



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8.30am –3.30pm Monday to Friday

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First Sunday of Advent

“Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” – Mt 24:40-42



PASTORAL TEAM

Very Rev John Daly PP VF
Parish Priest

Rev Andrew Hogan
Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan
Liturgy & Sacramental

Miss Nadia Fregonese
Stewardship & Adult Faith

Mrs Denise Tuzes
Visitation & Bereavement

Mrs Diana Pippia
Office Manager

Mrs Kaye Andersen
Receptionist

Bundaberg NET
Youth Ministry

SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**
Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston
sjbrok.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 07 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School**
Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt
stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au
Ph: 07 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**
Principal: Mr Mark Fox
saintpatricks.qld.edu.au
Ph: 07 4152 1380

Shalom College
Principal: Mr Dan McMahon
shalomcollege.com
Ph: 07 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church
16 Powers Street

St Mary's Church
Cnr Barolin & Boston Streets

St James' Church
38 See Street, Bargara

OTHER CONTACTS

Diocesan Safeguarding
Melissa Davey: 1800 830 113

Centacare: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 07 4151 5455

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

AFTER HOURS

**Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies**
Phone 07 4151 6666
& follow the prompts

FOCUS by Fr Andrew Hogan

The life of a Parish Bulletin takes on many and varied incarnations: in summer heat it becomes a readily available substitute for a fan or a shield from the penetrating sun; at times it is a rude and obvious distraction during the homily; for the more creative, planes are produced and artwork added. What often goes into the Church as a pristine and flat sheet is left in a crumpled disarray following mass. Some make it to hand bags and the back seats of cars while others journey to the fridge as a reminder of events during the week to come.

The Bulletin exists to form and inform. It is a means by which our knowledge of the scriptures and particular aspects of the Church and her teaching can be developed. It is a form of communication between the pastoral leadership of the Parish and the Community that it serves. It provides us with information so that we can participate in the life of the Church beyond the Sunday Eucharist.

With these significant goals in mind, as you can see from this weeks' Parish Bulletin, attempts are being made to ensure that the Bulletin achieves its goal and has the longest possible life span from its production before it faces its demise in the recycling bin. This not only serves to make the Bulletin more attractive to our own Community, it is sign, be it a small one, that we take pride and put effort into the work of the Church.

LITURGY

Gathering on this First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that we are called to be ever vigilant; living in expectation of the second coming of Christ. With the busyness of our lives, it is easy to gloss over these beautiful four weeks and preoccupy ourselves with other things. However, now is the time to stop, wait, listen, and prepare ourselves for Christ's unexpected coming.

STEWARDSHIP

Be mindful of all the opportunities around you to share love and the gifts God has given you. We will all be held accountable in the end, but it is not what we have done that will save us. Our salvation lies in the grace freely given to us by Jesus. When we choose to receive that gift and intentionally follow him, we are led to giving over our entire being totally to him.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? The Season of Advent

Advent is a season of joyful anticipation and expectation. But for what specifically? Certainly not for the birth of the Christ Child - that occurred more than two thousand years ago. This season links us with all those who lived in the era of longing for the coming of the Messiah. But he has come and lived among us.

What if the anticipation and expectation were to focus on how we can continue to make present the living Christ in each and every moment of our daily lives? Jesus himself set the agenda for us: we are to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, freedom for those who are oppressed and abused. What would the Advent season look like if this, rather than materialism, was the main focus of our joyful anticipation and expectation?

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LITURGIES

Monday 28 November

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass
10:30am Mater - Mass

Tuesday 29 November

9.00am St James - LWC
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 30 November

Feast: St Andrew
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 1 December

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 2 December

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 3 December

Memorial: St Francis Xavier
7.30am St Mary's - Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY 4 December 2016

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year A (I) Psalter Week 2

Saturday

6.00pm St Patrick's

Sunday

7.00am St James'
8.00am Holy Rosary
9.00am St Mary's
12.00pm Baffle Creek
5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Gospel

Mathew 3:1-12

NOTICES & EVENTS

Combined Collection This Sunday : This weekend a Second Collection will be taken up for the *2016 Cathedral Conservation Appeal* and the *2016 Holy Spirit Seminary Regional Appeal*. Envelopes available at the end of the pews. Please give generously ~ Thank you.

Mass Ministry Rosters : The 2017 January, February & March Rosters are currently being prepared. Please notify the Parish Office by Friday, 2 December 2016 if you will be unavailable for more than a month during this period. Remember, if you're going to be away this December, please arrange your own replacement. Don't forget to update your calendar and diary with your rostered dates.

Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2016 : 'Emmanuel' is a 72 page pocket-size book featuring beautiful religious artwork and short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2017). Available at all Church entrances and from the Parish Office. Only \$3.00.

Christmas Carols : Sunday, 18 December 2016 at 4:30pm at St James' Catholic Church, Bargara. Followed by a Cuppa & Christmas Goodies. All welcome.

Mass of Reconciliation : A Mass of Reconciliation will be held on Wednesday, 19 December 2016 at 5:30pm in Holy Rosary Church. The First Rite of Reconciliation will be available after Mass.

Children's Sacramental Program : Prayer Partners needed !!! Please write your name under the photo of a child and pray for that child as they prepare for their Sacraments.

Children's Christmas Mass : Held this year at 5.00pm, Saturday 24 December 2016, in Holy Rosary Church. Children can participate in this Mass either as a character in the Christmas dramatisation, a reader, or gift bearer. Parts are being allocated on **Wednesday, 30 November 2016, 3.30pm in the Novakoski Centre** (behind Holy Rosary Church). Just turn up if you're interested in being involved. For more information, contact Anne at the Parish Office, 4151 6666.

The Loft (Student Accommodation) : Only a few rooms left for the 2017 intake. Affordable accommodation for tertiary students and apprentices in Brisbane. Bookings and down payment by 15 December 2016. For more information please telephone (07) 3359 0239 or 0468 515 130 or via email theloftsa38@yahoo.com or visit the website www.theloftsa.com.au.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased : John Gunn; Winifred 'Dixie' O'Keefe; John Hartley; Stephen Michael; Giorgio Asnicar; Beta Felesina (Italy); Silvio Carosi (Canada); Paul Ziebarth (Brisbane); Kevin Grieve (Brisbane); Lenore "Marie" Mooney; Maxwell Graham; Terry Whitworth; Hubert Classen; John Beston (Redbank); Barry Raxworthy (Sydney); Jocelyn Connolly (Brisbane); Carmela Cavallaro.



Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus warned his followers to be ready for his return and the advent of the end-time. How are you preparing for the return of the Son of Man?

Isaiah 2:1-5

In what ways do you see our nation open to hearing and obeying God's word?

Romans 13:11-14

Paul cultivated a sense of urgency for the faith with the Christians in Rome. How can we do likewise in our faith communities?



In relationship with Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we serve joyfully as a people beloved and called by God.

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SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

Advent means "Coming". During this season the liturgies encourage us - as we look forward to the Christmas celebration - to reflect upon the mystery of God's coming among us. It is a season of expectation, reminding us that we live in time.

The irresistible march of time has puzzled philosophers since ancient times. We shall learn a great deal about ourselves, if we get in touch with the moods that shape our lives – moods that almost invariably involve the passing of time: our hopes and fears, our yearnings and disappointments, our sense of achievement, the lessons life is teaching us. Our faith should help us to situate this pattern of our lives within the designs of God. Where the march of time is leading us has only become clear, of course, because God has made known to us why the world was created. If God had remained silent, time would seem like an ever- going nowhere. Since Old Testament times, however, God's people have been given a growing awareness God's designs – through the divine gifts of faith and hope. A greater familiarity with the Scriptures – in this time of renewal - can give us a more lively awareness of the unfolding of God's generous plan, and of our place in that plan. An authentic faith is inseparable from a strong Christian hope – the certainty that God's generous and merciful designs will be fulfilled: in the whole of creation, and in the lives of each one of us.

Today's readings remind us of this hope. The writings of the prophet Isaiah are filled with the message of hope. It is not surprising, therefore, that they will be used in the Advent liturgies of the coming Sundays. Today's reading speaks of the future God has in store for the whole human family - as the fulfilment of all our hopes. The nations of the earth will live in harmony – swords will be made into ploughshares and spears into sickles. The peoples of the whole world will come to share in the blessings of Israel, knowing the life-giving "ways of the Lord" and "walking in his paths". But the prophet reminds those of us – who, though we claim to be God's people, are often unfaithful to our calling - that we must play our part in God's great plan: "Let us walk in the light of the Lord".

The whole message of Paul's teaching is the Good News that the intervention of God that determines the whole course of the world's history has taken place in the life, death and triumphant resurrection of the Saviour – summed up in his words, 'You know "the time" has come'. And he gives us a vivid comparison: with the coming of Christ it is as if the darkest night has suddenly given way to the full light of day, revealing Christ as our life and our protector. In the gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus urges his disciples to situate themselves within the designs of God, because these designs are approaching their mysterious final climax. Christian hope, he teaches us, lives in constant readiness to welcome the Son of Man.

John Thornhill