



# 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.**

**1st Sunday of Advent 2/3 December 2023 Year B**

## **Farewell to Caloundra Parish from Sang**

Advent marks the opening of a new liturgical year. This season is when we long for and meditate on the Word made flesh. However, this is the time for me, **Sang Duc Bui**, to say **goodbye** to the Our Lady of the Rosary parish after nearly a full year of living with a family where spirit and emotion are abundant. Saying farewell is always difficult for me. This is especially true now because I feel Caloundra is like my loving home. In this parish, I felt supported in my priestly journey.



When I arrived here, Fr Josh, Fr Francis, Fr Ejikeme, Fr Joseph, and later Fr Gerard welcomed me and shared a lot about priestly life and the work they undertake. Fr Josh supported me to understand a lot about the priesthood and pastoral work. He helped me explore more about priestly life and about the faith culture of believers. He also encouraged me to reflect on a vision for the future Church. After living with these priests and through my practical learnings I feel much more confident in my priestly vocation. With them, during times of uncertainty, I communicated my worries and thoughts about the Church's direction. They listened when I expressed some of my personal ups and downs throughout the year. I really appreciate these priests who have helped me stay strong as I follow Christ's steps.

Thank you to Bishop Brian Heenan, Fr Tyrone, Fr Ashley, Fr Dudley, Fr Tijo, Fr Isaac, Fr Peter, Fr Will, and many others who helped me see the joy of my vocation even during busy times. I appreciate the camaraderie we shared when we gathered for Sunday lunches.

I also thank my Lay Feedback Team: Bruce, Don, Cathy and Dawn who accompanied, supported and walked with me as I journeyed on formation to the priesthood.

I thank the parish staff - Vicki, Edgar, and many other parishioners for helping me understand more about the work of a large parish. I am also grateful to all the Parish Volunteers and Parish Leaders. May God bless you in the good work that God is leading you to do.

The staff at Our Lady of the Rosary School - the principal, staff members, and students, especially Year 3 students, also deserve my thanks. You helped me feel more joy in life. I enjoyed sharing and talking with you all in your classes and on the soccer field. You assisted me to be confident about my vocation and future priestly ministry.

To the young people at Unity College, especially Felicity and the Young Adults group, who helped me understand more about the thoughts of young people in today's world, thank you. I hope you have a wonderful life and know how to run to Jesus and talk to Him. I also thank the Caloundra Soccer and Baringa Soccer Teams, even though we didn't win many matches. You guys helped me make more friends and appreciate how to live life here.

Finally, I thank everyone from the eight communities including the Women's Group, St Vinnies and others, and every person I met at Mass or visited. You are all like close family to me and you have touched my heart and given me strong motivation in this priestly vocation.

After Christmas, I hope to visit my family in Vietnam and then return to the seminary at Banyo in 2024 to finish my final year of studies. With joy and hope in God's grace, I hope I will see you one day again, especially on the day of my ordination as Deacon and Priest. Please continue to support and pray for my vocational journey. I will always remember you in my prayers.

Thanks be to God and thank you everyone so much.

My last day of Pastoral Placement will be on Christmas Day, so over the next 4 weeks, I hope to visit all the worshipping communities one last time.

*Happy Christmas and  
God bless you.*

*Sang Duc Bui*

<b>Dec 2/3</b>	<b>OLR 5pm; Unity 8am; Currimundi 9:15am</b>
<b>Dec 9/10</b>	<b>Beerwah 5pm; Landsborough 7am; Maleny 9am</b>
<b>Dec 16/17</b>	<b>OLR 5pm; Kawana 8am, Little Mtn 10:30am; Unity 5pm</b>
<b>Dec 23/24</b>	<b>Beerwah 5pm; OLR 6:30am; OLR 9:30am</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Unity 4pm and OLR 10pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>OLR 6:30am and OLR 9:30am</b>



**PARISH OFFICE**  
61 Edmund St, Caloundra Qld 4551  
**Ph: 07 5430 9390**  
(After hours pastoral emergency 0431 099 854)  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm

**PARISH WEBSITE**  
[www.caloundracatholicparish.net](http://www.caloundracatholicparish.net)  
**PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS**  
[caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au)  
**PASTORAL CARE**  
[olrpastoralcare@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:olrpastoralcare@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Youth and Young Adults Ministry

Our youth group, Kingdom Youth, finished for the year on Friday 24 November. Over 50 teenagers joined us for a fun night of laser tag around Unity College as we celebrated another wonderful year together. A huge thank you to all parishioners who have donated their resources, time, and effort to support our youth group. An equally big thank you to everyone who has prayed for us, and who continues to pray that the young people within our community encounter Jesus. Additionally, on Sunday 26 November we had six teenagers receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion. It was a wonderful celebration of faith and community with their families and sponsors. In the past two years, Kingdom Youth has celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation with sixteen teenagers. It has been a joy to journey and grow in faith alongside them. Please pray for them as they continue to discover God's will for them. Finally, our young adult ministry will continue until just before Christmas. Recently, the group gathered to celebrate the friendships made this year. Please reach out via email for more information on youth or young adult ministry. Have a blessed Advent season and I pray the joy and peace of Christmas may be with each of you and your families! **Thank you, Felicity Jones**

### Alpha @ OLR Celebration Dinner



Our Parish is celebrating three years of Alpha with a dinner at Dom's Restaurant, Kings Beach, on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. If you are one of the nearly 150 people that have either done an Alpha at OLR, supported an Alpha through catering or leading a group, prayed as an intercessor for our Alpha programs or if you haven't done an Alpha and are thinking you might like to, we would love to see you at the Alpha@OLR celebration dinner.

We will hear some testimonies from participants, and Fr Josh will be speaking on our future plans. Please come along! Dinner and a welcome drink are included at a cost of \$20 pp. Please complete the RSVP by scanning the Linktree QR code below or contact the parish office.



Linktree QR Code

### Linktree

We are always looking for new ways to improve access to the Parish and its events for all our Parishioners. With this in mind we have developed a 'one stop shop' enabling you to RSVP to different events and even order your name badge. You can access the link on your own phone by simply scanning this QR code with your camera, it will take you to a page that looks like this: →

Simply click the link that you are interested in and go from there.

If that all feels a bit too much, we have set up an iPad in the office. Our wonderful Office staff and volunteers are able to support you if needed.



### A Call to Action

Pope Francis released his exhortation [Laudate Deum](#) on St Francis' Feast Day, 4 October, 2023. It is an anguished and passionate cry for communal action towards a better future. Its purpose is to enable society to face the reality of our climate crisis and ignite greater action. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Pope Francis is attending the meeting of world leaders at COP28 to address them.

The Service & Outreach page on the parish website has more information about the letter of Pope Francis and its importance.

In accord with the Parish Strategic Plan, the Service & Outreach Ministry Team is establishing a Laudato Si Action Group (LSAG) to respond to what Pope Francis has written in both *Laudato Si - On Care for our common home* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023).

Those wishing to join the LSAG or desiring more information are invited to email Trish Harding (Ministry Team Leader) [tharding4173@gmail.com](mailto:tharding4173@gmail.com)

### The Annuals are in!

If you ordered a Break Open the Word, Ordo or Daily Mass book they are in the office to collect. If you are from one of the other 7 Mass centres they are in your box for this weekend.

### In Transition

We welcome **Pasqualina Bellantoni & Patrick Cunningham** who will be baptised at OLR this weekend.

We pray for **Lenore Griffith, Eve Mahon & Angela De Zen** who died last week and their funerals are at OLR on the 5th Dec 11am, Sacred Heart Maleny on the 7th Dec 11am and OLR 8th Dec 11am respectively. May their souls and the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners **Rest in Peace.**

### PARISH PRIESTS

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

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

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

2024 is year B in the three-year Gospel cycle, the year of Mark. Although the new liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, 3 December this year, not much will be heard of Mark in coming weeks because stories from Matthew, Luke and John that are not in Mark's Gospel are read during Advent and Christmas.

