OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - October 24/25 Year A

CHANGING THE CULTURE: TWO SIMPLE HABITS THAT CAN TRANSFORM

Culture is **what people repeatedly experience and come to expect** – it is "how we do things around here." Over time, those patterns can become so familiar that we hardly notice them. We can continue doing something simply because that's how we've always done it, without stopping to ask whether it is still helping us become the parish God is calling us to be. The ways of parish life that have served us faithfully for many years are not necessarily wrong, but they may not be enough for **the mission in front of us today.** If we want different results, we need different experiences that shape different beliefs. That means being willing to notice our habits, question what we have come to take for granted, and try something new – even when the change seems small. For the rest of this year, I'd love us to focus on two simple habits that can help create a missionary culture in our parish. They cost nothing, but they have the power to change the experience of every Sunday.



The first is **Turn Up Earlier and Stay Later.** For many people, Mass can become something they arrive at just before – or even after – it starts, and leave as soon as – or even before – it finishes. But church was never meant to be a place where strangers quietly share a room for an hour. Imagine if every parishioner arrived 10–15 minutes early. Instead of silence and rushing, there would be smiles, conversations, names remembered, and new people welcomed. Imagine staying 10–15 minutes afterwards to chat over a coffee, meet someone new, or simply ask, "How has your week been?"

These small experiences teach a new belief: "I belong here, and other people belong to me." Welcome and Hospitality aren't just the role of volunteers. They are the responsibility of every baptised person. Someone's experience of Christ may begin with a handshake in the driveway long before it begins in the pew. There's something deeply Christian about this. Jesus rarely encountered people in a hurry. He stopped. He noticed people. He asked questions. He ate with them. He made time for them. When we make time for one another, we are doing more than making our parish friendlier – we are creating the kind of **space in which people can encounter** the person of Jesus through the people of his Church.

The second habit is **Create a Culture of Testimony.** This second habit is even more important because we become a parish that talks naturally about what God is doing in our lives. So often we speak about sport, work, grandchildren, holidays, or the weather – but rarely about Jesus. Yet throughout Scripture, God's people continually tell the story of what God has done. A testimony doesn't have to be dramatic. It can be as simple as, *"I've been praying about my family this week, and I've really experienced God's peace."* Or, *"God answered my prayer."* Or even, *"I'm finding it hard at the moment, but I know Jesus is walking with me."*

When we share these stories, **faith becomes visible.** We encourage one another, we discover we're not alone, and we begin expecting God to be at work in ordinary life. We also give one another permission to talk about the most important relationship in our lives. Imagine if speaking about Jesus became as natural as speaking about our children, our work or what happened during the week.



If people experience genuine welcome and hear ordinary people speaking about God's work in their lives every weekend, our parish culture will change. Visitors will notice it. Children will grow up expecting it. Faith will become something we share, not something we keep private.

This is really about our mission: to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus. We can't simply tell people that our parish is welcoming, relational and missionary. They **need to experience it.** And those experiences are created by all of us – not just by priests, staff, pastoral leaders or those rostered onto a ministry.

So this weekend and in the weeks ahead, **I have two invitations for everyone:** First, arrive 10–15 minutes early and stay 10–15 minutes after Mass. And second, share one story of what God has been doing in your life with someone. You might think these are insignificant things but that is precisely the point. Culture isn't transformed by one big event; it is formed by small things that we do repeatedly until they become normal. Small habits, repeated week after week, become culture – and culture shapes who we become. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us become a parish where people don't simply attend Mass, but truly encounter Jesus through one another.

With peace and love - **Fr. Josh**

MINISTRY UPDATE - COMMUNITY LIFE

Together in Faith and Fellowship – It has been wonderful to see families and parishioners across our OLR community coming together in faith and fellowship through our recent **Family Mass, First Holy Communion** and **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA). Hospitality following these special occasions provided opportunities for families of all ages to gather around the table, connect, celebrate and strengthen our sense of belonging as a parish family.

One of the strengths of our parish is the unique way each Hospitality Team fosters welcome and community. A great example is the 7:30am Mass community's **monthly Celebration Sunday**, where birthdays, wedding anniversaries, newcomers and farewells are acknowledged. These gatherings remind us that our parish is more than a place we attend. It is a faith community where we share life's joys and milestones together.

Seniors Group October Activity – Forty-two of us went further afield for this month's activity, travelling to the beautifully serene **Marian Valley** and inviting Stella Maris parishioners to join us. Fr Gerard joined us, concelebrating Mass, leading Adoration and the following procession through the grounds to Our Lady's grotto. Golf buggies were available for anyone who requested a lift, and we celebrated Fr Gerard's birthday afterwards. It was a very special, blessed day and well worth the long journey.






