

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

Fr Joshua Whitehead
Fr Joseph Hien Van Vo
Fr Valentine Ejikeme
Ntamaka
Fr Francis Fernandes

PARISH OFFICE

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PARISH WEBSITE

www.caloundracatholicparish.net

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS

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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



**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YEAR A
WEEKEND OF 24/25 DECEMBER 2022**

Proper of the Mass

First Reading: Is 9:1-7 **Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14 **Gospel:** Lk 2:1-14

Merry Christmas!

Whoever you are, wherever you're from, **welcome** to this celebration of Christmas. I'd like to really emphasise the **welcome** you are being offered for two reasons: first, one of Jesus' primary values was welcoming people no matter their religiosity, social or political status. Being welcoming is, therefore, one of our primary values as a parish and something we seek to grow in and cultivate at every opportunity. Second, Catholic communities can sometimes be perceived as exclusive clubs for those who attend Mass on Sundays. This perception is an unfortunate cultural relic from 20th century when everyone came to Mass because it was the done thing; for most of us, this would've been our parents, but we live in a different world today. Welcoming everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from is, therefore, more important now than it has ever been – so I say **welcome**.

There's something magical about Christmas isn't there? **The magic of Christmas** is one way of thinking about or describing the grace and joy which belongs to God and which we're given as gifts by God. If we're lucky enough to wake up on Christmas day with children in the house, this **magic** is amplified by the excitement of opening presents. I remember waking up on Christmas morning as a child – probably waaay too early – and groping in the darkness for the pillowcase at the end of my bed stuffed with presents. Looking back at childhood memories, I had no capacity to realise that the gifts were mere representations of my parents' and, therefore, God's love for me, but that is most certainly what they are.

While we purchase or make gifts for those we love as concrete ways of displaying how we feel, **God did the same with his Son**. Jesus is the supreme representation of God's love for every person in the world. That God would come into our world as a helpless baby says something about the precious nature of the gift and invites our contemplation into the mysterious realm of what God is like. While many elderly people grew up with fire-and-brimstone images of God, the helpless child, Jesus – who even needed his nappies changed by his family – refocuses our attention on the true nature of God: gentle, unconditional love.

For many people however, Christmas is a time of isolation and loneliness. Remembering those for whom the Christmas season is difficult causes us to stand in solidarity with them. In this way, we become more alert for the ways that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus (Matthew 25:40), who came as a light to shine in this sometimes-dark world, so that all who put their trust in him will no longer remain in the dark (John 12:46).

Finally, thank you for being part of this Christmas celebration. When we gather together, we become an even greater sign and symbol of what we truly are: the Body of Christ. Jesus is our Head and we are the many parts who, together, form the Body. Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are from, you are **welcome** here in Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Community.

With every Christmas blessing
Fr Josh Whitehead

In our Golden Jubilee Year 1972-2022

Boxing Day Monday December 26

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 during this time
(EXCEPT Wednesdays!) while the Parish office are taking a well deserved break.



Merry Christmas & Thank You!

The Parish office would like to thank each and everyone of you for all your hard work and commitment to our Parish.

The support in your chosen ministry does not go unnoticed and we thank you very much.

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and God-willing, a prosperous 2023.

From all the team in the Parish Office.

CALOUNDRA CATHOLIC HOMES FOUNDATION LIMITED CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2022

I am pleased once again to present the Chairperson's Report for 2022.

LAVALLY LODGE

Lavally Lodge is our home at Glasshouse for people with a disability. Centrecare provides the support for the residents. We are most grateful to all the Centrecare staff for the caring manner in which they go about looking after the residents day and night. The Homes Foundation continues to maintain the property and fixtures and provides extras to enhance the lifestyle of our residents. During the year, we carried out minor maintenance and continued grounds enhancements.

KARINGAL

Karingal is now known as Caloundra House and the Foundation finalised its sale this year. While it is the end of that era, this year and next we are taking on a new initiative to purchase houses in and around Caloundra which are close to services so as to enhance opportunities for our residents.

GENERAL

This year, once again, we have provided financial support to:

- Five parish based St Vincent de Paul services
- Rosie's
- Orange Sky Laundry

We are most grateful for the support we have received this year while never forgetting our gratitude to those people who, over the years, worked so hard and contributed so much to the establishment and growth of the Homes Foundation.

The Foundation will continue next year with Directors Ingrid O'Shea (Chairperson), Margaret McElwaine and Neil Behm and Members Fr Peter Brannelly and Fr Josh Whitehead. I would like to record my gratitude to my fellow Directors/Members and in particular a huge thank you to Dale Rolls our volunteer book keeper, Foundation Manager, Don Rolls for his dedication to our task.

*God bless,
Ingrid O'Shea.*



St Vincent de Paul Society

Members of the OLR St Vincent de Paul Society after celebrating their Christmas lunch. They would like to thank the parish community for all of their support this year.

The Christmas edition of

The Catholic Leader

is available at each community. The price is \$4 each. Take note of page 16 & 17, our young adults are in the paper.

In Transition

As a Parish we welcome **Ronan & Cobie Crean** who will be baptised at OLR Church this week.

We pray for **Teresa Scarffe** who died last week and her funeral was held at OLR on Friday. May her soul and all the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners

Rest in Peace.



St Vincent de Paul

Members of the St Vincent de Paul conferences would like to thank all parishioners and friends for supporting this year's annual Christmas appeal. Your generous support enabled Vinnies to once again reach out to those most in need within our communities over Christmas.



Fr Ejikeme blesses the hampers and the Vinnies members who will distribute them at the Vinnies shop on Mayes Ave, Caloundra.

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

Parish Diary

Monday 26 Dec

St Stephen, the first martyr

Mass (OLR) 9am

Tuesday 27 Dec

St John, apostle, evangelist

Mass (OLR) 9am

Wednesday 28 Dec

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

No Mass

Thursday 29 Dec

5th day in Octave for the Nativity of the Lord

Mass (OLR) 9am

Friday 30 Dec

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass (OLR) 9am

Saturday 31 Dec

7th day in Octave for the Nativity of the Lord

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

Sunday 1 Jan

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass (OLR) 6.30am

Mass (Landsborough) 7am

Mass (Unity) 8am

Mass (Kawana) **NO Mass**

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://](https://www.facebook.com/caloundracatholicparish/)

www.facebook.com/caloundracatholicparish/

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, specially at this time of year, please contact Kath olrgriefsupp@gmail.com with your details so a support person can contact you.

All contact is treated with utmost confidentiality.



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 Mass tonight, Christmas Eve or morning - Christmas Day at OLR will be given a decoration. Well done and thank you to the craft group.

**The priests of the Sunshine Coast say
"Thank you" and Merry Christmas
to you and your family**



Thankyou, Thankyou, Thankyou

to everyone who supported Erin and Emily in their mission to join the NET teams next year. As a Parish we have raised \$10,077.90 That is just fantastic, God Bless you all.

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.

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