



# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

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

**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

**2nd Sunday of Lent - 28 February / 1 March Year A**

## **Faith in a Changing World: Belong. Believe. Behave.**

Until the not-too-distant past, still within living memory for many, Sundays were truly a day of rest in many parts of the world. Here in Australia, shops were closed, sporting fixtures paused, and families gathered for Mass and a shared meal. The **rhythm of life quietly pointed toward God**, and church was simply what you did. Faith was supported by culture. Even those who were not deeply engaged were carried along by a shared social expectation.

Underneath this was an unspoken model of church life: **behave, believe, belong**. First, you learned how to act. You came to church, because that was what was done, you were taught the prayers, the rules, the moral framework. Then you were taught what to believe, often in Sunday catechism classes or from the Homily by the priest. 'These are the tenants of the faith and this is how you uphold them.' Belonging followed almost automatically because the wider culture reinforced it. **If you behaved and believed in the expected way, you belonged to the community.**

Today, we live in a different environment. Sundays are busy and full of activity. Work continues, sport competes, shopping centres are open, and social commitments fill the calendar. Our culture no longer assumes nor supports faith. This shift is not necessarily negative; it reflects the natural changes of society over time. It is simply different, and thus **the way we live and share our faith must also grow and adapt with culture.**

*In this new landscape, a different model is emerging: belong, believe, behave.*

For new members of the faith community, membership begins with belonging. People long to be known, welcomed, and loved before they are ready to receive teaching or moral challenge. **Jesus Himself often began this way.** He shared meals, called people by name, and created space for relationship before transformation took root. We see this beautifully in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The son squanders his father's inheritance and returns home rehearsing his apology, prepared to beg to work as a servant. Yet before he can finish his speech, the father runs to him, embraces him, and restores him publicly as his son. Belonging comes first. In that embrace, the father's actions say: Welcome home. You are loved and you belong here!

**Belonging opens the heart.** When someone knows they are loved and received, they become more open to discovering what the Church believes. The prodigal son learns who his father truly is through the power and love of his father's mercy, not a lecture on the rules of church or the hurt they have caused.

From belonging grows belief. Faith is no longer something absorbed by default; it is encountered personally. Questions are asked and stories are shared. **Belief becomes a deep personal conviction born of an encounter** with the power and love of God, rather than merely intellectual knowledge or something simply handed down. The prodigal son's belief of his father changes because he is embraced.

Finally, behaviour flows from within. Christian living becomes an opportunity to respond to God: "I get to" rather than an obligation "I have to". **Moral transformation is not imposed from the outside but formed from the inside.** The prodigal son's life is now shaped by gratitude and restored identity instead of fear or shame.

In a culture that no longer assumes faith, we are invited to become communities that reflect the loving father of the parable: communities of genuine welcome, clear teaching, and authentic witness. Church is first and foremost a place where people belong, and only then come to believe and then learn to live that belief (behave) - in that order. Here at OLR, we seek to live this vision intentionally. Mass remains the heart of our parish life, but belonging grows through connection, formation, and shared encounter. That is why we offer a range of opportunities for faith, friendship, and growth. Whether through Connect Groups, our Parish Encounter Night (6 March), the Lenten Mini Mission (9-11 March), or the Morning of Prayer with Sr Jone on (17 March), there are many ways to take a step deeper. We sincerely hope everyone feels a sense of belonging here at OLR.

*May this Lent be a time when each of us takes a step: to belong more deeply, to believe more personally, and to live that belief more fully.*

Pilgrim well, **Fr Gerard**

## Ministry Leadership Team Update - Faith and Formation

The Faith and Formation team is a small but mighty team, with a fundamental purpose to **support the mission of our parish**, and to **support people to encounter Jesus** and create a personal relationship with Him. We are about 'creating a thirst for spiritual growth and development'!

We are **pursuing four key outcomes**: deepening personal relationships with Jesus and one another through a stronger understanding of our Catholic faith, creating a clear pathway for faith formation and discipleship, promoting high-quality faith education resources, and equipping everyone with the desire, knowledge, and tools to make disciples.

We are already underway and growing our **Alpha** programs and newly launched **Connect Groups**, along with the extraordinary parish retreats. We have other actions underway also, including promoting access to a range of resources, and exploring options to deliver spiritual coaching and support. Possibilities include: workshops to discover where creative arts and music intersect with spirituality, and a Movie Club. We also have the opportunity to partner with Stella Maris Parish in promoting the Men Alive National Conference which is an awesome event for Men of the parish. And of course there is the Ignite Conference for Young People.

There is so much already happening and more to come. There is no 'one size fits all' - we are all at different places in our journey with the Lord and that requires resourcing and support to meet us where we are at. This is the heart of the Faith and Formation team in serving you, our fellow parishioners and the broader Sunshine Coast community, as we all discover deeper relationship with the One who lovingly created us.

