



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.

2nd Sunday of Advent 9/10 December 2023 Year B

Tall orders are a relative term

The first reading this weekend has some tall orders:

'A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed...'

The orders are 'tall' but not impossible. Think of the mountainous pyramids of old, with precisions that still baffle scholars. Think of: Roman aqueducts spanning landscapes; today's bridges and tunnels spanning kilometres; China levelling about 700 mountains to build more cities a decade ago; and reclaimed lands from the sea in the Netherlands and Middle East. We can rightly call them "biblical" feats of engineering.

As the bible does so often, it takes our feats, boasts and achievements, and says, "you could do all that, but can you do something as simple as this?" The expression, 'simple as this', inevitably is the act of reforming our hearts or conversion. Human history suggests it is not that 'simple'.

Thank God then for the Christmas moment in our history where God came to us in a humble way. He came unarmed and he came hoping to disarm our fears. If anything, Christmas becomes a time when God *comes* (Ad-ventus) to level our mountains and valleys. Our part is to welcome God in and accept the offer of a transforming and lifelong friendship.

As our *Year of Yes* draws to a close, we are moving into a *Year of Invitation*. May your welcoming God this Advent shape you to be a person who welcomes visitors and parishioners into your heart and into the life of this parish.

**See you in the week,
Fr. Francis**

Children and Families

Welcome to our last update for 2023. This year has flown by so fast! Our Children and Families team have already started planning for 2024. Last Saturday, a Strategic planning day was held for the coming six-month period. A huge thank you to Mark, Donna, Bruce who attended with other Parish ministry teams.

Some of our goals Identified for the year ahead:

- ◆ Formation of a Baptismal Preparation Team
- ◆ Identify opportunities for more Collaboration between Church and School communities
- ◆ Continue to find ways to Welcome and Invite families to be part of our Faith Community
- ◆ Facilitation of Kids Encounter Days & Kingdom Kids activities

On behalf of the Children and Families team, we thank you for all the support and prayers we have received. If you are interested in helping our team in any way for the coming year please contact the parish office.

We wish you and your families a Christmas filled with hope, joy & peace, Julie Gerhardt.



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

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS

caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

PASTORAL CARE

olrpastoralcare@bne.catholic.net.au

A Warm Welcome

Welcome to everyone joining us today now that school holidays have officially started for all schools! Whether you are travelling from across the street, up the Bruce Highway or roving around the country, thank you for choosing to be part of our celebration today. Keep safe on the roads and travel safe.

Christmas Eve, Sun Dec 24

Our Lady of the Rosary Caloundra (Carols at 3.50pm)	4pm
Caloundra West, Unity College (Carols at 3.50pm)	4pm
Mary McKillop, Beerwah	5pm
Sacred Heart, Maleny (Carols at 6.30pm)	7pm
Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra (Carols at 6.50pm)	7pm
Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra (Carols at 9.50pm)	10pm

Christmas Day Mon Dec 25

Our Lady of the Rosary, Caloundra	6.30am 9.30am
Our Lady of the Way, Lands	7.00am
Good Shepherd, Kawana	8.00am
BI Frederic Ozanam, Currimundi	9.15am
Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Little Mountain	10.30am

Boxing Day Tues Dec 26

The Parish office will be closed from Friday 22/12/23 1pm and reopen Monday 8/1/2023

Weekday Mass will continue once-a-day **ONLY** at OLR at 9am (EXCEPT Wednesdays no Mass!)

While the Parish office are taking a well deserved break.

Happy Holidays!

A Special Invitation

In the month of December, we are often so busy and stressed with final events for the year – not to mention preparations for Christmas! Our parish is offering a special evening of quiet prayer in the style of Taizé. Short mantra-like songs create a relaxing feeling that refreshes us in body, mind and spirit. Through gentle repetition, the meaning of the words gradually penetrates our whole being. In song and silence we listen more deeply. These simple chants allow us to **wait attentively** on God. Such prayer is very much in the spirit of the Advent Scriptures. *Come and relax in this beautiful prayer at OLR this Tuesday 12 Dec at 7pm.* <https://www.taize.fr/en>

Alpha @ OLR Celebration Dinner

Our Parish is celebrating three years of Alpha with a dinner at Dom's Restaurant, Kings Beach, on Wednesday December 13th 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.



