



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 12/13 September Year A

WHEN LEADERSHIP GETS PERSONAL

One of the **hardest parts of parish life is relationships**. I have discovered something about myself over these past few years that I think is important for me to share with you. I'm gifted at getting through enormous amounts of work each day. I enjoy preaching and speaking to large groups of people. But put a difficult conversation in front of me, particularly one involving conflict or disagreement, and something very different happens. *It can drain my emotional energy reserves remarkably quickly.*

And yet, this is an unavoidable part of being a parish priest. My responsibility is not simply to manage the parish, keep the wheels turning or get things done. **I am called to actively accompany people** – including people who are upset, people who sometimes act in ways contrary to the Catholic Christian life, and people who want to do things their own way. *Accompaniment doesn't mean agreeing with someone or avoiding difficult conversations.* Sometimes loving people means walking patiently with them while also helping them to see a different way forward. It is especially challenging when relationships become strained between volunteers, when misunderstandings arise, or when people disagree about how something should be done. **At times, we struggle to be Christian with one another.** And this is one of the reasons our parish leadership structure matters so much.



Our leadership structure is not there to look impressive. Nor is it there to make the parish priest's life easier. It expresses our belief that **God has given each of us unique gifts, skills and talents** needed to fulfil Christ's mission. Indeed, our primary reason for existence is to be a people on mission. We are not a club for the elderly or the initiated. And we don't exist for the people who already come through our doors. **We exist to be sent** – *Ita missa est* – to make new disciples.

That requires a strong, healthy and viable leadership structure in which people are empowered to use the gifts God has given them. And that means something is changing in our parish culture. We are learning that **lay people need to learn how to be led by other lay people**. This is fundamental to our growth, and culture change takes time. Gone are the days when the parish priest is expected to answer every question, solve every problem or intervene in every disagreement. *I confess that this is a burden I struggle with immensely.* When someone brings me a problem, my instinct is often to try to fix it. Often, people come to me simply because I am the priest, expecting me to make the problem go away. But that isn't always healthy – for me, for our leaders, or for the parish.

In particular, when challenges arise between volunteers or within ministries, I sometimes find that people will only accept the authority of the priest rather than the person whom I have entrusted with responsibility in that particular area. *Learning to trust one another's leadership is part of becoming the parish and people God is calling us to be.*

None of this means that the priest's role is disappearing. Quite the opposite. **My role is the salvation of souls:** to ensure we remain faithful to Christ and His Church, provide spiritual and pastoral leadership, and form and support those entrusted with leadership. But I cannot – and should not – do everything myself.

There is still a lot for us to learn, but I am filled with immense hope. I genuinely believe we are heading in the right direction. The struggles we experience are not necessarily signs that something is going wrong. They are the growing pains of a community learning a new way of being Church. We are learning to recognise our gifts, trust one another, accept leadership from one another, and take responsibility for the mission entrusted to us. This is all part of bringing new life to how we understand ourselves – not just as people who gather, but as disciples who are sent because ultimately, everything we are doing has one purpose: that we might know, love and follow Jesus, so that we can actively accompany others to encounter Him who is **the Way, the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6).

Peace and blessings - Fr Josh

SECOND SUNDAY READING

"The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living." **Romans 14:7-9**

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This weekend Dioceses across Australia will observe **Safeguarding Sunday**. It is a day to pray for all who have experienced abuse or harm, to support their healing, and to renew our commitment to creating communities where every person is welcomed, respected and safe.

In the Gospels, Jesus shows particular care for those who are vulnerable and calls his disciples to do the same. Safeguarding is not simply a policy or procedure; **it is a Gospel responsibility that reflects the dignity of every person** and our shared commitment to love one another as Christ has loved us.

As we celebrate today, let us pray for all who continue to journey towards healing, give thanks for those who serve in safeguarding ministry, and recommit ourselves to building parish communities where trust, compassion and care are evident in all we do.

Lord Jesus, may we welcome the kingdom of God anew into our hearts and lives embracing discipleship and openness to others. You call us to walk with integrity in the service of others. May our service be filled with kindness, and respect for all God's people, giving special protection to children and the vulnerable. May we seek the truth, listen to those wounded by abuse and choose to act with compassion and justice. Give us the strength to walk humbly and faithfully, and to love one another as we are so loved by You. **Amen.**



MLT UPDATE - FAITH & FORMATION

RCIA - Formation in Action

When it comes to Faith Formation, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a wonderful example of what this shared journey can look like.

On **Saturday 5 September**, our parish welcomed and celebrated **prospective candidates and sponsors** at the first session of our formal Catholic formation process.

The Holy Spirit was powerfully present as candidates, sponsors, RCIA team members and Fr Josh began getting to know one another over a fabulous BBQ lunch and refreshments – a special thank you to our **Community Life team** for managing this event!