**Blessings,**

**Marie, Julie, Luke and Beth**

### Parish Encounter Night

Have you prayerfully considered the key people God has placed in your life - those who steady your faith, offer encouragement and help you keep your eyes on Christ? On Friday 6 March, **we invite you to join us for an Encounter Night** focused on the question: **"Who Is Your 7?"**



The "Your Seven" idea recognises that our **faith is strengthened through relationships**. None of us are meant to walk the Christian life alone. God provides mentors, peers, and trusted friends who support us, challenge us, and help us persevere. On the night, we'll take time to **identify who those people are** in our own lives - and reflect on **how we might become that presence** for someone else.

The evening will include worship, a keynote message, personal testimony, and time for prayer and adoration - an opportunity to pause, listen, and respond during this Lenten season.

We are delighted to welcome **Peter Pelicaan**, Executive Director of Archdiocesan Ministries, who will share from his experience of evangelisation and the power of community in drawing people into a **deeper encounter with Christ**.

Everyone is warmly invited. Gather with us, stay for worship, and be attentive to how God may be leading you.

**Drinks from 5:30pm | Program begins 6:05pm | Register by scanning the QR code above**



### RAP Workshop

Please join us for the RAP Networking Workshop. This gathering offers an important opportunity to deepen our understanding of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture, and connection to Country**. Many parishes from across the Archdiocese will be joining us, and we warmly invite OLR parishioners to take part.

We are grateful to welcome **local elder Kerry Jones**, a Kabi Kabi man and Director of the Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation, who will lead our opening session. This will be followed by a practical workshop on implementing the RAP locally, including steps to **strengthen the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture** within our parish.

Please bring a savoury or sweet plate to share for morning tea and lunch, and label any dietary considerations

**RSVP:** By Thurs 12 March. Please register via [tinyurl.com/rapnetmar26](https://tinyurl.com/rapnetmar26) or using the QR code



**14/03/2026 | 10:00am - 2:30pm | OLR Church, 61 Edmund Street, Caloundra | No Cost**

## A Reminder of these Upcoming Events

### Parish Mini Mission

It is important to make time to reflect on our lives and the direction life is taking us. To help us this year, we welcome back **Fr Richard Leonard**, who will lead our **Parish Mini Mission over 3 days from the 9-11 March** daily from 10am at **Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Caloundra**, with a cuppa from 9.30am sponsored by Holy Cross Funerals. Fr Richard will also lead a Mini Mission in the evenings at **Stella Maris, Maroochydore from 5pm on the same days**. Don't let this Lenten opportunity slip by



### Come Away and Pray

Join us for a special morning with Sr Jone and the Sisters of Mary Morning Star as they share practical wisdom to renew our prayer life during the Lenten season. Through inspiring talks and small group discussions this promises to be a beautiful morning of reflection and drawing closer to the Lord. **Tuesday, March 17, Our Lady of the Rosary, 10am - 1pm**. Please RSVP for catering services **by March 11** via the Parish Linktree to assist with morning tea and lunch which is provided by **Holy Cross Funerals**. This is a free event; all are warmly welcome.

## Junior Altar Servers Training Day

Calling all children interested in Altar serving in our Parish! This training day is for you!

Come along and learn about the Mass, and start your journey as an Altar Server in this Parish! Junior Altar Servers are placed on a roster at their preferred Mass Centre, with plenty of support as they continue to learn and develop their skills.

If you're an existing Altar Server, we still encourage you to attend this training day to help new servers and refresh your memory!

Our Training Day will be at **Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Saturday 7th March from 2:30pm - 4pm**, finishing with a pizza party! All children and parents are welcome to stay for the 5pm OLR Mass after.

Register via Linktree or by **scanning the QR code here**.



## You are invited to a Day of Reparation

Around **90.000 abortions** are performed in Australia each year. Join the Nambour Parish community on Saturday, 14th March, to pray and fast for an end to abortion.

St Joseph's Mass: 8am. Adoration: 8:30am - 5pm. Benediction: 4:30pm - 5pm.

Spend time with the Lord, praying for an end to abortion.



## ON THE JOURNEY...



We pray for **Rafael Starling Gomides, Clara Flor & Sidarta Tocantins Oliveira and Paisley, Bowie & Rudi Sanders** who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Caloundra.

We pray for the souls of our recently deceased: **June Cashin, Agnes Mary Murrin and Antonio Notoli**. May they **Rest in Peace**.

## Parish Diary

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

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

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Adoration, Rosary & Stations of the Cross (Maleny) beginning 8:30am  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am  
Adoration for Vocations & Stations of the Cross (Lands) beginning 10am

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Mass & Stations of the Cross (OLR) 9am  
Mass & Stations of the Cross (Beerwah) beginning 9am

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Vigil Masses

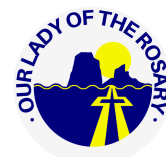
#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Mass (OLR) 5pm  
Mass (Notre Dame - at Unity College Chapel) 5pm

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

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



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