OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CATHOLIC PARISH

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS - October 31/November 1 Year A

A CULTURE OF TESTIMONY

One of the things I would love to see grow in our parish is **a culture of testimony** – a parish where it becomes normal for us to talk about what God is doing in our lives. For many Catholics, faith has traditionally been something deeply personal. We come to Mass, we pray, we receive the sacraments, we serve our community – but we don't always talk about what God is actually doing in our lives. Conversations after Mass can easily centre on the weather, sport, family, work or what is happening in the world, while the most important thing happening in our lives can remain unspoken: **our relationship with Jesus**. I wonder what would happen if that began to change?

Imagine a parish where people regularly said things like, *"I was praying about this, and God really surprised me…"* or *"I've been struggling with this, and someone prayed with me – and something changed."* Imagine hearing ordinary parishioners speak about an answered prayer, an unexpected moment of grace, a new sense of peace, an encounter with the Holy Spirit, or simply recognising God's presence in the middle of an ordinary week. This is what I mean by testimony.

I'm not talking about telling impressive stories or putting ourselves on display. I'm talking about simply recognising and sharing the good things God is doing. **Sharing what God has done is not bragging**; it gives glory to God and builds up the faith of others. The goal is not to force people to talk about themselves, but to make sharing the good things God does a normal part of parish life. Indeed, there is something powerful about hearing another person's story.



When someone tells us how they have experienced God's goodness, it can **awaken something in us**. We begin to think, *"If God is working in their life, perhaps I can expect God to work in mine too."* We become more attentive to the ways God is already moving around us. We begin to recognise that prayer isn't just something we do in a crisis, but part of a living relationship with a God who knows and loves us personally. And this doesn't have to be dramatic.

Sometimes testimony is simply, *"I was really worried this week, and when I prayed, I experienced a peace I couldn't explain."* Or, *"Someone called me at exactly the moment I needed encouragement, and I realised God had answered my prayer."* Or, *"I've been struggling to forgive someone, but lately I've begun to see them differently."* These **ordinary moments matter.**

Our challenge is that a culture of testimony doesn't just appear because Father announces that he wants one. **Culture is formed by repeated experiences**. If people rarely hear others speak about their faith, they understandably assume that this isn't something we do. If leaders never share personally about their own relationship with Jesus, parishioners may assume that testimony is only for particularly holy people or those with extraordinary stories. The Senior Leadership Team and I are currently thinking carefully about how we can most **effectively create this culture** here within Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Parish.

Some of the possibilities we are exploring include brief testimonies from parishioners once a month following the homily, giving people simple opportunities to share with one another after Mass, inviting people to submit stories of answered prayer, and having our parish leaders model what it looks like to speak naturally about God's presence in their own lives.



We don't want to introduce another program simply for the sake of having another program. We want to find rhythms that are natural, accessible and genuinely life-giving, and that help us become the kind of parish described in our vision: a community where an encounter with Jesus transforms us and animates us to share what we have received with others.

Perhaps the first step for all of us is very simple. This week, ask yourself: *"Where have I seen God at work in my life recently?"* And then, perhaps, tell someone. Because when we begin to share what God is doing, we help one another notice that God is not just in whom we believe, read about in the Bible, or remember from the past. **God is alive, present and active** among us today. And that is something worth talking about.

With peace and love – **Fr Josh**

20 YEARS AT THE PARISH!

This week, we celebrated a special milestone as **Vicki Howard marked 20 years at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish!** Over the past two decades, Vicki has become a familiar face to so many in our parish community and has been involved in just about every part of parish life. From helping parishioners and supporting our priests to taking care of the many jobs that keep things running behind the scenes, Vicki gives so much of herself to our parish. Vicki, thank you for your hard work, your dedication and all the things you do each day to support our community. We are very grateful for all you have contributed over the past 20 years. **Congratulations, Vicki, on this wonderful milestone!**







"Looking back over the last two decades, I am reminded that **everyone has a special place** in this community. I've been blessed to share connections with so many of our parishioners over the years, each touching my life in their own special way.

I want to thank the incredible connections I have made through my work with G&W and Holy Cross Funerals, OSHC, OLR School, Vinnies, and the Indian and Brazilian communities. Over 20 years, you see a lot of faces and share so many experiences.

I have had the privilege of working alongside one amazing bishop, two deacons and over 34 priests, four of whom have been Parish Priests, each with their own unique ideas about how a parish should run! I've also had the pleasure of working with many staff members, as well as an incredible number of office volunteers who have given so much of their time.

Whether you have been here since day one or are among those who have moved on, including some who have gone to heaven, **you have all left a lasting impact on me.**

I've seen so many amazing changes over the 20 years, along with some challenges and some things I've had to get used to, but we've kept moving with the times!

