

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.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 20/21 January 2024 Year B

Take Your Mark, Get Set... Gospel!

The Church rotates through three cycles of readings over the course of three years. 'Year A' is Matthew; 'Year B' is Mark; and 'Year C' is Luke. The Gospel of John is read every year and is scattered throughout the 52 weeks, most notably during Lent and Easter. Each of the Gospel writers was writing to a unique audience and therefore had distinct motifs to highlight and different portrayal of Jesus to emphasise.

Of all the Gospels, Mark's portrayal of the disciples is the most severe. The overall literary theme throughout Mark's Gospel is



'Jesus the suffering Messiah'. Jesus is constantly seen getting frustrated at his disciples for being so dim witted and having to explain everything to them. The Twelve are often portrayed as foolish and slow in their lack of understanding of in the parable of the sower (Mk 4:10-13), the parable of the yeast (Mk 8:16-18) and their lack of faith in the calming of the storm (Mk 4:35-41). Failure to see Jesus' true intentions enables the audience to see their own failures in the shortcomings of the disciples while highlighting Jesus' faithfulness and love. Despite Mark emphasing the continued failure of the disciples, he nevertheless portrays a Saviour who still loves them and calls them to faithfulness. Similarly, he calls us, the audience, to love and faithfulness in times of adversity and failure.

In today's Gospel, we find ourselves at the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry where He calls some fishermen Simon, Andrew, James and John, to follow Him, which they promptly do (Mk 1:16-20). Mark's Gospel begins with the beginning of Jesus' public ministry indicating a sense of urgency in the mission (Mk 1:14); an urgency to omit secondary details and proclaim the Good News to his immediate audience. This was very likely because Mark's audience was living in Rome and Christians were under imminent persecution and thus urged to spread the Good News quickly and discretely, as death and oppression was approaching.

Jesus challenges traditional stereotypes by calling his disciples. This was unheard of at that time as rabbinic students *always* sought out their teachers. It was the student who asked to follow the teacher not the other way around. Yet, amidst the call of a stranger, they recognised it as a call from God. Discipleship is prioritised as the first story in Mark's Gospel because discipleship is so fundamental, without it there is no Good News, no evangelisation (sharing of the Good News), and no Church.

For us, discipleship means when we encounter Jesus in our lives, (and no doubt we have) something happens. We are confronted with a choice: to continue life as usual or to follow Jesus, eg. the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector (Lk 19:1-10) or even today's calling of the fishermen. We do not know exactly what they said but we do know that after their encounter with Jesus, they were transformed.

Jesus called fishermen who were ordinary people living ordinary lives. What does this mean today? It could suggest that all are called to follow Christ, no matter what our situation in life. Just like Peter, Andrew, James and John, we are called to be disciples of Christ and follow His teachings - and then invite others to do the same from within the ordinariness of our everyday lives.

Disciple well, Fr Gerard

OFFICE CLOSED - This Friday 26th January - Happy Australia Day

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 <u>PARISH WEBSITE</u> www.caloundracatholicparish.net

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PASTORAL CARE olrpastoralcare@bne.catholic.net.au

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

Youth & Young Adults

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. Once again, I thank you for all the support you have given youth ministry over the past two years. We look forward to continuing in bringing Jesus to the young people of our community in 2024.

Youth group will start again for the year in Term 1. The date is to be confirmed. Please keep an eye on the newsletter and social media for more details. Youth group is for high schoolers in Years 7-12. All are welcome and we look forward to journeying with you!

If you feel God is calling you to serve as a volunteer youth leader on Friday nights in some capacity, please don't hesitate to contact me for more details and an initial conversation. There will be a training night for our adult and student leaders coming up very soon.

The Young Adults Group will begin again on Wednesday 24 January from 6pm. Feel free to email me for more details on upcoming events and please continue to pray for youth ministry within our parish and beyond. *Thanks you, Felicity Jones*

Introducing our Speaker for the 2024 Lenten Mini Mission

Our 2024 Parish Lenten Mini Mission will run from **19th-21st February at OLR church**, Caloundra. This year, we have a wonderful new speaker, Jo Hayes. Jo is a television news reporter, Catholic evangelist, and Benedictine Oblate. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and a Master's degree in Journalism. Jo has spent 15 years as a reporter/presenter in the mainstream media - most recently working for Seven News Australia. In the past three years, she has moved into Catholic television and is a regular presenter/host on Shalom World TV. Jo has spent the past seven years in an immersive study of Sacred Scripture, and travels extensively around the world, speaking and teaching on The Word of God, and hosting silent retreats. Jo enjoys keeping fit & healthy and is a keen runner, swimmer and cyclist – and yes, a triathlete!



Our Caloundra Mini Mission will begin with 9am Mass each day, followed by a short

cuppa at 9.30am and the one-hour session with Jo. The same content will be offered each day up at Stella Maris church, Maroochydore with a 4.30pm Mass followed by a 5-6pm session. You can find out more about Jo at www.johayes.com.au



What Does 'Evangelisation' Really Mean?

