

The Coastal and Hinterland Catholic Communities of **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH**

**Embracing the faith communities of Beerwah, Caloundra, Currimundi, Kawana, Landsborough,
Little Mountain, Maleny and Unity at Caloundra West.**

PARISH PRIESTS

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Ntamaka
Fr Francis Fernandes

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**OUR LADY OF THE
ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Caloundra
07 5491 4522

Principal: Michael Stewart

UNITY COLLEGE

Caloundra South
07 5490 5777

Principal: Dan McShea



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A WEEKEND OF 10/11 DECEMBER 2022

Proper of the Mass

First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10 **Second Reading:** James 5:7-10 **Gospel:** Mt 11:2-11

Experiencing the Joy-Filled Season

This weekend, our readings point to Jesus unlocking human-centred experiences of God's own self. Both Isaiah and the Psalmist look forward to the promise of what is to come: sight to the blind, unsealed ears, full bellies, and safety and security for the oppressed - all of which were fulfilled with the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago. While we can read Old Testament forward, we shouldn't fall into the trap of merely reading the New Testament backwards as a summary of the past as something which simply happened 2000 years ago. What this season offers us in a special way, therefore, is a chance to not *just* prepare for the annual celebration of Christmas, but to experience the exact things God promised and which were fulfilled in Jesus' birth: spiritual sight and hearing, healing, new life, and perhaps most importantly, the chance to experience **The Story** in a personal and life-changing way.

This supernatural experience of the Good News - a pseudonym for Jesus himself - is something which often happens to people when the dynamic nature of Scripture - God's Word - is unlocked as we pray with the Bible. Imagine, if you will, the experience of the Gospel writers... All four - Mark, Matthew, Luke and John - spent years collecting pre-existing written and verbal accounts about Jesus. In writing **The Story** of Jesus, they all faced the challenge of both maintaining fidelity to the actual words Jesus *spoke* and retelling **The Story** in such a way which *spoke* to their own communities. The dynamic nature of Scripture is such that **God speaks to us** when, in union with the teaching tradition of the Church, we faithfully interpret and therefore experience what God is saying to us as part of **our Story**.

While we are perpetually caught between the tension of an *already, but not yet* understanding of Jesus' presence in our lives, many Catholics have never experienced the *now* of Jesus' mystical presence - much less able to grasp or gain a sense of what this might feel like. Unfortunately, this can sometimes be a generational challenge. For the last century, the Church has taught that if we faithfully celebrate Mass on Sundays, say our prayers, give to the Collection and go to Reconciliation twice a year - I have plenty of anecdotal evidence to support this claim and it was certainly my own experience growing up - then we were doing the right thing. It's an approach which maintained fidelity to the rich sacramental life of the Church, but which has perhaps left us with an impoverished understanding of the mystical, supernatural presence of Jesus in our lives. It is curious, however, but also anecdotally supported, that young people and adults who have not habitually gone to Mass their entire lives need this sense of personal encounter or mystical experience of the living Lord before they commit their lives to following Jesus. Herein lies the clash between two different, but not mutually exclusive approaches to celebrating faith: what we experience in a sacramental way and what we experience in a mystical way.

How can we begin to grasp this mystical reality if it is foreign to us? It begins with a recognition that God wants more for us. St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) articulated this sense of *more* - *magis* in Latin - as the opposite of what we, today, might describe as the *status quo*: eg. adequate, sufficient or enough. I firmly believe that the evil one rejoices when we are happy with an adequate or sufficient approach to our faith life and our parish journey. The *magis*, however, disrupts any such notion of adequacy in which we become happy with the way things are. God's desire is for more: more love, more mercy, more service, more giving, and more wisdom - especially in our active discernment of God's will for us and our community.

As we move deeply into the season of Advent, I pray for a desire in your hearts for the *magis*. May God bless you and your family with a deep and abiding knowledge and experience of Jesus' mystical presence in your lives.

Fr Josh



In our Golden Jubilee Year 1972-2022

We invite you to share your thoughts on how you access Catholic content in our survey.



The Archdiocese of Brisbane invites you to complete their survey about how you access Catholic content. The survey results will go a long way to help them understand how they can be doing a better job connecting you with the content you would like to see. The survey can be found <https://bit.ly/3AYJdpo>

Ministers needed for the Christmas Masses

Can you help in your chosen field. If you are a reader, communion minister, leader, projectionist or monitor we are needing people for the 7pm & 10pm Masses at OLR church. All the communities will be having a Christmas Mass which will require volunteers to assist with the preparation and rosters to fill for parts of the Mass. If you are available at Christmas and would like to be involved with one of the Masses please put your name on the sheets provided or contact the leader in your community. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Everyone's Responsibility: Ministry in the Parish

Last weekend, at the Strategic Planning Day, we ratified an achievable goal for the parish: in five years 70% of worshipping parishioners are involved in some sort of ministry each and every year. Having real responsibility and involvement, outside our necessary celebration of the Mass, is one of the keys to a healthy parish because it will create a sense of ownership and buy-in to our **Mission: to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus**. Two ministry areas of **great need** in the parish – which are perhaps geographically Caloundra-orientated – are the need for assistance setting up for funerals at OLR church, and the need for volunteers to assist with the administration of our parish.

While our previous funeral assistants have done a terrific job, they are no longer available, and so we have the pressing need for 2-3 parishioners who are normally available weekdays, mid-late morning. Our office staff, Eileen and Vicki, do an absolutely wonderful job, but there is much more work needed to be carried out than they are able to do each week – even with the unpaid overtime they faithfully do. Please contact Eileen or Vicki at the parish office if you are interested in knowing more about these two important ministries in our parish. Thank you in advance. **Fr Josh**

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

Next weekend is our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal at Caloundra & Maleny. These funds will be used for two main projects. Firstly, to provide Christmas hampers and gift vouchers for families doing it tough. This is a particularly challenging time of year, and many people look forward to your support to be able to bring the Christmas spirit into their homes. Secondly, your continued generosity enables Vinnies to provide food, fuel, emergency accommodation, educational support and much more for the poorest among us. There will be envelopes on the pews and Vincentians in uniform should you have any questions. Thank you for your continuous support.

