



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

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2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 17/18 JANUARY - YEAR A

A Parish Alive With Hope, Welcome, And Possibility

Christmas across our parish last year was nothing short of extraordinary. From the first carols sung to the final blessing proclaimed, our churches were filled—not only with people, but with expectation, reverence, joy, and a deep hunger for meaning. From a purely numerical perspective, the scale of participation was remarkable. Across all Christmas Masses, **3,280 people gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ** in our parish community (the average Mass count each weekend is between 1,100–1,200).

This number, 3,280, represents a significant moment in the life of our parish—one that speaks to both, the reach of our ministry and the trust our wider community places in our parish at Christmas.

It is right and good to give thanks for this. Christmas Mass numbers reflect countless hours of preparation by musicians, sacristans, ministers, cleaners, liturgy planners, hospitality teams, volunteers, and staff. They also reflect a parish that knows **Christmas is not merely an event, but an encounter—an encounter with the living God who chooses to come among us.**

And yet, as heartening as these figures are, numbers alone do not tell the full story. They give us a snapshot of attendance, but they do not, on their own, measure what truly matters most: conversion of heart, deepened faith, renewed hope, and lives touched by the love of Christ. Nor do they tell us who felt welcomed, who felt invisible, who came searching, or who left longing for more.

Rather than seeing this as a deficit, it opens a door—an invitation to deeper spiritual awareness and a more intentional approach to our mission. Large numbers at Christmas and Easter remind us that many people who may not regularly attend Mass still feel drawn to the Church. This is not accidental. It is grace at work. The question before us is not simply how many came, but why they came—and how we, as a parish, respond to those sacred moments of openness.

In fact, **many visitors over the Christmas period remarked on how “vibrant” our parish is**—something for which we can be deeply grateful. Yet vibrancy, while essential, is only one half of our mission. The other half is more demanding and more beautiful: to intentionally **accompany people so that vibrancy leads to encounter, and encounter leads to a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.** Our parish vision speaks of every person—young and old—experiencing the joy of intimacy with Jesus that transforms their lives and compels them to share that joy with others.

Large liturgical moments such as Christmas and Easter give us a powerful lens through which to examine how our mission, vision, outcomes, and strategies are being lived, not just articulated. They challenge us to ask: Are we creating spaces where people encounter Christ personally? Are we intentional about hospitality, invitation, and follow-up?

Are we helping people take even one small next step in faith?

This is not about programs for their own sake, nor about chasing metrics. It is about becoming more consciously missionary—clear about how, when, and most importantly why we engage people. Why do we welcome? Why do we preach? Why do we sing, serve, give, and gather? Because **every person who walks through our doors matters infinitely to God.**

Christmas has shown us that the field is ripe. The crowds are still coming—growing even. The task before us now is to discern how we might more faithfully accompany them beyond a single liturgy and into a lived relationship with Christ and His Church.

As we move into the year ahead, let us give thanks for what has been achieved, remain humble about what we cannot yet see, and be courageous in responding to what the Spirit is stirring among us.

Christmas was not the conclusion of our mission—it was a powerful reminder that the mission is very much alive.

With peace and love. Fr Josh

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

Love Your Neighbour Christmas Hamper Collection - For St Vincent De Paul 2025

On behalf of our local St Vincent De Paul Conferences we would like to thank every one of our Parishioners for the generous donations of items for the Christmas Hampers 2025.

One of our local conferences, Our Lady of Good Counsel Caloundra and Unity College were able to give out over 70 hampers to the less fortunate within our community.

Families and individuals were so grateful in receiving the hampers as your gift offers, dignity and relief to them in tough times.

We would also like to thank Father Gerard as he was able to bless the hampers before they were distributed, as we know it's a very busy time for our priests.

Wishing everyone a peaceful, joyful and blessed Happy New Year 2026.

Peace from the OLR Parish Service and Outreach Ministry Team.



Beyond Alpha - A Re-Engagement Evening

Have you been part of Alpha and want to rejoin the conversation?

Beyond Alpha is a relaxed evening to reconnect with the heart of Alpha—the ideas, stories, and questions that make it so meaningful. We'll look at what's new, reflect on past experiences, and consider how Alpha can grow in our parish.