For a long time I, myself, have toiled with how to both understand and explain *evangelisation*. In 1975, Pope Paul VI wrote that "evangelisation is the Church's deepest identity and mission." This is reflected in our parish's mission, to be a vibrant community that actively accompanies people to encounter Jesus. My friends, evangelisation, at its most basic level is as simple as seeking relationships with others and *inviting* them into something more. In this, our year of invitation, I ask

you: what does this mean for you? Perhaps you might choose to stay behind after Mass for refreshments and talk to someone new. You could try to remember someone's name or even get a name tag and encourage others to do the same. Whatever you decide to do, it's important to look out for the God-given opportunities to invite people into something more. That *more*, is an invitation to do an Alpha course. What is easier: to invite someone to Mass or to a meal and a movie? Alpha offers the opportunity to invite someone into a friendly, supportive and open environment. An environment in which people can make new friends, get one night a week off cooking, ask big meaty questions about faith, and possibly encounter Jesus! Alpha is **the** tool which helps us, as a parish, facilitate our mission.

We have three Alpha courses starting soon: **5-7pm on Tuesday 30th Jan** at Caloundra, **Thursday, 12-2pm on Thursday, 8th Feb** at the Southern Cross Village Community Centre in Little Mountain, **and Friday, 10am-12noon on 2nd Feb** at Landsborough. *Please consider this your personal invitation from me to do an Alpha course.* We have experienced so much fruit from nearly 150 parishioners who have already completed Alpha. They have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, a new desire to give from the wellspring of their gifts and talents, and many people even discovering the desire to actively accompany other people in the faith. Alpha is fun, interesting and free! Will you step out in faith by saying "Yes" to this invitation, which really comes from Jesus? For more information, you can scan the Linktree QR code in this newsletter or simply call the parish office on 5430 9390 between 9am-1pm Mon-Fri.

In Transition

We welcome **Nate, Harper & Bobby Sedevcic & Leon Hervieux** who will be baptised at OLR this weekend. We pray for **Brian Lynam** who died last week. His funeral will be on Thursday 25th January, 11am at OLR. May his soul and the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners **Rest in Peace**. We acknowledge the First Peoples of the land on which we celebrate our Eucharist and live out our faith.

Grief Support sessions for interested parishioners

The Grief Support Team is introducing small group sessions for interested parishioners starting on **Friday 2nd February** after **9am Mass** (9.45-11.15am) in Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Centre. Feel free to attend without any commitment or cost. It is hoped that you will gain further understanding of the difficult Grief journey and feel supported in the uniqueness of your own experience.

The following topics will be discussed over a period of 6 weekly sessions:

- The Nature of Grief
- Managing Difficult Emotions
- Nurturing the Wounded Self
- Remembering the One Who Died
- Making Needed Adjustments
- Who am I now?

Inquiries: Phone Kath Watson 0415572060

Unity College Chapel

Mass will be held in the Unity College Chapel each Wednesday morning at **7.50am starting 7th February 2024**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Live Streaming

OLR 9.30am Mass are looking for more people to be trained to Livestream. You will be only rostered on for one Sunday per month. Please contact the Parish office if you are interested.

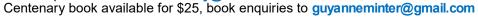
Music practice: Sacred Heart Centenary Mass.

Practice sessions for the hymns for the Maleny Centenary Mass will be held on **Thursday 25 January at 9.00am** and **Saturday 3 February at 9.00am** at the Sacred Heart Church, Maleny. We encourage all those who will be at the Centenary Mass on Sunday 4 February to come along and rehearse the music. All are welcome.

Maleny Centenary Invitation

Each year we aim to share one event as a united parish. Last year we celebrated Our Lady Of the Rosary's Feast Day at OLR. In 2024 it is Maleny's turn. Parishioners from all our communities are very welcome to help celebrate 100 years since the first Catholic Church was opened in Maleny. We'd love to see you join us on **4 February from 9am-1pm at Sacred Heart Maleny.** Mass will be at 9am with Archbishop Coleridge presiding. Celebrations afterwards include morning tea, the centenary book launch, a history slideshow, time capsule and free lunch. Parking will be limited, car pooling is advised. Car parking attendants will be on duty. What better way to help celebrate our unity as a parish.

Event enquiries: sacredheartmaleny@outlook.com





PARISH PRIESTS

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

OLR - PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caloundra 07 5491 4522 Acting Principal: Tracey Gerrard

UNITY COLLEGE

Caloundra South 07 5490 5777 Principal: Brett Jones

Parish Diary

Monday 22 January Mass (OLR) 9am Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

Tuesday 23 January

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

Wednesday 24 January

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

<u>Thursday 25 January</u>

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

Friday 26 January Australia Day

Mass (OLR) 9am Adoration/Rosary (Lands) 8am Mass (Landsborough) 9am

Saturday 27 January Mass (OLR) 9am

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

Sunday 28 January

4th 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

Linktree QR Code



Fr Vicki Howard - Parish Secretary

Edgar Pitargue - Accountant Bernadette Bain - Communications Felicity Jones - Youth Minister <u>WATCH MASS LIVE</u> https://www.facebook.com/ caloundracatholicparish/

