



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

Beerwah | Caloundra | Currimundi | Kawana | Landsborough
Little Mountain | Maleny | Unity

Palm Sunday - 23/24 March 2024 - Year B

Bodily Prayer to the God Who Took Bodily Form

As Palm Sunday kicks off the final leg of our Lenten journey, we encounter a haze of rituals, followed by a dry week, followed by more haze at the Triduum. Rituals are *bodily prayer* and form part of the Catholic (and Orthodox) genius. Admittedly in recent times, Catholics have shifted emphasis to the spoken word and mental prayer, but these have been for cultural and historical reasons rather than theological. As a result, the rituals which remain with us can at times seem trite.

It is precisely in Holy Week then, that I encourage you to rediscover the bodily dimension of our liturgy. Are you prepared to *feel* the boredom of the long days ahead? How will you use them? They need not be filled with prayer which is mental or verbal: what about a walk? Pilgrimages are an ancient form of prayer. The experience of being away from home and distractions are a chance to let the journey itself be a prayer – a prayer that says, “Jesus I have put everything aside and I can’t return to it in an instant; I am just going to be present to you around me”.

Our ritual pilgrimages, that is, – our processions on Palm Sunday for pastoral reasons (or perhaps medical!) start just outside the Church and then we go in. However, processions proper – to this day – begin at one church and terminate in the main Church/Cathedral/Basilica in places like Europe. Built into our pastoral considerations is a compromising of the experience of making to God a bodily offering – *a bodily prayer*. Nothing is stopping us from a contemplative walk (or walking to Church) from time to time.

On Good Friday, among other rituals, we will make a bodily offering, a bodily prayer, a bodily statement, by kissing the cross. If actions speak louder than words, then we are loudly saying: “I love you Jesus”. Sports stars often reach to their necks, pull out a cross and kiss it following a try. Their mouths are silent, but their body has prayed. When a parent kisses their child – the mouth is silent, but the love is communicated with equal force. Do you have a cross or image which you kiss/bow to? How do you show your affection for God on this side of death?

At mass, we make a sign of the cross. The early Christians spoke forcefully about the power of making the sign of the cross as a way of warding off evil. We need not become paranoid about evil, but with our arms we claim from God, Jesus’ dedication of himself to us on the cross?

At Easter we get sprinkled with Holy water. A sprinkling evokes the cleansing of baptism. Holy water sprinkled over anything says with the body, what we would pray for with our minds: “Lord keep this person/place/item free from all that is not of you. May it serve to give glory to you and do us good”. Every so often, a parishioner asks me to bless holy water to take home. You are welcome to request the same.

The list goes on and on. We will see these symbols and gestures used over the next week, but the next week merely gathers up a full-bodied way of prayer. For those of you who cannot bring your grand/children to the usual forms of prayer – you may wish to suggest as first steps in prayer: a prayer walk, a silent minute, a cross/image to kiss or venerate, a candle/lamp to light, a rosary to hold and the sign of the cross to learn. I leave it with you.

See you at the ceremonies! *Fr. Francis*

Community Life

Our team consists of John, Elaine, Viv, Donna and Janice who meet regularly to plan and promote hospitality and welcoming events. We also offer physical support to all our 11 different mass communities.

Progress lately has been:

- Hospitality events after different masses around the wider parish are attracting an increasing number of parishioners e.g. 9:30am Caloundra Sunday cuppa after mass, is having numbers between 50-100+ people depending on weather, Nipper training etc. New friendships and acquaintances are being made judging by the buzz from chatting.
- Saturday 5pm Caloundra mass now has two “wine & cheese” nights per month.
- Many more parishioners are ordering and wearing name badges which includes the name of the community where mass is attended. The name badges have proved very effective in creating more open and welcoming communities. Well done everyone!! Name badge orders will remain open at a subsidised cost of \$5 by contacting the parish office, or via linktree. It’s not too late!!!
- Caloundra Sunday 6:30am is now holding two hospitality events a month after mass-“tea & toast” and “cuppa & muffin” with 3 events planned for this month including “hot cross buns & a cuppa” for Easter Sunday to celebrate Easter & welcome our many holidaying visitors.

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

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- Harmony Day (celebrating multiculturalism) is being celebrated at several mass communities with the wearing of orange and bringing a plate of traditional cultural food.
- Caloundra Sunday 9:30am mass holds three hospitality events a month with a 4th event hopefully happening soon. We need a few more volunteers please.
- Community feast days are being encouraged, planned and supported with the next one being Kawana celebrating Good Shepherd feast day on April 21st.

How can you help? Progress in creating a "vibrant community" could be increased markedly with more hands.

Offers of help can be sent to Janice at cp.communitylife@bne.catholic.net.au

From Janice, John, Elaine, Viv and Donna

Rehearsals for OLR Caloundra Easter Ceremonies

With Holy Week fast approaching, we will be holding Rehearsals. If you have volunteered to assist with the big liturgies at the OLR Caloundra church, see below for rehearsal dates. Your attendance is needed:

- ◆ Holy Thursday - Friday 22nd March 2-3.30pm
- ◆ Good Friday - Tuesday 26th March 2-3.30pm
- ◆ Easter Vigil - Wednesday 27th March 2-3.30pm

Bach's St. Matthew's Passion is Fully Booked

please do not come if you have not registered, we will put it on again next year.

