

# 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.**



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## **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 29/30 July 2023**

### **The Kingdom of Heaven is *like* a Dragnet...**

The Gospel from the last two weeks, as well as this Sunday's Mass, comes from Matthew chapter 13. "Okay, yip, sounds good, but what does that mean," you might say... Friends, context is everything when it comes to interpreting the Word of God which was written 2000+ years ago. Everything in the Bible was written in a specific time, for a specific purpose, and with a specific audience in mind; that means we often need to work hard at realising what God might be saying to us today in 2023.

Matthew chapter 13 is known as the Parable Discourse because the entire chapter is made up of Jesus sharing – and twice interpreting – seven parables or stories. Parables are designed to *cause* us to think hard about our place in them – in this case, about how we both seek out and contribute to making the Kingdom of Heaven a lived reality in the world today. Two weeks ago, we heard that the Kingdom of Heaven is *like* a sower going out to sow, scattering seed everywhere in the hope that it lands in the good soil of our lives. Last week, we heard that it is also *like* dandel (weeds), growing among the wheat, and *like* both a mustard seed that becomes a shelter for all, and yeast that causes bread to rise. None of these parables are the same and so straight away, there are many ways for us to approach our place and, importantly, participation *in* the Kingdom of Heaven.

Today's Gospel features three parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. The first two – searching for treasure in a field and a pearl of great value – give us some sense of the Kingdom of Heaven's value and what a person naturally does when they discover its value. The point of these short parables is that people – you and I – are meant to actively search for and seek out the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives, and then sell *everything* to buy the field or pearl—to carry on the metaphor— because we value it more than every worldly thing we have. There is an obvious connection here with the reaction of the disciples who left *everything* to follow Jesus when he called them from their fishing boats. Also, and quite obviously, we cannot buy our way into the Kingdom of Heaven, but we can, and should indeed, actively search for it and completely reorientate our lives when we discover its great value. This is the most natural reaction in the world to discovering and indeed experiencing the great value of the Kingdom of Heaven – which is to say, experiencing a personal, intimate, life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

The question is arising for some people in the parish at this time, however, around what exactly this personal relationship or *encounter* with Jesus looks like – and it's a good question. Perhaps the easiest answer is that it will be experientially different for everyone. As an individual, I, Fr Josh, often experience intimacy and/or a taste of the love and joy of God when I am *given* the sense of God's powerful presence. This happens most often in my daily personal pray when, reading and listening to Scripture, Jesus shines a light on a particular area of my life. I have also experienced, on occasion, a wave of love or joy washing over me in prayer for no reason at all – pure gift. In all these things, I experience a personal intimacy with Jesus that is *given* in a supernatural way. For many people, their primary encounter with Jesus is in the Eucharist which, in and of itself, is the most explicit and intimate encounter with Him. Yet God also gifts us with the senses and intellect to encounter Jesus personally and powerfully in numerous ways that can also nourish us – particularly and perhaps primarily in personal private prayer. Indeed, while some people I have spoken with—even in our parish— have had powerful encounters with Jesus in the

Eucharist, I have not. My encounters with Jesus in prayer, however, have greatly enhanced both the value – like the pearl of great value – I experience in the Eucharist, and my belief that the consecrated bread and wine have truly become Jesus' Body and Blood. So whether you encounter Jesus powerfully in the Eucharist, or your experience of Eucharist is enhanced by what you are given in prayer, music, community etc, both experiences are *given* to draw us deeper into the continuous journey of discovering the great value of the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.

Finally, and in the third of today's three parables, the Kingdom of heaven is *like* a dragnet. Does this remind you of any image that I may have used in the past? Yes, the Kingdom of Heaven is also *like* a funnel; taking a large catchment of people (faithful, life-long Mass-goers, those celebrating Sacraments of initiation, people who come to us for funerals, weddings, and even those who might not consider themselves to be worshipping Catholics), and you and I accompanying them into the bottom of the funnel, which is a personal relationship with Jesus our Lord which leads to worship! While Jesus used images and examples that were both relevant and aimed at his contemporary listeners, there are many every-day images in our lives that help us to describe and understand what a lived relationship with Jesus can be *like* in 2023. May God bless you with understanding and true knowledge of a relationship with Jesus. **Fr Josh**

**Sunday 6 August, 8am - 11am  
Our Lady of the Rosary, Church**

# OLR CAR WASH & BBQ

**\$20 per car | \$2 sausage sizzle**

**All funds raised go towards sending our  
youth group to Ignite Conference 2023**

## **Ignite conference fundraiser – OLR carwash & BBQ is on next weekend!**

To help us raise funds to send our youth group to the Ignite Conference, we are holding another carwash and BBQ on Sunday 6 August from 8am and through the 9:30am Mass. It is \$20 a car, and Mass will be followed by a sausage sizzle, where you can purchase a sausage and bread for \$2.

All money raised will go towards Ignite Conference registration. If you are unable to attend this fundraiser, but would still like to show your support, please contact the parish office. Thank you so much!

***Please keep us in your prayers.***



## **The OLR Conference 2023 St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal**

Thank you to all who have supported the OLR Vinnies winter appeal. If you still have envelopes, you can put them in the collection basket at Mass or bring them into the Parish office. Proceeds from the appeal will support the work of the Society in assisting members of our communities who are homeless and experiencing difficulties due to cost of living pressures. All funds raised locally will be used to support people in need in the local area.

