



# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

**CORPUS CHRISTI - 6/7th May Year A**

## THE CHALLENGE AND GIFT OF TRANSITION

One of the unique challenges of priestly life is that it asks something of us that is not entirely natural in human relationships. Most people spend years, even decades, building relationships within a community. They establish roots, create memories, become part of the fabric of a place, and then remain there. Priests, however, are called to give themselves wholeheartedly to a community for a season, **knowing that one day they will be asked to move on and begin again somewhere else.**

That reality has been on my mind these past few weeks as we farewelled Fr Gerard. For the past two years and nine months, **Fr Gerard has poured himself into the life of our parish.** He has celebrated countless Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and school liturgies. He has listened, encouraged, accompanied, and prayed with many people across our parish communities. **He has not simply occupied a role; he has become part of our parish family.** And then comes the difficult part: packing up your life, saying goodbye, leaving behind relationships that have become precious. Arriving in a new place where many faces are unfamiliar, and unpacking not only physically but emotionally and spiritually -beginning again .



As a parish, we have sought to farewell Fr Gerard as best we can, but I am conscious that **his departure does not affect only him.** It affects all of us who have sought to embrace him not merely as an Associate Pastor assigned here for a limited time, but as a brother in Christ and a member of our local expression of the Body of Christ in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. **Fr Gerard has been an important part of our Body,** and he will be missed.

Yet every transition also **presents an invitation.** As we say goodbye to Fr Gerard, we also **welcome Fr Minje.** While he will assume many of the responsibilities that Fr Gerard carried, he is not Fr Gerard - and that is precisely as it should be. The Holy Spirit never simply replaces one person with another. Rather, the Spirit equips each person with unique gifts, talents, experiences, and charisms for the sake of the Church's mission. Fr Minje brings his own personality, strengths, and gifts, and we will be richer for them if we remain open to receiving them.

This year's Feast of Corpus Christi provides a beautiful lens through which to view this transition. On Corpus Christi, we celebrate the extraordinary **gift of Christ's Body and Blood given to us in the Eucharist.** Every Mass is a reminder that Jesus continues to nourish, strengthen, and unite His people. But **Corpus Christi also invites us to reflect on another reality:** that together we are the Body of Christ.

Just as a body has **many parts with different functions,** so too does our parish. Priests, staff, ministry leaders, volunteers, parents, young people, retirees, parishioners who quietly pray each day - **each person contributes something essential** to the life and mission of the Church. None of us possesses every gift, but together the Holy Spirit provides everything needed for the mission Christ has entrusted to us.



As we enter this new chapter, I encourage you to welcome Fr Minje generously. Pray for him. Introduce yourself to him. Invite him into your lives. Be patient as he learns our parish culture and discovers the people and ministries that make this community so special. Most importantly, let us continue building a parish that any priest would be blessed to serve - a **vibrant Body of Christ where every member participates** in the mission given by our Head, Jesus Christ.

Our mission remains unchanged. We exist to actively accompany people to encounter Jesus in the Sacraments and in the supernatural reality of His living presence. That mission does not belong to one priest alone. It belongs to all of us.

May Fr Minje discover among us not simply a parish to serve, **but a family to belong to;** a community alive with faith, hope, and love; a Body fully engaged in the mission of Christ. And may we, together, continue becoming the kind of parish where the Holy Spirit is free to work through every member for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

With every blessing - **Fr Josh**

## GOODBYE FROM FATHER GERARD

One of the things I recently discovered is that the word "goodbye" comes from the phrase "God be with ye." I think that's a fitting way to begin.

As I prepare to leave Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, I don't really like the word goodbye. Not because I am sad to be leaving (although there is certainly some sadness), but because in the Christian life goodbye is never the end of the story. **For us it is always: God be with you.** Another word that has captured my attention is "companion." It comes from the Latin words com ("with") and panis ("bread"). **A companion is literally someone with whom you share bread.** How fitting that is for a parish community.

Over the past few years, we have shared much more than morning teas, parish dinners and family celebrations. We have gathered around the Bread of Life. We have stood side by side at the altar. We have shared in the Eucharist. We have prayed together, laughed together, mourned together and witnessed God's grace at work in one another's lives.



This weekend, as we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, we are reminded that we are not simply individuals who attend the same church ("Me and Jesus"). **We are one body, nourished by the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation** and united in Christ ("We and Jesus"). True companionship in every sense of the word.

People often say that your first parish is a bit like your first love. There is something about it that leaves a permanent impression upon your heart. It shapes you, forms you, and becomes part of who you are. No matter where life takes you afterwards, it always holds a special place within you. That is certainly true for me.