Adoration

All are invited to join our young adults for an hour of Adoration on Wednesday 13th December, 6.30pm at the OLR church. We'd love to see you there!



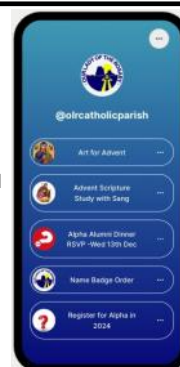
Linktree QR Code

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.



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

In Transition

We welcome **Penelope Maunder, Riley Schenk, Brooklyn & Vera Curcija & Mackenzie Henschell** who will be baptised at OLR this weekend.

May 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.

PRAYER WISDOM

'If the only prayer you ever said was, "Thank you," it would be enough'
Meister Eckhart (14th century)

The Advent Wreath

Many homes, businesses and churches use the Advent wreath as a symbol of this season.

The Advent wreath is of ancient origin and relates to celebrations of the winter solstice when European days are shortest and gloomiest. Because people longed for the return of the sun's light and life, they suspended wagon wheels, decorated with greenery and candles, in their celebration halls. There they waited for their sun gods to return.

Around 200 years ago, the Advent wreath became customary in German homes and public buildings. It made its way into the church and has become a popular symbol of the passing of time during Advent.

The circle of the wreath, without a beginning or an end, symbolises God's unending love for us and reminds us of eternity. The evergreen leaves represented growth and hopes of eternal life. The symbol of evergreens is rather lost in our part of the world, so Australian gum leaves, nuts and flowers are sometimes substituted.

The four candles mark the four Sundays before Christmas, with one more candle lit each Sunday during Advent. Traditionally three candles are purple with the candle for the third Sunday being rose, but it's the increase in light as more candles are lit that is the focus, not the colour of the candles themselves.

Sometimes a 'Christmas candle' is placed in the centre of the wreath on Christmas Eve. This candle should be lit throughout the Christmas season. Its visual link with the Paschal candle helps connect the celebration of Christ's birth with its fulfilment in the Easter mystery.

By Elizabeth Harrington.

St Vincent de Paul Society Annual Christmas Appeal

Next week is our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Sadly, this Christmas, more families than ever are experiencing poverty and are on the brink of homelessness. After struggling with the escalating cost-of-living crisis, they barely have anything left to hold on to. As the crisis deepens, so does their desperation. The five local St Vincent de Paul Conferences spend between \$3000 and \$4000 each week assisting those in need within our community. We would again appreciate your financial support this Christmas Appeal. God Bless.

Youngish Men's Group Dinner Invite

If you are between 30 and 45 years old (plus or minus a couple), you are invited to a men's dinner at **Dom's at Kings** Italian Restaurant at King's Beach. We will be gathering at 6pm on Friday 15th December. Please RSVP via Linktree asap (scan QR code in this newsletter).

Children's Liturgy

OLR church Children's Liturgy has now finished for the year and will recommence in Term 1 of 2024. Wishing all our families a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

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*

Our Local Safeguarding Officer

Judy Moir - lsr.caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au mb.0421 873 060
Or Brisbane 07 3324 3752 www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding



The Art Group has now finished the year and will recommence on Wednesday 14th February 2024

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

Parish Diary

Monday 11 December

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

Tuesday 12 December

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

Wednesday 13 December

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

Thursday 14 December

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

Friday 15 December

Mass (OLR) 9am
Adoration/Rosary (Lands) 8am
Lands 1st Rite reconciliation
8.30am

Mass (Landsborough) 9am

Saturday 16 December

2nd Rite of Reconciliation
(OLR) 9am (No Mass)

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm
Beerwah 1st Rite reconciliation
4.15pm
Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

Sunday 17 December

3rd 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

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Caloundra South 07 5490 5777
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