



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - 16/17th May Year A

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Next week (18–24 May) we celebrate **National Volunteer Week**. OLR simply could not function without volunteers and I want to personally thank the many people who generously give their time, talent, and service to the life of our parish community.

Many people walk into the church each weekend to find the doors are already open, a friendly face greets them and hands them a newsletter and helps them take their seat for Mass. Yet behind all of this are countless **volunteers quietly serving behind the scenes**.

Long before mass commences many people have already opened the church, prepared the altar, counted the hosts for consecration, compiled the newsletter, cleaned the church, turned on the lights, rehearsed the music, and prepared hospitality afterwards. This is not to mention the many ministries that continue throughout the week: Pastoral Care Call Centre, St Vincent de Paul, Alpha, Gardening Teams, Youth Ministry, Children's Liturgy, Hospitality Teams, Intercessory Prayer Support, Church Transport and many others.

Next week after every mass, there will be an **opportunity to sign up for various ministries within the parish**. Please prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to serve.

May God bless all our volunteers abundantly for the love and care they so generously share with the Parish. **We are building the Kingdom of God** and continuing his mission here and now!

WHAT IS THE UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE EVENT ALL ABOUT?

In three weeks, our parish will be hosting a **Divine Renovation Open House** for clergy and parish leaders from around the region.

Divine Renovation is a Catholic ministry that helps parishes move **from maintenance to mission** by creating environments where people can encounter Jesus, grow as disciples, and **become active participants in the life and mission of the Church**. For several years now, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish has been guided by many of the principles of Divine Renovation.

One of the key ideas behind Divine Renovation is recognising that **the days of the priest trying to do everything alone are long gone**. The mission of the Church is strongest when the whole parish family is equipped and empowered to use their God-given gifts in service of the Gospel.

Rather than parish ministry depending almost entirely on the priest, Divine Renovation focuses on **raising up leaders, forming disciples, and equipping the laity** to actively participate in the life and mission of the Church. It is about building healthy parish cultures where people move from simply attending Mass to becoming missionary disciples who help others encounter Christ.

But what does it actually mean for a parish to move from "maintenance" to "mission"? A parish in maintenance mode can gradually become focused mainly on keeping things running: maintaining buildings, preserving schedules and traditions, and caring only for those who already attend. While these things are important, **the danger is that the parish can slowly become inward-looking, stagnant and eventually die**.

A missionary parish reflects on how they might help more people encounter Jesus. Mission mode focuses on evangelisation, welcoming newcomers, forming disciples, reaching those who feel disconnected, empowering lay leadership, and creating pathways for people to grow in faith and become active participants in the Church's mission. The Open House will provide an opportunity for visitors to learn more about evangelisation, leadership, and openness to the Holy Spirit through keynote presentations, workshops, prayer experiences, and conversations with parish leaders and ministry teams. Guests will also have the opportunity to meet parish leaders and volunteers, hear stories from different ministries, and see some of the ways OLR is seeking to foster evangelisation, hospitality, leadership, and missionary discipleship in today's world. This event is not so much about drawing attention to ourselves and our achievement, rather **it is about inviting others into the same journey which we are on**.



If you are interested (or even just a touch curious) in helping our parish's continual transformation from maintenance to mission, then this event is for you! You can **register through our Linktree** by scanning the QR code in the 'Parish information' section of this newsletter. Hope to see many of you there!

God bless, **Fr Gerard**

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the glorious mystery of the Ascension of the Lord: forty days after His Resurrection, **Christ ascends bodily into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.** Far from being Christ's departure from His people, the Ascension reveals the completion of His earthly mission and the beginning of the Church's mission in the world.

Before ascending, Jesus tells His disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). The apostles, once fearful and uncertain, are now entrusted with proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Christ ascends, yet **He remains with His Church through the Holy Spirit**, the sacraments, and His abiding presence among the faithful.

The Ascension also reminds us of our true destiny. In Christ, humanity is lifted toward heaven. As the Catechism teaches, Christ's Ascension marks the entrance of His humanity into the glory of heaven (CCC 665). Where He has gone, we are called to follow.

As we celebrate this feast, may the Ascension renew in us a deeper hope in Christ and a greater confidence in His promises. With our hearts lifted toward heaven, may we continue to follow Him faithfully in the midst of our daily lives.



MINISTRY UPDATE - FAITH AND FORMATION

Our Faith and Formation team is currently in a period of transition and renewal. In the early months of the year, we farewelled some valued long-term members who have moved into other leadership roles, while others have been called to serve in different parts of the country for extended periods. Even so, the mission of the Parish continues with hope and commitment.

