



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 25/26th April Year A

THE VOICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN CHANGING TIMES

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we read from Chapter 10 of St John's Gospel, where Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, sent by the Father to care for, guide, and protect us, who are the flock—the sheep. We refer to this as Good Shepherd Sunday.

Since 1963, this Sunday has been observed as a **worldwide Day of Prayer for Vocations**, especially for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It was the idea of Pope Paul VI during the great Council of renewal in the Church, the Second Vatican Council, which began in 1962 and concluded in 1965, and has been unfolding ever since.

1963 was the year I began my second year of study and formation for the priesthood. In our intake that year, there were 30 students, with a total of 127 seminarians at the time. For the five dioceses of Queensland, this period is sometimes described as the “golden age” for vocations, though that description can be a little misleading. Some would like to return to those days, but it had never been quite like that before, nor has it been since. It was never the norm.



Today, **we face a very different landscape from the 1960s and 70s**. Numbers at Holy Spirit Seminary may have increased slightly this year, **but they are still not enough to meet the sacramental needs of our dioceses and parishes**, as many Australian priests age, retire, and pass away. We remain deeply grateful for the generosity of priests from overseas, as well as for the growing number of migrants whose strong and vibrant faith continues to enrich our parishes and the wider Church in Australia.

In my own Diocese of Toowoomba, **we had the ordination of a young priest last year, Fr Derry Hurick**, but currently we have no seminarians. Still, we are called to be hopeful about the future as it gradually unfolds. This hope is grounded in the Good Shepherd, who asks us to **pray and to trust that there will always be labourers for the harvest**. Vocations take many forms today—marriage, single life, religious life, as well as ordained ministry.



**“Pray the Lord
of the harvest
to send out
labourers into
his harvest”**

(MT 9:38)

What will the Church look like in 2089, another 63 years from now? We do not really know. But we can be sure that today we are planting seeds that will sprout and grow in the years ahead. **The ground here is a fertile paddock, where sheep are well fed, watered, and nourished, attentive to the voice of the Good Shepherd**. That is the message I will be sharing with those I meet back home in Warwick and throughout my diocese.

I am writing this on the first anniversary of the death of our beloved Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday, 21 April 2024. Pope Francis often said that **bishops and priests should have “the smell of the sheep.”** It is an earthy expression, but a true one—especially for shepherds of small flocks in the Middle East, where sheep and shepherd live in close proximity, unlike the vast sheep stations of Australia. In that setting, sheep and shepherd come to share the same smell, reflecting a deep bond of affection and trust.

The Good Shepherd knows each of us intimately—our lives, our needs, our concerns, our worries, and our weaknesses. He laid down his life for us. May we renew our trust in him, that he may continue to lead us, our Church, and our world in these challenging times.

Fr Brian Connolly

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MINISTRY UPDATE - SERVICE & OUTREACH

The first quarter of 2026 has been an exciting and fruitful one for the Service Outreach team. As we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus and share His radical love with those in need in our community, **we have seen a number of encouraging wins and successful initiatives.** It has been a grace-filled start to the year, and we are deeply grateful for everyone who has played a part.

Community Cooking

Our Community Cooking team recently completed the first round of cook-ups for 2026, with **more than 200 meals** going into the parish and St Vincent de Paul food bank for distribution to those in need. Volunteers from the parish joined with students and teachers from Unity College to **prepare, cook, and package the meals**, creating a wonderful atmosphere of teamwork and service. It was a joyful experience for volunteers and a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when our parish and school community work together.



Share-a-Meal Outreach Relaunch

The Share-a-Meal community outreach, first begun in our parish more than 25 years ago, has recently undergone a **relaunch in partnership with St Vincent de Paul** to provide strengthened support, resources, and coordination, ensuring this much-loved ministry continues to thrive into the future. After a brief pause Share-a-Meal relaunched at Happy Valley at the start of April to much thanksgiving and gratitude from the regular patrons who attend and depend on this important outreach. A huge thank-you to the Share-a-Meal and St Vinnies teams for the tremendous work they have done to ensure this vital ministry remains a light and support for those in our community.