Mark's account is succinct and fast-moving. Unlike Matthew and Luke, it does not begin with the birth of Jesus but with his baptism as an adult. Mark's Gospel is so brief, there is not enough material to 'fill up' the entire year. For five weeks, from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday, it is supplemented with passages from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John.

Matthew is the first gospel in the bible because when the New Testament was formed it was believed to be the oldest of the four. Since the Gospels of Matthew and Luke clearly draw heavily on the text of Mark, it is now accepted that Mark's Gospel was written first.

Mark's main interest is the person of Jesus himself. He follows Jesus through his public ministry in Galilee, outside Galilee and finally in Jerusalem immediately before the passion. The question "Who is this Jesus?" dominates the first half of Mark's Gospel. Mark depicts Jesus as a teacher with a special type of authority, a miracle worker, and a healer, someone who is the fulfilment of the ancient promise of a Messiah, though different from what his contemporaries expected of a Messiah.

### Christmas Dinner for the 30-45 year-old Ladies Group.

We'll have our final catch up of the year on Friday, December 8th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Egan Room. Together with lots of laughing, chatting, and smiling, bring a small plate to share. We're excited to meet you there. Jill's RSVP is 0402 742 920.

### Advent Program – Maleny

If Caloundra is too far to travel, please join other like minded, local people in a short 3 week discussion group as we explore the Sunday readings and discover the richness of the Advent season.

This Group will be led by one of our local Parishioners, Julie, on each Tuesday afternoon until Christmas from 1:30 to 2:30pm in the Pat Daley Centre.

Please RSVP to Julie 0412 692343

### St Vincent de Paul Society Annual Christmas Appeal

On the weekend of the 16th and 17th December Vinnies will be having their annual Christmas Appeal. The local conferences rely heavily on your ongoing support to assist those in need in the local area. Sadly, there has been a steady increase in the number of requests for assistance. Your kind donations will also allow us to provide some Christmas cheer for families doing it tough. God Bless.

### Taizé Prayer

Some of you may have visited the village of Taizé near Maçon in Western France. During WWII, Brother Roger established a community there to shelter Jews fleeing from Nazi persecution. This is a special place of reconciliation and welcome. The Brothers pray very simply through chant. There is a focus on youth who flock to Taizé to reflect on their lives and join in the sung prayer. *Experience this beautiful prayer for yourself at OLR on Tuesday 12 Dec at 7pm. <https://www.taize.fr/en>*

### 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 (opposite Centrelink & Kawana Library) Nanyima St, Buddina (off Pt Cartwright Dr) from 8am-9:30am.

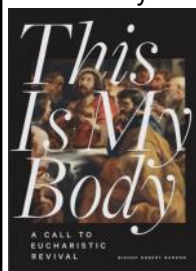
The presentation is free but participants are requested to donate \$15 towards offsetting the cost of the extensive Bible Study Guide for those that can afford it.

This Study of the Old and New Testaments scriptures will enlighten your understanding of liturgy and Jesus' real presence in our Eucharistic celebration. This will enable you to more fully participate and appreciate our worship/thanksgiving time together.

For registrations & enquires open 1 Dec 2023 please contact John Manion **mob:** 0416 154 144 or

**email:** [johnmanion101@gmail.com](mailto: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'.



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

## Parish Diary

### Monday 4 December

Mass (OLR) 9am

Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

### Tuesday 5 December

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Adoration/Rosary (Maleny) 8am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

### Wednesday 6 December

No Mass (UNITY)

Liturgy (Lt Mt) 9.30am

### Thursday 7 December

Mass (OLR) 9am

Rosary (OLR) 9.30am

Liturgy (Currimundi) 9.30am

### Friday 8 December

Mass (OLR) 9am

Adoration/Rosary (Lands) 8am

Mass (Landsborough) 9am

**Hour of Grace Lands 12-1pm**

### Saturday 9 December

8.30am (OLR) Reconciliation

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

### Sunday 10 December

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

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

### OLR - PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caloundra 07 5491 4522

Acting Principal: Tracey Gerrard

### UNITY COLLEGE

Caloundra South 07 5490 5777

Principal: Dan McShea



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