



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
**30/31 December 2023 Year B**

**Wow! What. A. Year!**

I trust that you have all had joy filled celebrations (and hopefully some recovery from those celebrations!) over the week gone by. To all our visitors, I extend a *cool* welcome amidst this summer's heat. I hope your visits to Church have felt refreshing.

These last hours of 2023 feel at least for me like a liminal space. A final chance to look back and look around at 2023, before closing the door and stepping out into 2024. The "doomsday clock" moved to 90 seconds to midnight on account of various global unrests. India overtook China in population and everyone speculated if India was going to reproduce the Chinese narrative for itself (and perhaps the global village). Artificial intelligence became far more available and wowed (and unnerved) everyone with its capacity for use and misuse. In an ever-connected and inter-connected world, the question with every event was: what will this mean for us in our corner of the globe? At the time of writing, a war between Israel and Hamas has set in motion aggression by a third party – the Houthi Rebels in Yemen. The threat of these rebels has drawn a US-led coalition to protect shipping in the Suez Canal. Some of these "defining moments" went nowhere, others suggest there is more to come.

What were the defining moments for you this year? Did they catch you by surprise or did you anticipate them? Joseph and Mary in this weekend's readings seemed to be doing "the done thing" with Jesus' consecration to God. Things don't unfold normally though. Defining moments seem to overshadow their liturgy: a stranger interrupts them holding their child, thanking God and laying down ominous prophecies. Another stranger, a woman, who was almost part of the furniture, launched into praise and began telling everyone how much the child was destined for saving Israel. Like some of the events of this year, there is a mix of anticipation and surprise. Jesus *was* prophesied about; when the time came, Mary and Joseph were understandably surprised by angelic visitors, but complied with God's plans. Then they continue to be shocked and surprised in this weekend's readings (and not for the last time). Prophecies, forecasts, hopes, surprises, shocks, detours... these are part of the pattern of life and in entering into our story, Jesus is drawn into that roller coaster ride with us.

For us it means that we pray to a God who not only sees us, but has subjected himself to our experience and says, "I sit beside you as this coaster goes up, down and upside-down".

I look forward to sharing this next year with you! As we thank God for the gift of the Holy Family, I ask that we pray for the "little holy families" whose children will be receiving new sacraments this year. I invite you to pray for the "little holy families" who will be enrolling their children in the Notre Dame College at Aura. May our prayers bring God's graces upon them. Moving now into the Year of Invitation, these will be excellent opportunities for us to extend to our young families, the open welcome that God and his Church shows us every time we come to the sacraments.

See you in the week!

**God bless, Fr. Francis**

**The answer to last weeks joke**

Q: If the end of the year is December 31st, what is the end of Christmas? A: The Letter S (and the Epiphany)

**PARISH PRIESTS**

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

**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)

## A Warm Welcome

Welcome to everyone joining us today in this beautiful part of the world!  
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.

### Thank You!

As we leave behind the gift of another year and look ahead to 2024, there are many things to be grateful for as a Parish Family. If I may speak on your behalf, we are grateful for the real enthusiasm across the Parish at this time with the implementation of our Strategic Plan – a plan which is already proving valuable as a means of mission-focused lay-leadership development! We are grateful for the many parishioners and friends who generously continue to give of their time, talent and treasure to keep our Parish moving along. Because of you, we are truly blessed.

#### How many ways can a faith community say thank you to so many people?

**Sacristans:** These dedicated parishioners arrive early and set up for the liturgy. They are so efficient that we often don't even notice *and they both clean up and close up!* Say thank you to a Sacristan today. To those who support our liturgies: those who organise volunteers; those who wash and iron, clean and repair, who work quietly behind the scenes keeping everything ready and working. **Merci**

**Music Ministry:** Where would our liturgy be without music? If it is true that to sing is to pray *twice* then we particularly thank all our musical ministers for leading us throughout the year. **Danke**

**Liturgical Ministers:** From those who proclaim the Word of God, distribute Jesus' Body and Precious Blood, and those who serve at the Altar of God, we are blessed. Thank you, also, to all who are commissioned from our Masses to take Holy Communion to those who cannot be with us to celebrate the Eucharist – you powerfully remind us of how big God's family is! **Xièxiè**

**Church environment/decorators/craft:** We don't take for granted those who, behind the scenes, make candles and stoles which are gifted to our newly baptised children & adults. Help maintain, clean and hygienic churches, and those who use their creative gifts to add colour and verve to the ambience of the liturgical space, they wake us up to the different feel and texture of the liturgy as our senses are alerted to the mystery we are about to celebrate. **Grazie**

**Technology & communication.** Our world continues to change and we must evolve with it. From those who assist with technology challenges, those who do the audio-visual each Sunday, and those who help with the live streaming of our OLR Masses. **Gràcias**

**And to you:** Who, like St Joseph, quietly support and encourage, who trust enough to build up and not tear down, who are prepared to be part of the great drama of faith and parish life; may the blessings of the Christ Child be with you and yours this Christmas.

**Thank you.**

### 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

### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal Thank You.

The local Vinnies conferences would like to thank parishioners for your support with their annual Christmas Appeal. They were again overwhelmed by your generosity. Please feel free, over the next few weeks, to place your donation envelopes in any collection basket or box if you have not already done so.



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

Please join us on 6/1/24 @ 7.45am OLR Church Caloundra

### In Transition

We welcome **Edward Miles & Everleigh Little**  
who will be baptised at OLR 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.**

The Parish office will be  
closed until Monday 8/1/2024.

Weekday Mass will continue  
once-a-day **ONLY** at  
OLR church at 9am  
(EXCEPT Wednesdays no Mass!)  
while the Parish office are  
taking a well deserved break.

**Happy Holidays!**

## Parish Diary

### Saturday 6 January 2024

Mass (OLR) 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass (OLR) 5pm

Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

### Sunday 7 January 2024

*The Epiphany 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

**WATCH MASS LIVE**

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

**PARISH STAFF**

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

### What's on around the Parish

You can scan the QR code  
below and this will give you  
what's on around  
the Parish.



Linktree QR Code