Golden Jubilee Commemorative Wines are available

Perfect gift for Christmas. Come to the Parish Office. Only \$20 a bottle.

In Transition

As a Parish we welcome **Isabelle Crookes, Sunny Njuyen & Avaeh McAllister** who will be baptised at OLR Church this weekend.

We pray for **Sandra Bryan** who died last week and her funeral was at OLR on the 7th December. May her soul and all the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners **Rest in Peace**.

<u>Christmas Eve,</u> <u>Saturday December 24</u>	<u>Christmas Day</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>December 25</u>	<u>Boxing Day</u> <u>Monday</u> <u>December 26</u>
Our Lady of the Rosary School, Caloundra (Undercover area) (Carols at 3.50pm) 4pm	Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra 6.30am	The Parish office will be closed from 26/12/22 and reopen Monday 9/1/2023 Mass will continue once-a-day ONLY at OLR at 9am (EXCEPT Wednesdays!) while the Parish office are taking a well deserved break.
Caloundra West, Unity College (Carols at 3.50pm) 4pm	Our Lady of the Way, Lands 7.00am	
Mary McKillop, Beerwah 5pm	Good Shepherd, Ka-wana 8.00am	
Sacred Heart, Maleny (Carols at 6.30pm) 7pm	Bl Frederic Ozanam, Currimundi 9.15am	
Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra (Carols at 6.50pm) 7pm	Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Little Mountain 10.30am	
Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra (Carols at 9.50pm) 10pm		

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday 11 Dec: *Third Sunday of Advent*

- ◆ After 9.30am OLR Mass - Plant/Cake/Bric-a-brac/sausage sizzle & drinks fundraiser. All welcome
- ◆ OLW Landsborough Christmas Carols 5.30pm followed by drinks & nibbles.

Monday 12 Dec:

- ◆ The OLR craft group have finished for the year and will re-group the first Monday in February 2023.

Tuesday 13 Dec:

- ◆ The Caloundra Cards Group meets at the Parish Centre from 9-12noon. Call Helen for more information on 0410392526.
- ◆ Rosary & Prayers each week 9.30-10.30am in OLR church.
- ◆ Maleny Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am followed by Mass 9am.
- ◆ Today will be the last Women's Prayer and Friendship Group for the year and will resume 10th January in the Parish Centre from 9.30-11am, all welcome. Enquiries contact Vivienne 0409897673.
- ◆ OLR St Vincent de Paul meet every Tuesday at 3pm in the Parish Centre. We make daily visits to those in need. New members welcome. Phone Dawn 5430 9390 for further enquiries.

Wednesday 14 Dec:

- ◆ Art class with Jude 0421777508 each week in the Parish Centre 10-12noon.
- ◆ Maleny cards in the Pat Daley Centre at 6.00pm.
- ◆ Kingdom Young Adults - 6.00-8.30pm in the Egan Room. Ph Kath Ball 0418187914.

Thursday 15 Dec:

- ◆ Rosary & Prayers each week 9.30-10.30am in OLR church following Mass.

Friday 16 Dec:

- ◆ Landsborough Mass at 9am followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Confession available while adoration is on.

Saturday 17 Dec:

- ◆ 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at OLR church 9.00am - All welcome.

Sunday 18 Dec: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- ◆ Caloundra St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.



Our Christmas Tree

which stands at the entrance of OLR church is beautifully decorated by our local craft group who meet each week in the Parish Centre.

The decorations are all hand made by the craft group and each child at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at OLR will be given a decoration.

Well done and thank you craft group.

St Vincent de Paul

Christmas Cards & the Columban calendar are on sale in the OLR church until sold out.

The Calendar is \$10
Christmas cards are \$2.50

Bible Study 2023

We are planning to study the book of Acts in the New Year.

We have 2 groups at present, which meet either on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. If anyone would like to join us, you would be most welcome.

We are not into academic theology, more a practical application approach.

Please RSVP to Caroline as books will need to be ordered. They will cost around \$10 each. Please call Caroline Kettle on 0435 828 092 if you are interested or have any questions.

Safeguarding News

The Safeguarding Commitment for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and Caloundra Catholic Parish is: Zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to safeguard all who interact with its ministries & services. Special priority is given to the safety & wellbeing of children & adults at risk. In an emergency, please call the Police 000 or information can be provided to STOPline anonymously.

Phone: 1300 304 550 Email: AOB@stopline.com.au

Online: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguard/>

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the land on which we celebrate our Eucharist and live out our faith.

Parish Diary

Monday 12 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

Tuesday 13 Dec

St Lucy

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

Wednesday 14 Dec

St John of the Cross

No Mass at UNITY

(OLR School liturgy) 9am

Thursday 15 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.30am

Friday 16 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Landsborough) 9am

Saturday 17 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

Sunday 18 Dec

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass (OLR) 6.30am

Mass (Landsborough) 7am

Mass (Unity) 8am

Mass (Kawana) 8am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am

Mass (OLR) 9.30am

Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am

Mass (Unity) 5pm

Reconciliation

Saturday Morning at OLR Church 8.30am

WATCH MASS LIVE

To watch live-stream Mass go to the Caloundra Catholic Parish Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/caloundracatholicparish/>

The December edition of

The Catholic Leader

is available at each community.
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