



# 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

**4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 31 JAN/1 FEB - YEAR A**

## Launching Connect Groups: Faith Shared, Lives Transformed

Over the coming weeks, our parish will be launching an important new initiative: **Connect Groups**. While small faith groups are not new to parish life—and many will remember family groups or similar initiatives from years past—this is not simply a rebranding exercise. **Connect Groups represent a renewed vision for how we live, share, and sustain our faith together in this season of the life of our parish.**

At the heart of Connect Groups is a simple but powerful conviction: **faith grows when it is shared**. For too long, many Catholics have carried their faith quietly and privately, often marked by what could be called a *culture of silence*—where struggles, questions, hopes, and even joys of faith are rarely spoken about with others. Connect Groups intentionally create space for connection in faith, and in doing so, they help break that silence open. When we speak about what God is doing in our lives, we discover that we are not alone—and that salvation is something God works out *among* us, not just *within* us.

This conviction is deeply Catholic. We are saved as a people. From the earliest Christian communities described in the Acts of the Apostles, believers gathered in homes, prayed together, reflected on the Word, and supported one another in daily life. Connect Groups aim to reclaim something of this early Church experience in a way that is realistic, structured, and sustainable for parish life today.

Providentially, this launch coincides with a significant gift to our parish. We have been given **100 free copies of the Wollongong Catholic Diocese's Lenten Reflection Resource**, which is sold to parishes across Australia and beyond.

I was honoured to be invited to write all of the Sunday reflections for this resource, and it now offers us a wonderful, ready-made opportunity to gather, pray, and reflect together as a parish during Lent.

Lent, of course, is a season of **Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving**—a time when many people feel drawn to recommit themselves to their faith. Traditionally, it is also a time when Catholics gather to reflect on the Sunday readings, examine their lives in the light of the Gospel, and encourage one another on the journey of conversion. For these reasons, Lent is an ideal time to launch Connect Groups.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on 18 February**, and between now and then I am inviting parishioners to commit—at least initially—to being part of a Connect Group for the season of Lent. Some may choose to continue beyond Lent, but the initial invitation is intentionally simple and time-bound: *journey together for these sacred forty days*.

The long-term vision is bold but necessary. In a parish of our size, the days when there were enough priests to personally visit and pastorally support every parishioner are long gone—and they are not coming back. Rather than seeing this as a loss, Connect Groups invite us to rediscover something essential: **pastoral care is the responsibility of the whole community**. Over time, these groups will become the primary place of pastoral support, encouragement, prayer, and accompaniment for each person in our parish.

Each **Connect Group** will meet regularly, usually in one another's homes, with members taking turns hosting. Groups will be empowered with a clear and simple schedule to keep the time of connection, prayer, and scriptural reflection focused and life-giving. This is not about long meetings or theological expertise, but about consistency, hospitality, and faith shared honestly. I invite every parishioner to respond in one of two ways:

- a) **Scan the QR code** to register your interest, or
- b) **Call the parish office** to have your name and details added to the list.

Groups will be formed according to **locality**, keeping travel times to a minimum and making participation as accessible as possible. This is an invitation to something more than another parish program. It is an invitation to belong, to be known, and to walk together as disciples of Jesus. My prayer is that Connect Groups will become places where faith comes alive, burdens are shared, and the joy of the Gospel is encountered—together.

*With peace and love, Fr Josh*



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

## **Ministry Leadership Team Update - Community Life**

Introducing the 2026 Community Life Ministry team: **Elaine, Therese, Precy, Mary, Kath and Janice** (middle image below).



Throughout the Parish, our aim is to **“facilitate experiences of connection and participation”** and to help build up a **“vibrant”** community where everyone feels they **“belong”** whilst creating opportunities that enable us to **“actively accompany people to encounter Jesus”**.

**Hospitalities** after all weekend masses are attracting ever-increasing numbers, thanks to loyal and friendly volunteers serving on teams and generous people who bring a plate to share. Fun, lots of chatter, laughter and new connections and friendships are enjoyed by many. A meeting for hospitality coordinators and all hospitality volunteers will be held on **Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Dobson room at OLR Caloundra Parish**, to celebrate wins, discuss food handling regulations and kitchen procedures and how we can improve even more.

A **Welcomers** training session was held on Nov 29, 2025, to thank our volunteers and remind them of the important role they play welcoming and assisting parishioners and visitors especially with the busy Christmas and holiday period. If you would like to assist in this space, please let us know!

A big win in the Community Life Team was the introduction of the **Seniors Group**, which started last October with Fr Gerard's support. We have enjoyed regular monthly catchups such as a guided tour of the Maroochy Gardens, Fishing at Bullcock Beach, card games, the very popular Christmas Carols morning and lastly Dabbling in Art with parishioner Jude. Our seniors continue to inspire us with their joy and great community spirit!

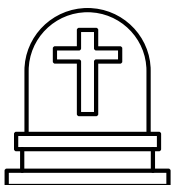
Our extra focus for 2026 will be to **help organise various whole parish celebrations**, such as National Volunteers week in May and OLR Feast Day in October. Most importantly, the Community Life Team will support the new **Compassion and Connection Ministry** to care for those parishioners who are unable to worship and actively participate with any of our Mass Communities.

A final win in this space is that **name badges are increasingly being worn** and have proved to help break down barriers between both existing and new parishioners, creating a **greater opportunity for connection and relationships**. Orders are still being taken and welcomed.

For more information or to volunteer in the Community Life Team, please contact **Janice: [chilcottj@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:chilcottj@bne.catholic.net.au)**



### **ON THE JOURNEY...**



We pray for **Lara Lopes Gomes, Phoeby O'Connor, Elias McAlister & Archie McGregor** who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Caloundra.

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.

## Alpha

It is exciting to share that our current **Alpha course**, starting next week, is now full! If you'd still love to take part later this year, we will be running another Alpha course in July. You can register now by scanning the QR code.

### Next Alpha Course:

**Proposed Date:** Starting week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> July

**Retreat Day:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August

**Location:** TBA

**Registration:** Click the QR code on the right!



## Craft Group

Craft group returns on Monday 2nd February. If you are new to the Parish or wish to join the craft group you are most welcome at any time.

Craft group meets on **Mondays 9am - 12noon in the Egan Room at OLR Parish**. Please phone **Helen** on 0409 050 722 for more information.



## 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 5th February, 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 **Vicki** at the Parish office [caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au)

## 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!

**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:



## Year of Yes Prayer

*Today and every day I say Yes to you O Lord. In the same way that Mary said yes to your invitation, I say Yes to your Son's presence in my life.*

*May my yes, by the power of your Holy Spirit, allow you to use all the talents, skills and gifts you have given me for the purpose of building up Your Body in our community. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Parish Diary

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

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

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

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

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

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

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

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

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

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

### Vigil Masses

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Mass (OLR) 5pm  
Mass (Notre Dame - **at Unity College Chapel**) 5pm

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**5<sup>th</sup> 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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**Caloundra Catholic Parish**  
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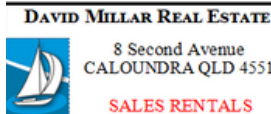
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