Alpha

Late last year, an Alpha steering team was formed to oversee the development of this **important tool for evangelisation in our Parish.** In the coming season, we hope to reach those who have not participated before or who may not yet feel fully connected to the Parish community. We encourage you to reflect on who in your life might be open and asking questions. The course begins on **Saturday 18 July.** Registrations are limited, so if you have been meaning to invite someone, now is the time. (Registration link available via the QR code on page 3 of the newsletter)



Connect Group Monthly Formation – Unlocking the Bible

Following the enthusiastic response to the Navigating the Bible workshops hosted by **Fr Josh and Beth Davies**, we have decided to offer a similar evening on a monthly basis. These workshops aim to deepen our understanding of Scripture and to equip us to read, reflect on, and draw life from the Word of God. The evenings are designed for those already involved in Connect Groups, as well as anyone who desires to read and reflect on Scripture but is unsure where to begin. Our next gathering will be held on **28 May at 4pm** in the Church.

Harness the Power of Prayer

At present, a group of parishioners is participating in a **new pilot program** that we hope to offer more broadly across the Parish in the future. This initiative explores a **deepening of prayer and mission through greater openness to the Holy Spirit.** Watch this space – all going well, we hope to make this available more widely.

As we continue this season of renewal, we thank all those who serve so generously in the life of our Parish and ask for your continued prayers for the mission ahead.

SOME BITTERSWEET NEWS

Fr Gerard has been **appointed to the Maroochydore Catholic Parish as Associate Pastor**, effective from **3 June.** His final weekend Masses will be at OLR on **23-24 May** and at Unity/Landsborough/Unity **30-31 May.**

Over the past 3 years, Fr Gerard has made an enormous contribution to this parish and we have all watched him grow.

While we will miss him dearly, we wish him every blessing in this new chapter of priestly ministry. **Fr Minje Kim** will be joining the parish as associate pastor - more information will be shared soon



ENCOUNTER NIGHT



Our next Encounter Night will be held on **Thursday 19 June**, and all parishioners are invited. The evening will begin with separate gatherings for youth and adults. From 6pm, young people will gather at Unity College for games and activities, while adults will enjoy drinks and nibbles from 6:15pm.

At 7pm, everyone will gather in the chapel for praise and worship, a guest speaker, personal testimony, Eucharistic Adoration, and an opportunity for prayer ministry.

Encounter Night is a chance to slow down, **spend time with the Lord, and gather as a parish community.** Whether you have been before or this is your first time attending, we would love to welcome you.

If you would like to attend Encounter Night, **sign up through our Linktree** by scanning the QR code in the 'Parish Information' section of this newsletter.



SENIORS EVENT - MAY: BEERWAH'S BUSH MASS

Coming up soon – the Seniors Group will be attending the Bush Mass at Beerwah on **Friday 29 May at 9:00am**. This will be a lovely opportunity for parishioners to come together in prayer and fellowship, sharing in the Mass followed by a relaxed morning tea and conversation afterwards.

If you would like to join us for this outing, please register your attendance via the **Linktree QR code** provided in the 'Parish Information' section of this newsletter. For those who require it, transport can be arranged upon request.



LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2026



Laudato Si' Week is on **17-24 May**. It marks the anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si', calling us to care for our common home; God's creation, and support vulnerable communities. During the week, we are encouraged to **reduce our environmental footprint with the 7 Rs**: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Refurbish, Repair, Repurpose, and Recycle.

MAJOR RELIC

In July, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Caloundra will have the privilege of welcoming a **1st Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis**. The relic will visit the parish on **Friday 3 July**, offering parishioners an opportunity for prayer and veneration.

ON THE JOURNEY ...

Funerals:

Lydia Smith on Tuesday 19 May, 11am at Gregson & Weight

Shirley Carmichael on Thursday 21 May, 11am at Sacred Heart, Maleny

We pray for the souls of our deceased priests, religious & 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 18th May

Mass (OLR) 9am

No Adoration

Tuesday 19th May

Adoration, Rosary

(Maleny) 8:30am

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Wednesday 20th May

School Liturgy (OLR) 9am

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 21st May

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

Adoration for Vocations

(Lands) 9am

Friday 22nd May

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Saturday 23rd May

Adoration & Reconciliation

(OLR) 9am

Vigil Masses

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Unity College

Chapel) 5pm

Sunday 24th May

Pentecost Sunday

Mass (OLR) 7.30am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

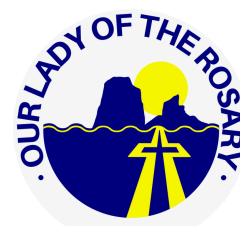
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

Mass (OLR) 9:30am

Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am

Mass (Unity College

Chapel) 5pm



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