

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
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**OUR LADY OF THE
ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Caloundra
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Principal: Michael Stewart

UNITY COLLEGE

Caloundra South
07 5490 5777



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A
WEEKEND OF 17/18 DECEMBER 2022**

Proper of the Mass

First Reading: Is 7:10-14 **Second Reading:** Rom 1:1-7 **Gospel:** Mt 1:18-24

Rorate Sunday

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

The text above is the entrance antiphon for this Sunday's mass and is taken from Isaiah 45:8. This fourth Sunday of Advent – *Rorate Sunday* – takes its name from this antiphon. Rorate means to drip or sprinkle.

At this time of Advent, I cannot help recalling the panoramas I used to be surrounded by during my diaconate in the Gatton-Laidley Parish. To drive anywhere, I had to go past, seemingly infinite rows of crops. The over-abundance of crops in "Australia's salad bowl" highlighted the over-abundance of God's giving in Christ. In Jesus, God does not give some-things, or some-ones, God gives us God's self. How much more is there to give?

In order for such quantities of crops to grow, the question every year on everyone's minds is "will the rains come?" During my time there, I witnessed what "rain down" looks like and needs to look like. I saw the land as it looks when it was starved of rain. When the seeds had only just been planted, the tilled but empty soil stretching in several directions also evoked a sense of desolation. It was as it were, an icon of unfulfilled potential.

On the flip side, we all witnessed the devastating deluge that descended upon the Valley earlier this year. It tore up roads and wiped out crops. Again, the "Salad Bowl" threw light upon this antiphon: it seems to say, that despite the power and over-abundance of God's giving the "Just One" comes to us with deep respect: like dew descending; like rain upon fields. Where the Just One lands, salvation sprouts forth in the lives of those who drink and drink daily from this "rain".

The opening prayer at mass picks up this theme: it essentially says, "*Pour forth your grace into our hearts Lord, so that we may be brought to the glory of Christ's resurrection, because of his passion*". What is grace? Grace comes from "gratia" in Latin, meaning "gift". God's gift/grace to us is not some-things, but God's own self, God's own presence to transform us. In other words, the priest prays: Pour yourself forth into our hearts Lord, so that we may be brought to the Glory of Christ's resurrection. Describing a scene only goes so far: if you can visit a farm at this time, it will be worth the drive out.

We are now a week out from Christmas. We are now on the home stretch of the Advent journey. Christ has come to us and we celebrate that coming. There are many for whom Christ remains an idea, a story. To these, the Church goes out saying "God has come among us!" In our own parish last week, Erin and Emily shared with us their desire to join NET ministries in 2023. They wish to be part of a team, which embeds itself in a parish, and share their relationship with Jesus Christ with other youth. To borrow a Rorate Sunday image, they are like clouds taking "the rain" to fields in which Christ wishes to grow in abundance. Erin and Emily raised about half of the money needed over the weekend. This could not have been possible without the excellent work done by the Women's Prayer and Friendship Group in running the cake stall, the bric-a-brac sale, the plant sale and the sausage sizzle. To help them reach their \$6,400 goal, you are welcome to make a donation indicating on an envelope and send it into the parish office.

As we journey towards Christmas day, may God bless us all in our relationships, our faith and our health.

God bless, Fr. Francis



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal - OLR & Maleny

This weekend is our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. 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 are envelopes on the pews and Vincentians in uniform should you have any questions.

The OLR Women's Group

The Women's Group finished the year with a wonderful lunch at Dom's @ Kings Beach. They celebrated their prayer successes as well as their fund-raiser success for Erin and Emily who will be leaving to join the National Evangelisation Team in January. The Women's Group would sincerely like to thank all the people who donated money and items as well as helped them last Sunday. They will let you know how much they have raised when they get the final amount. Thank you so much for all your support.



- 1st prize \$300 hamper - Felicity Jones
- 2nd prize Christmas trees scratchies - Tracey Williams
- 3rd prize Christmas trees scratchies - Bernard who re-donated it back to Erin and Emily.
- 4th prize towels - Lin Johnston
- 5th prize beach chair - Lily (Kay McCall's granddaughter from Sydney)
- 6th prize \$50 voucher to Dom's @ Kings - Mary Smith



Baby Change table at OLR

For all the parents and carers needing to change their little ones, we have a baby change table in the equal access toilet in front of the Parish Centre for your convenience.



