



# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

Second Sunday of Easter - 11/12th April Year A

## Divine Mercy Sunday

What a grace-filled Easter we have just celebrated together. I want to express my deep gratitude – to each and every one of you – for the faith, generosity, and love you poured into the Easter Triduum. From those who prepared our liturgies so beautifully, to our musicians, sacristans, readers, servers, welcomers, cleaners, decorators, and all who worked quietly behind the scenes: thank you. **Your service made visible something of the beauty of God.**

And to our whole parish community: thank you for the way you welcomed the many visitors who joined us. At several of our liturgies, **we experienced the largest crowds we've seen** – certainly in my six and a half years here. That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people encounter something real when they walk through our doors – something reverent, joyful, and deeply human. It happens because we are living our faith. This matters more than we might realise.



Easter is not simply something we celebrate once a year. It is a reality we are invited to live. And today – **Divine Mercy Sunday** – the Church draws our attention to the heart of that reality: that the risen **Jesus comes to us not with condemnation, but with mercy**; not with distance, but with peace; not with indifference, but with a mission.

In today's Gospel, we encounter two movements of faith. First, the disciples. They believe because they have encountered the risen Jesus. He stands among them, speaks peace into their fear, and shows them his wounds. **Their belief flows from encounter.** Then second, there is Thomas. Often remembered for his doubt, but perhaps better understood for his honesty. Thomas does not initially believe the testimony of the others. **He wants to see. He wants to touch.** And when he does encounter Jesus, his response is one of the most profound professions of faith in the Gospel: *"My Lord and my God."*

What's striking is that both paths – **belief flowing from encounter, and encounter flowing from belief** – are present in this one Gospel. **For some, faith began with a real, personal encounter with Jesus** – an experience of His presence, His love, His mercy. That encounter led them to belief. **For others, faith has been a steady inheritance.** We were raised in it, formed by it, and have come to believe in the resurrection of Jesus perhaps long before we could articulate a personal encounter. And yet, over time, that belief opens us to deeper and deeper encounters with Him.



**The Gospel makes room for both.** But it does not leave us in either place because whether belief leads to encounter, or encounter leads to belief, both are given for a purpose. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them: *"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* **Faith is never meant to remain private. Encounter is never meant to be kept to oneself.** They are given for mission. And that mission is clear: *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations"* (Mt 28:19).

Here in our parish, we express that mission in a very particular way: **by actively accompanying people to encounter Jesus.** What we experienced last weekend is a beautiful reminder that there are many people – perhaps more than we realise – who are open, searching, or simply willing to step through the door. The question for us is not whether they will come. Many already do. The question is: **what will they encounter when they do?** Will they encounter a community that simply gathers, or one that notices, welcomes, and walks with them? Will they encounter a Church that assumes, or one that accompanies? Will they encounter people who believe in Jesus, or people who are alive with Him?

Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us that the answer begins not with strategies, but with hearts that have received mercy. Because it is **only when we know ourselves to be recipients of God's love and mercy** that we can become instruments of it for others.

So again, thank you – for your faithfulness, your service, and your witness. What you have given already bears fruit. And as we move forward in this Easter season, may we remain open – whether through belief or encounter – to the living presence of Jesus, who comes among us, speaks peace into our lives, and sends us out with purpose. **Jesus, I trust in You.**

Peace and Love – Fr Josh



## Ministry Update - Faith and Formation



This year has started off with some significant opportunities for growth in faith and fellowship. As a team, our goal is to create formation opportunities that will encourage on-going **curiosity, growth, community and connection**. Our desire is that all people in our parish are continually growing as disciples and bringing others with them on the journey.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> March, our Alpha Team **wrapped up the first Alpha program for the year**. We were blessed to host 15 participants, a precious mix of both familiar and new faces! Participants expressed the benefits and joy of meeting together, of fellowship and a new encounter with Jesus, as they explored the basic gospel message which is forever new.

Our team has also been running the **Diving Deeper course** – exploring Evangelisation and The Acts of the Apostles – bringing together interested parishioners and those who have completed RCIA last year. Our thanks go to **Luke MacMillan and his team** for facilitating these evening sessions that richly unpack the Book of Acts and its relevance for us in the modern church.

The **Lenten Connect Groups** were launched to coincide with this most holy of seasons. Many of you participated in this venture, and we are delighted to report that several groups are looking to continue longer term.

