weekend.



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

First Holy Communion - Congratulations!

Congratulations to our **38 children who celebrated their First Holy Communion** last weekend at the 5pm and 9:30am OLR Masses!

From Fr Gerard's homily: Every good party has music, people, food & presents... and the Eucharist has them all! Hymns, friends and family (the Church gathered), the Bread of Life (Jesus himself), and the presents are the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit which we pray for and which God gives us freely.

Special mention goes to the Sacramental Team – *Julie, Nadine, Donna, Libby, Chelsea, Amelia and Fr Gerard* for their time and wisdom in the faith formation of these wonderful children. Thank you also to the parishioners for your heartfelt prayers on the back of the "Pray for me" cards, and to the parents for not only bringing your child along each week but also for being the primary teacher of your child's ongoing faith journey.

We also congratulate **Ava Orchard, Lochlan Thomas, Maxwell Wilson and Nicolas Yela** who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this Sunday at OLR.

Let's continue to pray for these children as they grow in faith and relationship with Christ!



Parish Diary

Monday 8th September

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9.30am
Craft Group (OLR)
9am - 12pm

Tuesday 9th September

Adoration (Maleny) 8:30am
Rosary (Maleny) 9am
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Ladies Group (OLR)
9:30am - 12pm
Cards Group (OLR)
8:30am - 12pm

Wednesday 10th September

School Liturgy (OLR) 9am
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am
Art Group (OLR) 10-12pm

Thursday 11th September

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration for Vocations (Lands)
9am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am
RCIA (OLR) 5:30pm - 9pm

Friday 12th September

Mass (OLR) 9am
Mass (Beerwah) 9am
Holy Hour (Maleny)
3pm-4:30pm

Saturday 13th September

Reconciliation & Adoration (OLR)
9am - 9:45am

Vigil Masses

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Notre Dame) 5pm

Sunday 14th September

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass (OLR) 7.30am
Mass (Maleny) 9am
Mass (OLR) 9:30am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am
Mass (Unity) 5pm



Child Protection Week (7th - 13th September)

Every child deserves to feel safe, loved, and protected – always.

This Child Protection Week, let's come together to raise awareness, speak up, and take action to create safer environments for all children. Whether at home, in school, online, or in the community, every adult has a role to play in protecting young lives.

- ✓ Educate yourself about child safety
- ✓ Listen to children and take their voices seriously
- ✓ Support families and communities
- ✓ Report concerns – speaking up can save a life

Visit the website <https://childprotectionweek.org.au/about/> for more information.



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