Celebrating the Gift of Encounter

When we are gifted with the experience of Encountering Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, it is important to realise that while it is an incredible gift to receive, it is never just for us. These experiences are given to be shared with others so as to lead people into a personal relationship with Jesus. This past week, Mary Bicos, a parishioner, received just such an experience, and was open to sharing it with others. Together, let's create a culture in which we celebrate when peoples' lives are touched by the Holy Spirit!

"On Tuesday morning, I had just received Communion and on sitting quietly reflecting and asking God/Jesus to help me be a better person, I just had this overwhelming feeling come over me and I started to cry and couldn't understand why. I have been receiving Communion for a very long time but have never experienced this before. When I mentioned it to a friend, Vivienne, she had a big smile on her face and told me "you were touched by the Holy Spirit!" I felt very humbled. I know when I say the piece "Lord I know I am not worthy for you to enter under my roof but just say the word & my soul shall be healed," this always nearly brings me to tears. I try to imagine Jesus sitting with his Apostles breaking bread and knowing what is about to happen to Him. I did the Alpha course earlier this year and with all the talk about the Holy Spirit (to be perfectly honest), I didn't get it - I do now! I believe I was touched by the Holy Spirit and was made aware of/gifted the Divine presence this week."

Grief Support: If you are experiencing grief through the loss of a loved one, a broken relationship or a major life change of any kind, and you feel that the Grief Support team can be of assistance to you or a family member, please contact olrgriefsupp@gmail.com with your details so a support person can contact you. All contact is treated with utmost confidentiality.

In Transition

As a Parish we welcome **Fletcher Paul** who will be baptised at OLR Church this weekend. We pray for **Anne Sellers** who died last week and her funeral was at OLR on the 15th December. May her soul and all the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners

Rest in Peace.

In our Golden Jubilee Year 1972-2022

A Warm Welcome

To everyone joining us today! Whether you are traveling from across the street, up the Bruce Highway or roving around the country, thank you for choosing to be part of our celebration today.

Boxing Day Monday 26 December

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.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday 18 Dec: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- ◆ Caloundra & Maleny St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.
- ◆ Maleny Christmas special morning tea following 9.00am Mass in Pat Daley Centre - All Welcome

Monday 19 Dec:

- ◆ 2nd Rite of reconciliation at Stella Maris church Maroochydore 5pm

Tuesday 20 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 1st Rite of Reconciliation from 8.30am during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Mass at 9.00am
- ◆ 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 21 Dec:

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

Thursday 22 Dec:

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

Friday 23 Dec: **Office is closed at 2pm**

- ◆ Landsborough 1st Rite of Reconciliation from 8.30am Mass at 9am followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Saturday 24 Dec: *Christmas Eve*

- ◆ No Saturday morning Mass
- ◆ Mass times →

Sunday 25 Dec: *Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord*

- ◆ Mass times →

Maleny Ladies Group

The Maleny Catholic Ladies group enjoyed their Christmas lunch last Tuesday. The function was enjoyed by a good attendance of members with great meals and conversation.



For all those who are coming to the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass at OLR, could you please

bring a chair.

We will have some available but may not have enough for everyone.

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

Parish Diary

Monday 19 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

Tuesday 20 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

1st Rite Reconciliation (Maleny) 8.30am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

Wednesday 21 Dec

No Mass at UNITY

Thursday 22 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.30am

Friday 23 Dec

Mass (OLR) 9am

1st Rite Reconciliation (Lands)

Mass (Landsborough) 9am

Saturday 24 Dec

Christmas Eve

Mass 4pm (OLR school Undercover Area)

Mass 4pm (Unity College Auditorium)

Mass 5pm (Beerwah)

Carols 6.30pm Mass 7pm (Maleny)

Mass 7pm (OLR) (*Livestream*)

Mass 10pm (OLR)

Sunday 25 Dec

Christmas Day

Mass 6.30am (OLR)

Mass 7am (Landsborough)

Mass 8am (Kawana)

Mass 9:15am (Currimundi)

Mass 9:30am (OLR) (*Livestream*)

Mass 10:30am (Little Mountain)

WATCH MASS LIVE

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