When I arrived, I came as a newly ordained priest, eager to serve but with much still to learn. You welcomed me, encouraged me, prayed for me, challenged me, and allowed me the privilege of walking with you through some of the most important moments of your lives. For that, I will always be grateful. I will miss the conversations after Mass, the excitement of our children and young people, the generosity of our volunteers, the faithfulness of our parishioners, the vibrant buzz of the parish at church, all the various parish initiatives, and the **countless moments, both big and small, that have made this parish feel like home.**

While I may be leaving Caloundra, I take great comfort in knowing that our paths will continue to cross in the most important place possible, at the Eucharist. **Every time we gather around the altar, we are united with Christ and with one another.** Distance cannot change that. Different parishes cannot change that. The Body of Christ is bigger than geography.

So rather than saying goodbye, perhaps it is better to say: **See you in the Eucharist.** Know that I will continue to pray for you, just as I ask you to continue to pray for me. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your priest. Thank you for your faith, your kindness, your encouragement, and your friendship. May God continue to bless Our Lady of the Rosary Parish abundantly. And until we meet again in the Eucharist..

Goodbye and God bless from your fellow companion, **Fr Gerard**

## FAMILY FUN DAY

Our next parish Family Fun Day will be held on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 11am - 2pm** at Jensen Park Pelican Waters! This will be a wonderful day filled with games, activities, and plenty of food to go around. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the registration form by **scanning the QR code** in the 'Parish Information' section of this newsletter and clicking on the children & families events page.



## CEO SLEEPOUT

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout raises funds and awareness for **Australian's experiencing homelessness.** This year, on the **18<sup>th</sup> of June**, Fr Josh is taking part to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which provides practical assistance and care to people facing homelessness and hardship.

To donate, please **scan the QR code** in the 'Parish Information' section of this newsletter. Cash donations may also be placed in a clearly marked envelope at Sunday Masses.



## ENCOUNTER NIGHT

Join us for **Encounter Night on Friday 19 June at Unity Chapel**. Youth will gather from 6pm for activities, while adults are invited from 6:15pm for drinks and nibbles. At 7pm, everyone will come together for praise and worship, a guest speaker, personal testimony, Eucharistic Adoration, and prayer ministry. Scan the QR code in the 'Parish Information' section to register.

## LADIES LUNCH

The June Ladies Lunch is coming up fast and will be on **Friday 12th June, 12 noon** at **Love You Long Thai, 12 Beerburum Street, Dicky Beach**. If you would like to attend then please contact Deborah on 0410531901 by **Monday 8th June** so that numbers can be confirmed.

## MULTICULTURAL MASS



Join us for our annual **Multicultural Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge** at Stella Maris Parish, Maroochydore, at **11am on Sunday, 21 June**. Gather with Catholic communities from across the Sunshine Coast for this celebration of our shared faith. After Mass, enjoy a cultural feast and displays showcasing the many cultures that enrich our Church.

## MAJOR RELIC

On **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July**, A 1st Class Relic of **St Carlo Acutis** will be coming to **Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Caloundra**.

This will be a special opportunity for prayer and veneration, as we welcome the relic of this young saint whose life continues to inspire many, especially young people, to grow in faith and devotion to the Eucharist. More details will be shared soon.



## ALPHA

Alpha begins again from Saturday **18 July to 29 August**, with sessions **each Saturday from 1:30pm-3:30pm** and a retreat day on 15 August from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Whether you're exploring Christianity, returning to the Church, or wanting to learn more about the faith, Alpha offers a welcoming space for conversation and questions.

Know someone who may benefit? Invite them along. Register **using the QR code** in the 'Parish Information' section of this newsletter.



## ON THE JOURNEY ...

We pray for **Silvano Bonato-Weaver**, who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Way, Landsborough. We also congratulate the **53 children who were confirmed** on Friday night.

**Funerals:**

**Dorothy Crane**, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 11am at Gregson & Weight

**John Tarca**, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 11am at OLR Caloundra

**Dawn Connolly**, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 11am at OLR Caloundra

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



## Parish Diary

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
Adoration, Rosary  
(Maleny) 8:30am  
School Liturgy (OLR) 9am  
Mass (Lt Mt) 9:30am

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9:30am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9:15am  
Adoration for Vocations  
(Lands) 9am

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**  
Mass (OLR) 9am  
Mass (Beerwah) 9am

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
Adoration & Reconciliation  
(OLR) 9am

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

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
Mass (OLR) 7.30am  
Mass (Maleny) 9am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am  
Mass (OLR) 9:30am  
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am  
Mass (Unity Chapel) 5pm



**Website:**  
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