



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Parish's Mission is to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus. We acknowledge the First Peoples of the land on which we celebrate our Eucharist and live out our faith.

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Palm Sunday - 28th / 29th March Year A **From "Hosanna" to "Crucify Him"**

Palm Sunday places before us a striking contrast. The crowds welcome Jesus with joy—"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"—yet within days, those same voices will cry, "Crucify Him!" The shift is dramatic and confronting, revealing something deeply human.

The crowd's reaction is not just a historical detail; **it is a mirror. It shows how easily our own hearts can be swayed**—how quickly admiration can give way to indifference, or even resistance, when Christ and others don't meet our expectations. It challenges us to ask: **What kind of love do we offer?** Is it conditional, dependent on circumstances, moods, or personal benefit? Or is it something deeper, more enduring?

Jesus is the opposite of that fickleness. Even before the Cross, **His life was a continual outpouring of unconditional love.** He healed without discrimination. He forgave without hesitation. He welcomed those on the margins. And as He enters into His Passion, rather than withdrawing in the face of betrayal or suffering, He offers a love that intensifies, giving Himself completely and freely.



This is Christian love: not a feeling that comes and goes, but **a decision to seek the good of the other, even at personal cost.** A love that is faithful, self-giving, and steadfast—especially when it is difficult. And if we are honest, **this is exactly the kind of love our world is longing for.** With so much division, impatience, and conditional acceptance around us, it is becoming easier to love when it is convenient, when people are like us, or when we feel appreciated. But the love of Christ calls us beyond that—to a love that reaches out, that endures, that serves.

This is not just a love to reflect on—it is a love we are called to live. As we move toward Easter next weekend, we have a real and practical opportunity to embody it. Easter, like Christmas, is one of those moments in the year when many people—perhaps family members, neighbours, or those who have been away from the Church for some time—will walk through our doors. For some, it may be their first time in a long time. For others, it may be a tentative step, taken with uncertainty or even hesitation. **What they encounter in our parish matters.**

Will they experience a community that feels closed in on itself, or one that is open, attentive, and genuinely welcoming? Will they feel like outsiders looking in, or like members of a family being received with joy? **Each of us plays a part in answering those questions.** A simple smile. A warm greeting. Taking the time to introduce yourself to someone you don't recognise. Offering assistance, or simply being attentive to those around you—these are small, concrete ways we can embody the love of Christ.

Pope Francis often reminded us that **the Church is not meant to be an exclusive club for the few, but a "field hospital"**—a place of healing, welcome, and restoration. Our parish, and within it, our churches and communities, exist not just for those who are here every week, but for those who are searching, questioning, or quietly hoping to encounter something more. **We do not gather only for ourselves.** We gather so that others might come to know the love of Jesus Himself.



This Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on the kind of love we offer—and to **recommit ourselves to the way of Christ.** Not the way of the crowd, which shifts and changes, but the way of the Cross, which remains steady and true. As we journey through this Holy Week, may we allow Christ's love to shape our own.

As we prepare to welcome many next weekend, may we be intentional in showing that love in simple, tangible ways **so that those who come among us do not just hear about Christ—but encounter Him—alive—in us.**

Blessings on your Holy Week - **Fr Josh**

For your attention - Please see updated Mass times for Holy Week in the Parish Diary

Children and Families Ministry Update

Our team has had a cracking start to the year, planning ahead for some exciting events and already ticking off some **fantastic days to kickstart 2026!**

Our goal for 2026 is to focus on creating events and initiatives that **invite and engage both parents and children**, while also strengthening our parish-school relationships with OLR, Unity College, and Notre Dame College.

On 7th March, we held our first Junior Altar Servers Day for 2026, welcoming **four wonderful new junior altar servers** to the team. The children learned a great deal and did a fantastic job discovering what it means to serve at Mass. We're excited that you'll now be able to see them serving at Mass centres across the parish—so be sure to keep an eye out for them! We'll also be running another Junior Altar Servers Day in the second half of the year for any children who would like to learn and get involved. The date is yet to be confirmed.



Our **Mums & Bubs 'Praise and Play' sessions** kicked off on 16th March in the Dobson Room at OLR Church. These termly sessions aim to explore faith with our little ones while providing a welcoming space for parents to connect, share ideas, and discuss ways to **incorporate faith into everyday family life.**

Our next Praise and Play session will be held on **Monday 15th June** - please visit our website for more details!

We also launched our first **Kingdom Kids Youth Group** on Tuesday, 24th March! This group is for children in Years 3-6 and meets **once a month on Tuesday afternoons**, giving them the opportunity to **explore their faith and encounter Jesus** in their everyday lives.