***Thank you for your generosity.***



### **First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Please join us on the **5th August @ 8am**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary Church**  
**Caloundra**

### **Name Badges**

If you have a name badge, it would be appreciated if you could wear it to Mass. If you don't have a badge and would like one, please email the parish office with your name and phone number. The badges are \$5 each (the parish subsidises the rest).

## **Update on Several Parish Matters**

With the advent of our six Ministry Leadership Teams (MLTs) in the parish, as well as other layers of leadership including the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), which meets fortnightly, and a new Parish Finance Council (PFC), that meets monthly, there are a lot of things going on which may appear as sometimes *behind the scenes*. As we journey forward as a parish, one of the key challenges that all these teams are experiencing is communicating information in a timely manner. One example is the communication that we do indeed have a new PFC! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing PFC members – Dan Casey, Gerard McMahon and Marnie Lynch – for their diligence and stewardship of our parish's resources. I welcome the new PFC members, Steve Kay, Cathy Stamp and Dan Thomasson, and thank them for their work to date.

Some important things the new PFC have approved include the renovation of the parish-owned residences at Battery Hill and Landsborough (the renovation of the Good Shepherd Centre in Kawana was completed in February this year). The PFC have also approved future maintenance work at both the Landsborough and OLR churches (including the OLR car park), as well as some minor maintenance to be completed at both Maleny and Beerwah sites. The impetus for this proactive approach to maintenance is the fact that Catholic Church Insurance recently became insolvent and with the on-boarding of a new insurance company for the Catholic Church in Australia, we have recently learnt that the excess of property claims has jumped from \$1000 to \$50,000 per claim.

It is my intention to always make information available to the parish in a timely manner. In this time, however, when there are many changes taking place – particularly at the structural level – I ask for your patience as we learn and grow together as a mission-focused parish. **Fr Josh**

## **In Transition**

We welcome **Edward McMahon** who will be baptised at OLR this weekend.

We pray for the repose of the soul of **John Butterworth** who died last week and whose funeral will be held at OLR, Landsborough, this Thursday, 3rd August, at 11am. We pray that all the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners ***Rest in Peace.***



**Our Parish's Mission is to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus.**



### Hospitality

You are welcome to join your community for Hospitality next weekend. Stay for a cuppa after Mass on Sunday, or for wine & cheese at OLR on the Saturday night.

OLR Sunday morning will be the carwash and sausage sizzle fundraiser from 8-11am

Instead of the usual cuppa after Mass at **Maleny**, there will be a BEER and BEEF breakfast. Please bring your favourite beef dish and refreshments.

Tea/coffee/slices will also be available.

**You are all welcome!**



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

### Maleny—Rosary and extended adoration every Tuesday

At 8am the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and we will commence our rosary for World Peace. We will intercede for our world leaders and for those suffering from natural and man-made disasters.

After the rosary we will then accompany Our Lord, present in the Sacrament on the altar until Benediction at 8.55 followed by Mass at 9am.



### Are you Musically Gifted?



Can you play the piano, organ, guitar or any other instrument that could lead and accompany music ministry at Mass?

**This is a fantastic opportunity to put the "Yes Prayer" into action.**

Please email or call the office

[caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au)

5430 9390 with your contact details and a member of the **Worship Ministry Leadership Team** will be in touch.

Thank you for your ministry.



### Baptism Preparation Evening for Infants



Those parents with newborn babies wishing for them to be baptised are reminded of the preparation meeting which takes place at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Caloundra, this **Thursday 3rd August**, beginning at 7pm. At this short preparation meeting we outline some of the symbols used at the ceremony, answer any questions and confirm dates. To book in for the preparation evening please contact the Parish office.

### Year of Yes Prayer

Today and every day I say Yes to you O Lord. In the same way that Mary said yes to your invitation, I say Yes to your Son's presence in my life. May my yes, by the power of your Holy Spirit, allow you to use all the talents, skills and gifts you have given me for the purpose of building up Your Body in our community. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

## Parish Diary

### Monday 31 July

Mass (OLR) 9am

Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

### Tuesday 1 Aug

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Adoration/Rosary (Maleny) 8.00am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

### Wednesday 2 Aug

Mass (UNITY) 7.50am

School Liturgy (OLR) 9am

Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

### Thursday 3 Aug

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Mass (Currimundi) 9.30am

### Friday 4 Aug

Mass (OLR) 9am

Mass (Landsborough) 9am

### Saturday 5 Aug

8.30am (OLR) Reconciliation

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

### Sunday 6 Aug

**The Transfiguration of the Lord**

Mass (OLR) 6.30am

(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

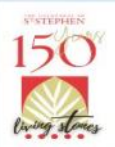
### Reconciliation

Saturday OLR Church 8.30am

### WATCH MASS LIVE

<https://www.facebook.com/>

## Celebrating 150 years of Weddings at The Cathedral of St Stephen



**In this 150th year of the Cathedral of St Stephen, couples who have been married at St Stephen's are invited to commemorate their years of marriage.**

**On Saturday, 30th September 2023, the Archbishop will celebrate Mass at 11:30am, followed by refreshments on the Cathedral grounds.**

**There will be a particular focus on Golden Wedding Anniversaries, however anyone married at the Cathedral or Chapel, is invited to attend.**

**If you have photos or stories to share, please contact David Todd.**

**email: [todd@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:todd@bne.catholic.net.au)**

**telephone: 3324 3030**

**by 1st September 2023**

To register to attend the Mass and for catering purposes please RSVP by Friday 22nd September 2023  
[cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au)  
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