Our next Seniors Group activity will be held on Thursday, 12 November, at 10am in the Egan Room, with a presentation by the **Caloundra Family History Research Group Inc**., who will give an overview of tracing family histories. All are welcome!

As our parish continues to grow, we invite more volunteers to join the Hospitality Ministry. Whether you can help regularly as part of a team, be available on standby when needed, assist with baking, setting up or packing away, every contribution is valued. Hospitality is one of the most visible ways we help people feel welcomed and at home in our parish. If you would like to learn more or volunteer, please email cp.communitylife@bne.catholic.au.

May we continue to build a welcoming and vibrant parish where faith, friendship and hospitality flourish.
The Community Life Team

FR MATTHEW SEMBA VISIT

A final reminder that we welcome Fr Matthew Semba from Malawi to our parish on Monday, 26 October. Fr Matthew is helping lead the **development of St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School,** bringing education, nutritious meals and essential resources to children in rural Malawi.

Join Fr Matthew for 9:00am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, followed by a presentation on the **Growing Futures project** and its impact on local families. Morning tea will follow at 10:00am, sponsored by **Holy Cross Funerals.**

PARISH RETREAT WEEKEND

We invite all parishioners to join us on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 November for our Parish Retreat Weekend, with two days set aside for prayer, worship and time together as a parish community. **Both days will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary** with guest speakers **Pat and Kym Keady.** Pat is a Catholic renewal leader, speaker, songwriter and author, while Kym is the Executive Director of Ignite Youth and a senior leader at Emmanuel City.

Friday, 13 November | **Encounter Night** – Our Encounter Night begins with snacks and refreshments from 6:15pm, before moving into the church at 7:00pm for an evening of worship, testimonies and prayer. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity for Reconciliation. If you haven't been to an Encounter Night before, this is a wonderful opportunity to come along and experience one.



Saturday, 14 November | **Parish Retreat Day** – Saturday's retreat will include two keynote talks from Pat and Kym, worship, time for personal prayer and small group conversations, with Reconciliation also available. Morning tea will be provided. Registration opens at 8:30am, with the retreat running from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

We hope you'll be able to join us for both Friday evening and Saturday's retreat! **Please sign up** by using the QR code on this newsletter.

PASTORAL MEETING



The end of the year get together for all parishioners taking **Communion to those at home** or in a nursing home or who are interested in joining this very important ministry will be held on Monday, 26 October at 2pm in the Egan Room. This meeting will be for approximately one hour. There will be time available afterwards to stay behind to ask any questions. Come and join us!

ALL SOULS DAY MASS



All parishioners, families and friends are warmly invited to join us for All Souls' Day Mass at 9:00 am on Monday, 2 November, at OLR Church. Together, we will pray for our departed loved ones and all the faithful departed, entrusting them to God's mercy and love. Parishioners attending the Mass will be able to light a candle in memory of their deceased loved ones as well as writing their names in the Book of Remembrance, which will be placed on the Altar.

This special celebration offers an opportunity to **remember those who have died**, give thanks for their lives, and find comfort in our shared faith in the resurrection. Whether you are grieving a recent loss or remembering someone who died years ago, come and unite with our parish community in prayer and hope, trusting in Christ's promise of eternal life.

PASTORAL CARE IN HOSPITALS



Centacare is seeking people interested in volunteering once each week to provide pastoral and spiritual care to **Catholic patients in public hospitals**.

The people they are seeking must have a qualification or significant background in a human service discipline with some level of formal theological training.

If you are retired or semi-retired from such a career, in very good health, have one morning per week available, and are interested in this rewarding role, please talk further with **Judy** by calling 0428669572 or email at judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au

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CHRISTMAS CARDS & CALENDARS

With Christmas fast approaching, **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP)** is once again selling Columban Calendars and Vinnies Christmas Cards at OLR Church.

- **Columban Calendars**: $10 each
- **Vinnies Christmas Cards**: $5 per pack of five

Be quick as they sell out fast. Available to purchase at OLR Church.

ON THE JOURNEY ...

We pray for **Sonny Brown** who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra and **Marigold Luck** who will be baptised at Sacred Heart Church, Maleny this weekend.

Funerals:

Patricia (Pat) Dunne on Friday 30 October, 11:30am at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra

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 26th October
Fr Matthew Semba Visit
Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

Tuesday 27th October
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Wednesday 28th October
Adoration & Rosary (Maleny) 8.30am
School Liturgy (OLR) 9am
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 29th October
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am
Adoration for Vocations (Lands) 9am

Friday 30th October
Mass (OLR) 9am
Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Saturday 31st October
Adoration & Reconciliation (OLR) 9am

Vigil Masses
Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Notre Dame - at Unity College Chapel) 5pm

Sunday 1st November
All Saints' Day
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

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After hours pastoral emergency -
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Email:
caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

Website:
www.caloundracatholicparish.net

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