What struck us most was the generosity, openness and authentic vulnerability with which people shared something of themselves and what had brought them to this point. For our sponsors, it was the call to accompany another person on their journey. For our candidates, it was a desire to explore Catholicism more deeply and discern becoming part of our Catholic faith community.

One of our RCIA sponsors shared **an unexpected gift** he had received through participating in RCIA at another parish.

As a “cradle Catholic”, he discovered there were many practices and foundations of our faith that he had never fully understood – or perhaps had simply never stopped to consider. This happens easily when ‘being Catholic’ is the sea in which we swim!

He found himself learning, firstly through the instruction and, through the questions asked by RCIA candidates as they discerned their journey towards full communion with the Catholic Church.

His reflection highlights that **formation is an ongoing journey that changes all of us.**

Our sponsors do not simply accompany our candidates. We learn from one another. We ask questions together. We rediscover aspects of our faith that we may have taken for granted. And, through it all, we grow closer to God and to one another.

We Invite You to Journey with Us

The RCIA Team invites our whole parish community to be part of this journey.

Please keep our **candidates and sponsors in your prayers**. When you see our newest community members, reach out, introduce yourself and make them feel at home among us.

We invite you to consider where God might be calling you to take another step in your own formation – whether by becoming an RCIA sponsor in the future, participating in Alpha, joining a Connect Group, coming forward for prayer, or simply having a conversation with someone after Mass. We don't journey alone – we journey together.

Faith & Formation Team - **Beth Davies & Marie Bampton**



OCTOBER SENIORS EVENT

On **Tuesday, 13 October**, a bus will leave OLR Caloundra at 7:30am for a full-day pilgrimage to **Marian Valley**, the Brisbane Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians. We will celebrate the anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, with some walking involved throughout the day.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. The cost is **\$40 per person**. The bus will return to Caloundra in the late afternoon/evening, depending on traffic. Please register via the Linktree QR code and **include payment to secure your seat**.



CARE 4 CREATION

The Parish **LS Care for Creation Group** is pleased to offer the highly recommended **Adaptation Game**, presented by Sunshine Coast Council facilitators, in the Egan Room on **Friday 25 September 9.45am -12.30 pm**. Morning tea provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us, through discussion and collaborative decision-making, to learn about the climate change impacts relevant to the Sunshine Coast, to explore how climate hazards may affect individuals, households, and communities, and to identify opportunities to strengthen community resilience and preparedness. We'll also reflect on adaptation actions that align with the themes of Care for Creation and Care for Community.

Registration is **limited to 20 participants**, so it is essential to book. Please book by Email via cp.serviceandoutreach@bne.catholic.net.au or contact Bob Cullen 0422056334.

COMPASSION & CARE

Compassion and Care Ministry is here to support parishioners through challenging times by offering companionship, listening, prayer, and gentle support. We will be hosting a morning tea on **Friday 18 September**. All are welcome to join us in the Egan Room for quiet support and friendly listening after the 9am morning Mass.

UNLOCKING SCRIPTURE IN THE MASS

Unlocking the Bible will **not be held** during September and October. We look forward to gathering again on **Thursday 26th November** for **Unlocking Scripture in the Mass**, where we will continue to deepen our understanding of God's Word and discover how Scripture comes alive in the celebration of the Mass.

RCIT - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR TEENS

RCIT is a journey for **teenagers (12-17) who are interested in becoming Catholic** or who have not yet received all of the Sacraments of Initiation. It provides a space to **explore the Catholic faith**, ask questions, grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and discover life in the Church.

The journey includes prayer, Scripture, catechesis, conversation and participation in parish life, with teenagers accompanied by members of our parish community.

Each teenager is supported according to their circumstances as they prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation. To find out more please **scan the QR code** in this newsletter. RCIT will begin on **October 9th**.

ON THE JOURNEY ...

We pray for **Kai and Ava Wildman** who will be baptised this weekend at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra.

Funerals:

Alfio Pennisi, Friday 18th September at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra, 11:30am

Kathryn Quaill, Friday 18th September at Sacred Heart Church, Maleny, 11am

We also 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 14th September

Mass (OLR) 9am

Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

Tuesday 15th September

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Wednesday 16th September

Adoration, Rosary

(Maleny) 8:30am

School Liturgy (OLR) 9am

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 17th September

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

Adoration for Vocations

(Lands) 9am

Friday 18th September

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Saturday 19th September

Adoration & Reconciliation

(OLR) 9am

Vigil Masses

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Notre Dame - at Unity

College Chapel) 5pm

Sunday 20th September

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 Information

Phone:

Parish Office - (9am - 1pm)

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After hrs pastoral emergency -

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