Our next Youth Group will be held from **4:00-5:30pm on Tuesday, 28th April.** Check out our Linktree (QR code below) to register.

And finally, the **Encounter Kids Fun Day** is almost here! It's a faith-filled day for primary school children from Prep to Grade 6 on **Friday 17th April.** The day includes lots of fun activities, games, music, prayer and engaging talks, all designed to help children grow in their **understanding and love of the Catholic faith.**

Led by a team of enthusiastic leaders, the program features interactive sessions, small group activities and opportunities for prayer. It aims to give children a positive experience of Church life while helping them build friendships and feel part of the wider parish community.

This year's theme is **"Mission: New Life"** reflecting on the joy and hope of the Resurrection.

To register please scan the QR code which will take you to our Kingdom Kids Link Tree.



If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to join the team and help with these initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Amelia at willmera@bne.catholic.net.au.**

You can also access upcoming events and dates on our parish website under *Ministry Areas > Children and Families.*

God bless, **The Children and Families Team Amelia, Fr Gerard, Nadine, Julie and Mark**

Baptism Preparation Evening for Infants

We would like 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 Wednesday 1st April at 7pm until 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 at: **caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au**

Sacrament of Confirmation - Term 2

While Baptism is the gateway into the Catholic faith, the **Sacrament of Confirmation affirms your or your child's commitment** to the faith and renews the baptismal promises before First Holy Communion.

All baptised children in Grade 3 and above are invited to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in Term 2. The program will begin on **Tuesday 21st April, running from 5:00–6:00pm** at OLR Church, and continues over six weeks, with the Confirmation ceremony taking place on **Friday 5th June**. Session 1 has been moved back by one week due to the Maleny Show Holiday.

Attendance at all sessions is required in order to receive the sacrament.

To register, please scan the QR code where you will sign up to flocknote and complete the registration forms.



Ecumenical Sunrise Service



On **Easter Sunday**, ministers from various denominations including our own Fr. Josh will be co-celebrating a Sunrise Service in the Park on **Shelly Beach (Victoria Terrace Carpark)**. All who wish to share in the Easter dawn experience of St. Peter and St. Mary Magdalene are welcome! The service will run **from 6am to 6:30am**. **Not a Mass service*

Ladies Lunch

The next Ladies Lunch will be **Friday 10th April at 12 noon at Pelican Waters Bowls Club**, 49 Nelson Street Golden Beach. All ladies from the parish are invited to attend. If you would like to come please contact Deborah (0410531901) by **Monday 6th April**.

Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on **Good Friday, April 3**. This collection supports local Christians through welfare assistance, education, healthcare, housing and employment, and helps maintain churches and shrines connected with the life of Jesus. Due to the effects of the pandemic and ongoing conflicts, **support is needed more than ever**. Please be as generous as you can and keep the Christians of the Holy Land in your prayers.

Seniors Group Outing - April

Discover the beauty of orchids at the annual "Orchids in April" show in Caloundra! Featuring stunning displays from growers across the region. Join fellow parishioners Fred and Marg as they share their knowledge and guide us through the plants displayed, including champions. Orchid and foliage sales are available on the day.

Register via Linktree or contact the parish office to secure your place.

Caloundra Uniting Church Hall | April 17th | 10am | \$5 incl. morning tea



ON THE JOURNEY...

We pray for those who have been **recently baptised into the Church**, that the grace of their baptism may guide them throughout their lives.

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

May they Rest in Peace

Parish Diary

Monday 30th March

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9:30am
Second Rite Reconciliation (Maroochydore) 5pm

Tuesday 31st March

Adoration, Rosary & Stations of the Cross (Maleny) 8:30am
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Wednesday 1st April

School Liturgy (OLR) 9am
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 2nd April

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper
No Morning Mass
Mass (OLR) 6pm
Mass (Maleny) 6pm

Friday 3rd April

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
OLR - 10am
Beerwah - 10am
Veneration of the Cross
Currumundi - 10am
Lt. Mountain - 3pm
OLR - 3pm
Landsborough - 3pm

Saturday 4th April

Easter Vigil
No Morning Mass or Reco
Mass (OLR) 6pm
Mass (Notre Dame - at Unity College Chapel) 6pm

Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday
Mass (Lands) 7am
Mass (OLR) 7.30am
Mass (Maleny) 9am
Mass (Currumundi) 9.15am
Mass (OLR) 9:30am
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am
No 5pm Easter Mass at Unity



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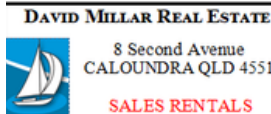
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