Finally, thank you to all my family and friends. To my husband, Rob, and my kids, Amy and Luke—thank you for standing by my side through all 20 of these years (14 years for Luke). Your love and support mean the absolute world to me.

I truly love my job. It's had its moments, but being able to work alongside some amazing people makes it easy to come to work. Thank you, everyone. **You all truly have a special place in my heart.** Here's to the next 10 or so years!

– **Vicki,** Parish Secretary

SENIORS ACTIVITY NOVEMBER



Join us on Thursday, 12 November, at 10am in the Egan Room at Caloundra Church for our next Seniors Group gathering. Members of the **Caloundra Family History Research Group Inc.** will share an introduction to tracing your family history and discovering more about your family's past. All seniors are welcome! Bring a friend and a plate to share for morning tea.

The Christmas season is fast approaching, so be sure to also save the date for our December gathering on Friday, 18 December, at 10am, where you can join us for a Christmas Carols Singalong as we celebrate the season together. More details to come!

LADIES LUNCH

Join us for our **final Ladies Lunch for the year** on Friday, 13 November, at 12 noon at Harry's Beach Bistro, 36 Esplanade, Headland, Kings Beach. All ladies are welcome! It's a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends, renew old friendships and perhaps make some new ones.

To attend, please **contact Deborah** on 0410 531 901 by Monday, 9 November.

PARISH RETREAT WEEKEND

Our Parish Retreat Weekend is coming up, with guest speakers **Pat and Kym Keady** joining us at Our Lady of the Rosary for a weekend of worship, prayer and time together on 13-14 November. The weekend will include testimonies, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, keynote talks, and so much more!

Come along, encounter God and share in this **special weekend with our parish community**! Register using the QR code in this newsletter.

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN SEOUL WITH POPE LEO

Young adults aged 18–30 from the Archdiocese of Brisbane are invited to join the pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. **Fr Gerard Lai** and **Fr Minje Kim** will accompany pilgrims as chaplains. Encounter Christ, deepen your faith and build friendships with young Catholics from around the world. Come and share this journey of faith!



The estimated cost is **$5,200** per person, subject to change. This includes flights, travel, accommodation, some meals, a pilgrim shirt and gatherings before and after WYD.

Applications are now open, with registrations **closing in November 2026**. Scan the QR code in this newsletter or contact the parish office for more details.

ROSIES - FRIENDS ON THE STREET



Our parish proudly supports Rosies Friends on the Street through outreach activities. Inspired by the Gospel, Rosies reaches out to those most abandoned, offering presence, community and belonging.

Rosies is **seeking volunteers** to collect donated food from local businesses, sort and unpack food, and assist at the Rosies hub. The commitment is approximately 2–3 hours every four weeks, with Friday afternoon positions available. To volunteer, contact the **Sunshine Coast Coordinator** on 0488 760 123 or email sunshinecoast@rosies.org.au.

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS & REMEMBRANCE

All Souls' Day Mass will be held at OLR Caloundra on Monday 2 November at 9am. This weekend, at the entrance to all our churches, you will also discover our parish **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE.** You are invited to inscribe the names of your loved ones and friends who have gone before you. As a faith community, we will remember them and pray for them in our November Masses.

We pray for **John Raby** whose funeral will be on Thursday 5 November at G&W, and **Robert Vigar,** whose funeral will be held on Thursday 12 November at Sacred Heart Church, Maleny. We also pray for **Eileen McKay,** and all of our recently deceased Priests & Parishioners. May the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

BAPTISMS

We pray for **Scarlett Maher, Elias Burns, Ivy Sargent & Jessika da Game e Silva** who will be baptised at Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra this weekend

Baptism Preparation Evening for Infants - The next Baptism preparation for parents with children aged 7 and under, is on Thursday 5 November, from 7-8pm in the OLR Church. Please email the office to register your attendance.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 2nd November
All Souls' Day Mass
Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9:30am

Tuesday 3rd November
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9:30am

Wednesday 4th November
Adoration & Rosary (Maleny) 8.30am
School Liturgy (OLR) 9am
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 5th November
Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am
Adoration for Vocations (Lands) 9am

Friday 6th November
Mass (OLR) 9am
Mass (Beerwah) 9am

Saturday 7th November
Adoration & Reconciliation (OLR) 9am

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

Sunday 8th November
Mass (OLR) 7.30am
Mass (Maleny) 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 -
0431099854

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caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

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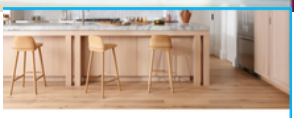
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