Ecumenical Sunrise Service

On Easter Sunday, ministers from various denominations including our own Fr. Francis will be co-celebrating a *Sunrise Service* in the Park on Shelly Beach. All who wish to share in the Easter dawn experience of St. Peter and St. Mary Magdalene are welcome! The service will run from 6am to 6:30am.

Alpha Retreat

The Holy Spirit was very much present as we celebrated our latest Alpha retreat day at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Beerwah.



55 people from three different Alpha's, all running concurrently in the parish, came together to learn, laugh, eat, pray and encounter Jesus in powerful ways.

Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful day! Look out for our next season of Alpha commencing in April.





12th April
8:30 am - 5 pm
Our Lady of the Rosary
Parish, Caloundra

For primary school aged children.
A day filled with fun, games,
activities and engaging
messages and prayer.



More info here

www.encountercatholickids.com.au/caloundra



Encounter Kids Holiday Program

Our Parish is offering a one-day holiday program for Primary Schoolers in Prep to Year 6 on **Friday 12 April.**

The day will be held in the Parish Centre (Egan Room) from 9am-3pm with supervision available from 8:30am - 5pm. Cost is \$25 for one child, \$40 for two children; 3rd child and any after are free.

Scan the QR code or visit

encountercatholickids.com.au/caloundra for more information.

On the Journey

We welcome **Oscar Stegert & Emer Walsh** who will be baptised at OLR this weekend.

We pray for **Clare Pennisi & Marg Hillard** whose funerals will be held on Tuesday the 26th March 11am at OLR and Wednesday 27th March 1pm at Gregson & Weight Caloundra respectively. May their souls and the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners **Rest in Peace.**

Introducing our Newest Staff Member: Beth Davies, Mission Coordinator



I am Beth Davies and I am excited to be taking on the Coordinator of Mission role in the parish. I look forward to beginning my journey with Our Lady of the Rosary Parish next weekend for the Easter Ceremonies. While many of you don't know me, I have been calling Caloundra my home away from home since I was a teenager, as my family would come for a yearly break in the area. I worshipped in the old church and remember the tragedy of the fire that claimed that building. I also remember having Mass outside when the new church was still in construction. In the last few years, on my own holidays, OLR Parish has been a welcoming community to engage with, and a beautiful place to encounter Jesus. Now I find myself in the blessed position to call this parish and this town home.

I am born and bred in Brisbane and I have been active supporting and volunteering in Youth Ministry; engaging with those new to faith; and facilitating welcoming environments for worship and fellowship in Brisbane. Until this time, I have participated in the Mass at Emmanuel City Mission and draw life and strength from the joy and the challenge of worshipping alongside people from a diverse range of backgrounds. I am passionate about seeing people fully alive in their faith and embracing the 'more' that the Father has for us all, every single day. I look forward to meeting many of you and learning about your vibrant and engaging community.

I pray you all have a blessed Holy week. Beth Davies

Parish Music Mass and Meeting

All those who are currently involved or would like to be involved in playing or singing at Mass are invited to a **9am Mass and Discussion** at OLR church on **Saturday, 6th April**, next month. This Mass, during the Octave of Easter when we celebrate eight Easter Sundays in a row, will have a full music roster, led by the 6.30am Mass choir. The aim of this Mass is to offer music ministers an opportunity to be nourished without having to serve. This will be followed by a gathering in the Egan room to share your *current* experiences serving in this ministry, as well as hopes for the *future* - particularly with regards to the ways in which God is inviting us to grow in this ministry.

We'll see your smiling faces on **Saturday, 6th April, for 9am** Mass at OLR church.

Wanted Please

If anyone has any pyx, bibles or prayer books that they no longer require, could please donate them to the Parish.



These will then be distributed by Pastoral Carers for people in their homes and nursing homes.



Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

The annual Ecumenical Stations of the Cross organised by the Catholic and Anglican churches will be held at Mary MacKillop Centre in Beerwah on Good Friday at 10am. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome.

PARISH OFFICE Ph: 07 5430 9390 (After hours pastoral emergency 0431 099 854)

OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm

caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au

Holy Week Easter Mass Times

Monday 25 March

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

Tuesday 26 March

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

1st Rite of Reconciliation (Maleny) 8.30am

Mass (Maleny) 9am

Wednesday 27 March

Mass (UNITY) 7.50am
Liturgy (OLR SCHOOL) 9am
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

Holy Thursday 28 March

NO MORNING MASS

Mass (OLR) 6pm
Mass (Landsborough) 6pm

Good Friday 29 March (Office closed)

Stations of the Cross 10am

Caloundra
Maleny
Beerwah

Veneration of the Cross 3pm

Currimundi 10am

Little Mountain
Caloundra
Kawana
Maleny

Easter Vigil Saturday 30 March

NO MORNING MASS

Mass (OLR) 6pm
Mass (Beerwah) 6pm

Easter Sunday 31 March

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

Easter Monday 1 April

Parish office is closed

Mass (OLR) 9am



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