Reconciliation Action Plan Group

The Parish held a wonderful Reconciliation Action Plan Networking Workshop in March and is now forming a working group for those who feel called to **help make our parish a more welcoming and safe place for our Indigenous brothers and sisters.** It's not too late to be involved. The RAP team is now meeting monthly to connect, learn, and begin shaping our parish's Reconciliation Action Plan. If you would like to join and be part of this important journey or any of our other ministries, please reach out to the Service Outreach team via cp.serviceandoutreach@bne.catholic.net.au

With thanks and gratitude - **The Service Outreach Team**

Ros, Mary, Trish, Bob, David

KINGDOM KIDS GROUP - YRS 3-6



We are excited to re-launch our new primary aged kids group, targeted at **children in Yrs 3-6!**

Kingdom Kids Youth Group meets monthly, with a goal to create opportunities for catechesis, formation and encounter with Jesus, giving primary aged children a foundational understanding of who He is in their lives. We also hope to create a culture in which we can actively accompany these children to encounter Jesus and build relationships with each other.

Kingdom Kids Youth Group re-launch is on **Tuesday 28th April from 4pm until 5pm at Unity College Chapel (47 Lomond Crescent, Caloundra West QLD)**

If you would like to attend, **please scan the QR code** in the 'Parish Information' section of the newsletter which will lead you to the sign up registration form.

KINGDOM YOUTH - YRS 7-12

We are also thrilled to continue our Kingdom Youth group **for students in Years 7-12.** Meeting weekly throughout the school term, Kingdom Youth provides a space for young people to grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and explore life's deeper questions together. Each gathering includes time for connection, conversation, prayer, and formation, creating an environment where young people can encounter Jesus. Dinner is provided each week, and all are welcome to come along!

Kingdom Youth group starts **Friday May 1st at Unity College Chapel from 6pm - 8:30pm.** If you would like to come along, **register via instagram:** @kingdom.caloundra.

LADIES LUNCH



The next Ladies Lunch will be held on **Friday 8 May at 12:00 noon at Mountain View Cafe** (Mary Cairncross Park), a lovely setting with scenic views.

All ladies of the parish are invited to come along. Please **RSVP by Monday 4 May to Deborah on 0410 531 901** so numbers can be confirmed and if you need transport, please let Deborah know.

OPEN HOUSE EVENT

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Caloundra, invites parish leaders and community members to a one-day Open House.

This gathering is an opportunity to share our journey of renewal, shaped by our partnership with Divine Renovation Ministry. Throughout the day, there will be opportunities to hear stories, explore key ideas about parish renewal, and take part in conversations that encourage new thinking—creating a space to speak openly, ask questions, and learn from one another.

This event takes place on **Saturday 6 June, 9:15am–4:15pm**, with an optional 5pm Mass at the parish.

This is a free event. To attend, please **sign up via the Linktree QR code** in the 'Parish Information' section of this newsletter for catering purposes. This event is proudly sponsored by Holy Cross Funerals.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

As the cooler weather approaches, the St Vincent de Paul Society invites our parish community to support **two initiatives in early May**.

Annual Winter Appeal (2–3 May)

The Winter Appeal assists local individuals and **families who are struggling**, with a focus this year on **essential items** like food and fuel. Your generosity helps meet these basic needs during a challenging time.

St Vincent 'de Formal' (Saturday 2 May)

Siena College will host the "de Formal" event, offering affordable formalwear for young people. Donations of **clean, good-quality dresses, suits, shirts, and accessories** can be dropped at the St Vincent de Paul shop in Caloundra (labelled "de Formal").

ON THE JOURNEY ...

We pray for **Evelyn and Henry Leis** who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra.

Funerals

Pierre Blom on 1st May, 11:00am at Sacred Heart, Maleny

Regina Zufic on 5th May, 11:00am at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra

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

May they Rest in Peace

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 27th April

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

Tuesday 28th April

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

Wednesday 29th April

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

Thursday 30th April

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

Friday 1st May

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

Saturday 2nd May

Adoration & Reconciliation
(OLR) 9am

Vigil Masses

Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Unity College
Chapel) 5pm

Sunday 3rd May

Mass (OLR) 7.30am
[Anointing] 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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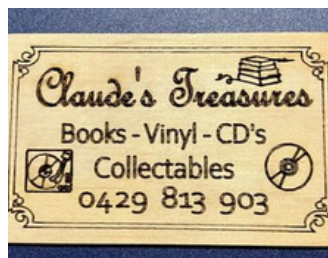
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