



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.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B WEEKEND OF 6/7 JANUARY 2024

The Epiphany

Throughout the calendar year, the New Testament biblical narrative is condensed down to fit within the confines of 52 weeks. Two weeks ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and naturally, not so long after, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.

Epiphany comes from the words “epi” (to/upon) + “phainein” (show/appear/shine). Hence its modern definition: a newfound revelation, an “aha moment”, a grand discovery or appearance. Today’s feast celebrates Jesus’ revelation to the Gentiles (non-Jews) represented by the three Magi who visited from the East.

These three magi are often referred to as kings, although we are not told of their occupation in Matthew’s gospel. Magi were understood as people who possessed superior knowledge and experts in their field, in this case probably astronomy. Through the Magi’s experience and expertise, they believed that the heavens marked the birth of great leaders. And so they went off on a journey following a star to where they believed an infant king, who was to be the king of the Jews, would be born. Upon arrival in Bethlehem, the star had led them to a dwelling, and they paid homage to baby Jesus, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They then went home via a different route as they had been warned not to return to King Herod.

The story of the magi is very much *our* story also as we are all on a pilgrimage through life. The star in our lives can be many things, guiding us and leading us to an exciting future. Sometimes it shines brightly, other times we see glimpses here and there. It points us to what is true, good, and beautiful; ultimately leading us to Jesus, whom God desires to reveal to all people.

Throughout life we gain realisations about ourselves—little epiphanies. We realise that we were more courageous than we thought, or we hadn’t dealt with something in our past which is holding us back from all we could be, or we realise that there is so much more to life than the narrow worldview that we had. These epiphanies change us; we become transformed into different people. It is the same when we encounter Jesus.

When we truly allow God into our lives, (often it begins with praying during the difficult moments only, but I encourage you to pray and invite God into your heart at every moment), we will find realisations and revelations previously unbeknownst to us. Perhaps we realise that God loves us more than we could ever know, or that God’s mercy is greater than our biggest sin. Maybe we even realise the beauty of prayer discover a dialogue with God.

Whatever our revelation, like the magi who encountered the infant king Jesus, we first offer gifts; our presence is our present. We then realise that we can’t go back the same way. The epiphany is too great. The revelation has changed us so that our lives are changed for the better.

As you journey into 2024, may your pilgrimages be many and your epiphanies be great!

Fr Gerard

Other notable facts:

Interestingly, 7 Jan is when our Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate Christmas Day due to their following of the Julian Calendar, which pre-dates our Gregorian Calendar (used throughout a majority of the Western world).

In 567, the Council of Tours proclaimed the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season, celebrating the birth of Jesus.

During some parts of the Middle ages, openly practicing Christianity was prohibited, and so the 12 days of Christmas was recited as a children’s poem as a form of catechesis to recall a deeper reality of the Christian faith (see adjacent figure).

Twelfth Night, a play written by Shakespeare in 1602, was a performance first written for production toward the end of the Christmas Season, highly likely to be presented as a twelfth night entertainment during the period between Christmas and the Epiphany.



Adoration of the Magi, Edward Burne-Jones, 1904

12 The Hidden Meaning of the Days of Christmas

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| December 25  A Partridge in a Pear Tree The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ | December 26  Two Turtledoves The Old and New Testaments | December 27  Three French hens Faith, Hope and Love |
| December 28  The Four Calling Birds Four Gospels | December 29  The Five Gold Rings Recall the Torah (Law) the First Five Books of the Old Testament | December 30  Six Geese A-Laying Six Days of Creation |
| December 31  Seven Swans A-Swimming Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit | January 1  Eight Maids A-Milking Eight Beatitudes | January 2  Nine Ladies Dancing Nine Fruits of the Spirit (See Galatians 5) |
| January 3  Ten Lords A-Leaping Ten Commandments | January 4  Eleven Pipers Piping Eleven Faithful Disciples | January 5  Twelve Drummers Drumming 12 Points of Belief in the Apostles Creed |

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

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

The Parish office will be open on Monday 8th January 2024 at 9am.



Ladies Lunch

The First Ladies Lunch for the year will be on Friday 19th January at 12 noon at Club Kawana, 476 Nicklin Way, Wurtulla. All ladies are welcome to attend. If you would like to come please contact Deborah 0410531901 by Monday, 15th January, to confirm numbers.

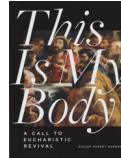
Lectio 'EUCHARIST' Bible Study: Discovering the Mass in the Bible

The 10-Thursday-session video & discussion bible study course presented by Dr. Brant Pitre commences on 18 Jan 2024 at Kawana's Good Shepherd Centre, Nanyima St, Buddina (off Pt Cartwright Dr) from 8am-9:30am.

The course is free, but we would be grateful for those who can make a \$15 donation to offset the cost of the Bible Study Guide.

For registrations & enquiries please contact John Manion **mob:** 0416 154 144 or **email:** johnmanion101@gmail.com

Course numbers are limited to 16. The first 39 enquires will receive a copy of Bishop Robert Barron's latest book 'This Is My Body - A Call to Eucharistic Revival'.



A Year of Invitation

My Lord and my God, you never cease to invite me to know, love and follow your Son, Jesus.

Give me the grace and courage to be a channel of your love so that my "yes" to you becomes an invitation to others.

I offer up my entire self – heart, mind and will – to your purpose for me. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grief Support

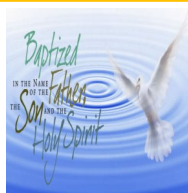
If you are experiencing grief through the loss of a loved one, a broken relationship or a major life change of any kind, and you feel that the Grief Support team can be of assistance to you or a family member, specially at this time of year, please contact olrgriefsupp@gmail.com with your details so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

All contact is treated with utmost confidentiality.

Baptism Preparation Evening for Infants

Those parents with 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 11/1/24**, 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 on 5430 9390 or email caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au



Parish Diary

Monday 8 January

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

Tuesday 9 January

Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Adoration/Rosary (Maleny) 8am
Mass (Maleny) 9am

Wednesday 10 January

No Mass (UNITY)
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Thursday 11 January

Mass (OLR) 9am
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am
Mass (Currimundi) 9.30am

Friday 12 January

Mass (OLR) 9am
Mass (Landsborough) 9am

Saturday 13 January

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm
Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

Sunday 14 January

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

WATCH MASS LIVE

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

PARISH STAFF

Vicki Howard - Parish Secretary
Edgar Pitargue - Accountant
Bernadette Bain - Communications
Felicity Jones - Youth Minister

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr Joshua Whitehead
Fr Joseph Hien Van Vo
Fr Francis Fernandes
Fr Gerard Lai

PARISH OFFICE

Ph: 07 5430 9390

After hours pastoral emergency 0431 099 854) www.caloundracatholicparish.net or caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

In Transition

As a Parish family we would like to welcome **Rafael Paras & Edward Wakefield** who will be baptised in OLR church this weekend.

May the souls of all our loved ones, and of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners be thought of at this time and **Rest in Peace.**