



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 8/9th August Year A

FROM FEAR TO THE FEAR OF THE LORD

At times, we all become physically and emotionally exhausted. **Uncertainty and fear are part of our human experience.** In this respect, **we are not so different from the saints and prophets**, including Elijah in the first reading.

Elijah arrives at Mount Horeb as a frightened and exhausted man. Queen Jezebel has threatened his life, and the prophet who had courageously stood against the prophets of Baal is now fleeing into the wilderness. Eventually, he takes shelter in a cave. **Fear has narrowed his world.** He can see only the danger before him, the apparent failure of his prophetic ministry, and his own loneliness. One of fear's most damaging effects is that **it creates distance**—distance between us and others, and even between us and God.

At Horeb, however, **God calls Elijah out of the cave**—his shelter and his place of fear—and tells him to stand before the Lord. A powerful wind passes by, followed by an earthquake and a fire. Each of these could have intensified Elijah's fear, yet the Lord is not present in any of them.

Then Elijah hears the sound of a gentle breeze. Recognising God's presence, he covers his face with his cloak and goes to the entrance of the cave. There he experiences **another kind of fear**—not the fear that drives him away, but **a holy fear that draws him closer: the fear of the Lord.**



The "fear of the Lord" is very different from ordinary fear. It does not create distance between God and us. Rather, it **leads us to approach God with reverence**, wonder, and trust in his greatness and goodness.

Ordinary fear says, "The danger before me is the greatest power." The fear of the Lord says, "God is greater, and I can entrust myself to him." It does not deny that danger is real; rather, **it changes which voice has the final authority over our lives.**

We see this holy fear and trust in **Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop**, whose solemnity we celebrated on Saturday. Her pastoral ministry to educate poor and isolated children was never easy. She experienced poverty, uncertainty, criticism, and conflict. Because of painful misunderstandings within the Church, she was even excommunicated for a time, although the excommunication was later lifted.

Mary could have allowed fear, anger, or discouragement to close her heart and bring her mission to an end. Instead, she continued to pray, forgive, trust in God, and serve those in need.

Saint Mary was not courageous because nothing frightened her. She was courageous because her reverence for God and her trust in his providence **became stronger than her fear** of rejection, blame, or failure. Her well-known words, "Never see a need without doing something about it," reveal **a heart that was not paralysed by fear.** She listened for God's gentle voice and then took the next faithful step.

We all have our own caves: anxiety about our health, family, finances, future, or what others may think of us. God does not shame us when we retreat into those places. He meets us there, just as he met Elijah, and gently calls us to step out.

Through prayer, silence, Scripture, and the Eucharist, we learn to hear a voice that is deeper and truer than our anxiety. Let us, therefore, **come out of our own caves of fear and walk in the light of Christ**, which always shines upon us, with our parish family.

Peace, **Fr Minje**



WEEKLY GOSPEL READING

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, **"It is a ghost!"** And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, **"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."**

Peter answered him, **"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."** He said, **"Come."** So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, **"Lord, save me!"** Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, **"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"** When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, **"Truly you are the Son of God."**

MLT UPDATE - FAITH & FORMATION: GROWING IN FAITH

This month our parish is blessed with many opportunities to grow in faith. The **Alpha** Program continues, men are attending the **Oceans: MAX26** MenAlive Conference this weekend, our **RCIA** journey begins on Saturday 5 September, and later in September many of our young people will attend the **Ignite Youth Conference** in Brisbane.

Working with our RCIA team recently prompted me to reflect on a simple but important question: **What is faith, and why does it matter that we continue to grow it?**

The Oxford Dictionary defines faith as "complete trust or confidence in someone or something." Yet in a world of misinformation, uncertainty, anxiety and constant demands for proof - faith can seem difficult to understand. **Where does it fit? Why does it matter?**

Like many people, I took my questions to Google. One biblical summary described faith as confident trust in God, expressed through our daily actions, and essential to our relationship with Him (Hebrews 11:1; James 2:14-17; Hebrews 11:6). St Paul reminds us that faith itself is God's gift: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Two expressions of faith especially captured my attention: **saving faith**, which transforms our lives, and **miraculous faith**, the confidence that God is at work in powerful ways. What struck me most was that authentic faith is never just an idea - it grows from a personal relationship with Jesus. The deeper that relationship becomes, the stronger our faith grows.

I also discovered a helpful reflection by Joe Paprocki (Loyola Press), who summarises the four pillars of the Catechism using the acronym H.E.L.P.

- **H** – Hold our faith by embracing Scripture, Tradition and the Creed, and by sharing our faith with others.
- **E** – Express our faith through the Sacraments, where we encounter Christ in visible signs.
- **L** – Live our faith by reflecting Christ's love and recognising the dignity of every person.
- **P** – Pray our faith by remaining in daily conversation and communion with God.

This simple framework reminded me that faith isn't merely something we believe - **it is something we practise.**

Hebrews tells us that faith is "*confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*" But the "unseen" is not unknowable. **Relationship with Jesus is our source of confidence in the unseen** because that relationship is tangible! Our experience of relationship with Jesus can be as physically, emotionally and intellectually REAL as that with our partner, siblings, children or friends. Through prayer, the Sacraments and relying on God in our daily life, our relationship with Jesus becomes deeply personal and real. Faith is both our confidence in Him and the way that confidence is expressed in how we live.