One of our ongoing goals, supported by the Senior Leadership Team, is to have a healthy culture of small groups or **Connect Groups in our Parish**. Our vision is to create environments where we can grow as Disciples of Jesus together – places of gentle intimacy where we can pray together, explore and be guided by Holy Scripture, and share, socialise and connect. If you were unable to join a group during Lent and you would like to get involved in a group, it's not too late! You can contact the office via email [Caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:Caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au) or call on between 9am & 1pm on **07 5430 9390**.

As a team we look forward to being led by Holy Spirit to offer more opportunities to for every person in our Parish to deepen their faith, their understanding of Jesus and their personal relationship with Him.

Beth Davies - On Behalf of **the Faith and Formation team**.

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## Seniors Group Outing - April



Seniors, don't forget about the next outing this month! Come along to the annual **"Orchids in April"** show at **Uniting Hall Caloundra, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am** and enjoy a beautiful display of orchids and foliage from local growers across the region.

Our very own parishioners, Fred and Marg will be there to walk us through the displays and share some of their knowledge, including pointing out a few of the prize-winning plants. There will also be orchids and foliage available to purchase on the day if you'd like to take one home.

To join us, **register via our Linktree** (scan the QR code on page 3 of this newsletter) or contact the parish office to secure your place.

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## Sacrament of Confirmation - Term 2

A reminder to **all parents of baptised children in Grade 3 and above**: please ensure you do not miss the upcoming dates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

While Baptism is the gateway into the Catholic faith, Confirmation is an important next step, where your child affirms their commitment to the faith and renews their baptismal promises. This sacrament plays a significant role in their ongoing faith journey and preparation for the Eucharist (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 with a **Parent Information Night on Tuesday 21st April, 5pm at OLR Church, and continues every Tuesday from the 5<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June**, over five weeks, with the Confirmation ceremony taking place on Friday 5th June.

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

To register: **please scan the QR code** found at the bottom of page 3 in this newsletter, where you will be required to sign up to flocknote and complete the registration forms.



## Encounter Kids Fun Day

The Encounter Kids Fun Day is nearly here! Taking place on **Friday 17th April at Caloundra Parish Centre, 9am - 3pm**, it's open to all primary school children from Prep to Grade 6. It will be a fun and faith-filled day with games, activities, music, prayer, and engaging talks—helping children grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith in an enjoyable and relatable way, while also giving kids the chance to build friendships and connect with the wider parish community.

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

To register, **scan the QR code for our Parish Linktree** (at the bottom of the page) and head to the Kingdom Kids page to register. Final sign ups taken on **Tuesday April 14th**.



## Compassion and Care Group

The Compassion and Care Group (formerly Grief Support) invites all parishioners to a monthly morning tea following the 9am Mass on **Friday 17th April in the OLR Parish Centre**. Everyone is welcome. The group meets every three weeks, offering a space for support, connection, and conversation.

## Oceans MAX26 - Save the Date



MenAlive is a national Catholic ministry for men, created in response to a deep need within both men's lives and the Church. Its mission is to gather men, renew faith in God, and encourage them to take an active role in the life and renewal of the Church.

The National Catholic Men's Gathering "OCEANS MAX26" is being held on **7th-9th August 2026**. Make sure to save the date!

## On the Journey ...

We pray for **Harper & Levi Stevens** and **Matilda Angel** who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra.

### Funerals

**Doris Ahearn**, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 11:30am at Gregson & Weight, Caloundra

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

**May they Rest in Peace**

## Parish Changes

We welcome back **Fr Brian Connolly**, a retired priest who is helping out in the parish while Fr Gerard is away until 28 April. We're very grateful to Fr Brian for stepping in and supporting our community!

## Parish Information

**Phone:** *Parish Office* - (9am - 1pm) 0754309390

*After hrs pastoral emergency* - 0431099854

**Email** - caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

Please see Parish Linktree QR Code to the right



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

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

## Parish Diary

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
Adoration, Rosary (Maleny) 8:30am  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am  
Adoration for Vocations (Lands) 10am

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Mass (Beerwah) 9am

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**  
Adoration & Reconciliation (OLR) 9am

**Vigil Masses**  
Mass (OLR) 5pm  
Mass (Unity College Chapel) 5pm

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mass (OLR) 7.30am  
Mass (Lands) 9am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am  
Mass (OLR) 9:30am  
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am  
Mass (Unity College Chapel) 5pm



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