It's a chance to revisit the material, share your insights, and help shape the future of Alpha here.

We'd love to reconnect with you.

When: Tuesday 20th January, 5:30pm

Location: Egan Room, Parish Centre, 61 Edmund Street, Shelly Beach



Planned Giving (Envelopes) - 2026

Thank you for so generously sharing your treasure to help sustain and support our parish community. Your ongoing commitment makes a meaningful difference to our mission and ministries.

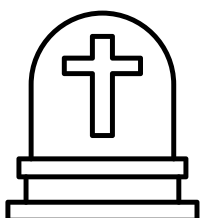
We will be reissuing envelopes to current givers next weekend. If you are able, we kindly ask you to consider changing to direct debit as a convenient and reliable way to give. If this option suits you, please contact the parish office during the coming week and we will be happy to assist you.

Attention Pastoral Carers (Home Communion Ministers)

The annual gathering will be held on **Wednesday 28 January, from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Egan Room.** Pastoral Carers are strongly encouraged to attend, as important matters will be discussed, including the Anointing of the Sick and priest availability for 2026, among other topics.

Those who are unable to attend are asked to notify the parish office.

ON THE JOURNEY



We congratulate **Méabh McGowan, Louie Hall** and **Forrest Clifford** who will be baptised at OLR Caloundra this weekend.

Funerals:

Mary Thompson: Tuesday 20th January, 11am at Sacred Heart Maleny.

We also pray for the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners.



May they **Rest in Peace.**

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

Next Wednesday Jan 21. Seniors' Group Event: Dabbling in Paint

Parishioner Jude will generously guide us step-by-step in creating our very own floral painting on canvas to take home.

Curious? Up for a challenge? Or simply wanting some company in a fun, relaxed environment? Join us in the Egan Room – and bring a friend! No art experience required.

All materials are provided, **so please register via the QR code here or our Linktree** on the parish website to help us prepare.

Wednesday 21st Jan- 9:30am cuppa; 10am painting; with morning tea at 11am.

Please bring a plate to share, and let us know if you need a lift.

Get Stuck Into Some Fun, Fellowship and the Big Questions To Kick Off Your Year!

A new **Alpha course** is starting the first week of February – so if you've been waiting for the chance, now is the time! If you're looking for more, an opportunity to meet some new people and have some meaningful discussions and a meal in a fun atmosphere Alpha is what you are looking for.

Join us and bring along that friend that is always asking why? Registrations are essential.

When: Weekly From Tuesday 3rd Feb – 24th March – 6-8pm

Retreat Day: Saturday 21st March

Location: Parish Centre, 61 Edmund Street Shelly Beach

Registration: Click the QR code on the right!

Catholic Foundations Module 3: Being Sacramental

Registrations for **Module Three: Being Sacramental** are now open! Don't miss out on your opportunity to learn from Deacon Peter Pellicaan, Archbishop Shane Mackinlay, Dr Clare Schwantes and Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge as we explore the sacraments and sacramentality in early 2026!

Being Sacramental invites participants to explore what it means to live in a sacramental world through reflection on sacramentality, the seven sacraments, and the signs and symbols of the liturgy. This 9-week intensive is both intellectual and experiential, engaging head and heart, with an optional Archdiocesan Certificate awarded upon completion of five written reflections.

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Dates: Nine Monday nights, 2 February – 30 March 2026

Location: Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, Cathedral Precinct, Brisbane CBD

Cost: \$250 per person (individuals) or \$150 per person (groups of 5+)

Register by scanning the QR code here:



Parish Diary

Monday 19th January.

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

Tuesday 20th January.

Adoration (Maleny) 8:30am
Rosary (Maleny) 9am
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Wednesday 21st January.

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 22nd January.

Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Adoration for Vocations (Lands)
9am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

Friday 23rd January.

Mass (OLR) 9am
Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Saturday 24th January.

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

Vigil Masses

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Notre Dame – **at Unity College Chapel**) 5pm

Sunday 25th January.

3rd 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



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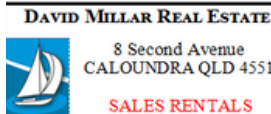
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