So how can we continue growing in faith?

Our **parish offers many opportunities.** Join a Connect Group or Bible study. Become involved in a parish ministry. Attend a conference, workshop or prayer group. Support one of our RCIA candidates. Stay after Mass for Hospitality and share yourself and your faith in conversation. If you would like to experience God's presence more deeply, come forward for post-Mass Prayer Ministry and allow others to pray with you.

You'll also find excellent resources on our parish website under the Ministry Tab - Faith & Formation, including Catholic podcasts, the Hallow app, Evangelisation Brisbane, Going Deeper and Parousia Media.

Faith really is a "use it or lose it" gift! As we Hold, Express, Live and Pray our Faith, we become more open to God's work in our own lives and better equipped to share His love with others.

May we all take the opportunities before us this month to grow in faith together as a parish community.

Marie Bampton on behalf of the **Faith & Formation Ministry Team**

ASSUMPTION FEAST DAY MASS

On **Saturday, 15th August**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **a Holy Day of Obligation**. In this great feast, we celebrate Mary's being taken body and soul into heavenly glory, a sign of the hope promised to all who remain faithful to Christ. As our parish patroness, Our Lady of the Rosary holds a special place in the life of our community, making this a particularly significant day for our parish.

A **9:00am Solemnity Mass** will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. The Sacrament of **Reconciliation and Adoration will be available from 8:00am**, replacing the usual 9:00am Adoration and Benediction. As the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation, we invite all parishioners to join us as we gather to celebrate this great feast of Our Lady.

Saturday, 15 August | 8am – Reconciliation & Adoration | 9am – Solemnity Mass

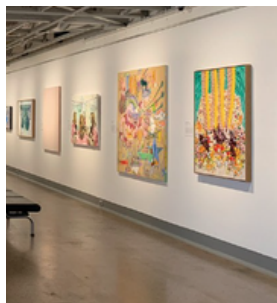


LADIES LUNCH

All ladies of the parish are invited to our August Ladies' Lunch on **Friday, 14th August, at 12:00 noon** at The Waves Club, corner of Arthur Street and Bingera Terrace, Caloundra.

If you would like to join us, please contact Linda on 0429 380 979 by Monday, 10th August, to assist with bookings. We look forward to seeing you there.

SENIORS EVENT



Join the Seniors Group on **Friday 21st August at 1:30pm** for a visit to the **Caloundra Art Gallery** to explore the Sunshine Coast National Art Prize exhibition.

The exhibition features 40 finalists from across Australia, showcasing a variety of artistic expressions through mediums including painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, assemblage, and digital works.

Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. **RSVP by Wednesday 19th August** via the parish Linktree QR code in this newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Our parish **relies on the generosity of volunteers** in many different ministries and areas. At this time, we would especially appreciate help in the following areas:

Flower Ministry – Due to ill health, John Cooper is stepping back from arranging the flowers and decorating OLR Church. We are looking for someone who would like to take over this ministry. Please directly **contact John on 0409 897 673** if you would like to volunteer.

Parish Office Reception – Help welcome visitors, answer phone calls, and assist with reception duties. Training is provided. If you are available from 9:00am–12:00 noon Monday to Friday, and are interested in this role, please directly contact the parish office at **caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au**

To register to volunteer in other areas and ministries within the parish, please scan the QR code in this newsletter and fill out the form.



ROSIES FRIENDS ON THE STREET

Our parish proudly partners with Rosies – Friends on the Street, supporting their **outreach to people experiencing homelessness, loneliness, and social isolation**. Rosies is seeking volunteers to assist with food collection for their street outreach ministry. The role involves collecting donated food from local businesses and helping sort donations at the Rosies hub. The commitment is approximately 2–3 hours every four weeks, with opportunities on Tuesday or Friday afternoons.

To find out more, **contact the Sunshine Coast Coordinator** on 0488 760 123 or email **sunshinecoast@rosies.org.au**.

ON THE JOURNEY ...

We pray for **Alexiel de Guzman, Banksia Mitchell, Alba Hockings, Frederick Magolan** who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra and **Byron & Oli Francis** who will be baptised at Sacred Heart Church Maleny.

Funerals:

Peter Hays, August 12th, 10am, Sacred Heart Maleny

Antonio Dioniso, August 13th, 11am, OLR Caloundra

We pray for the souls of our recently deceased priests & parishioners. **May they Rest in Peace.**

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 10th August

Mass (OLR) 9am

Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

Tuesday 11th August

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Wednesday 12th August

Adoration, Rosary

(Maleny) 8:30am

School Liturgy (OLR) 9am

Mass (Lt Mt) 9:30am

Thursday 13th August

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Mass (Currimundi) 9:15am

Adoration for Vocations
(Lands) 9am

Friday 14th August

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Saturday 15th August

Feast of the Assumption

Adoration & Reconciliation
(OLR) 8am

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Masses

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Unity Chapel) 5pm

Sunday 16th August

Mass (OLR) 7:30am

Mass (Lands) 9am

Mass (Currimundi) 9:15am

Mass (OLR) 9:30am

Mass (Lt Mt) 10:30am

Mass (Unity Chapel) 5pm

PARISH INFO

Phone:

Parish Office - (9am - 1pm)
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