

Our Vision:

Nourished by
Word and Sacraments,
we go out,
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
to welcome and share
God's Love respectfully,
with all people.



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

Office Hours: 9.00-3.00pm Monday to Friday

 Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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 www.bundabergcatholic.net.au

 07 4151 6666

Welcome to the Parish

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

8th/9th February 2025

“Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch”

Jesus demonstrated his unfamiliarity with the culture of fishermen on three counts in the Gospel today. While the crowd was large, a fishing boat was hardly an appropriate choice for a podium from which to teach. What's more, in asking Peter to move into the deep and let down his nets, He proved that He knew nothing about the way in which fishermen plied their trade. They invariably used two boats in tandem with one net stretched between them. They then manoeuvred their boats to encircle the fish before dragging their catch into the nearest boat. Moreover, no experienced fishermen would dream of paying out his nets for a catch in broad daylight. Fishing was a night-time occupation. Daytime was for preparations. Still, Peter complied with Jesus' suggestion, humouring Him rather than anticipating a catch of any worth.

The huge, unexpected catch struck him immediately as miraculous, making him conclude that he was in the presence of holiness. The only response he could think of was to declare his unworthiness. Without agreeing with Peter or uttering even a single word of criticism, Jesus invited Peter and his companions to a very different kind of fishing: enticing people to experience the in-breaking presence of God in the world. That's a deep-water venture if ever there was one!

In the Gospel today, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow Him. They were fishermen, likely illiterate and not scholars of Scripture. Yet, Jesus saw potential in them. He calls ordinary people to be His disciples, showing that anyone willing to follow Him can be used for His purposes.

The fishermen's response is immediate. They leave everything and follow Jesus. This act of leaving behind their livelihood and security demonstrates their trust and commitment. It teaches us that following Jesus often requires sacrifice and a willingness to let go of our own plans. Jesus' choice of these unlikely followers highlights that He values a willing heart over qualifications. He does not look for the most educated or the most skilled, but for those ready to give themselves fully to Him. This gives hope to all of us, as it shows that we don't need to be perfect to be used by God.

Our call to follow Jesus is similar. We might feel unqualified or unworthy, but Jesus invites us to trust Him and follow Him wholeheartedly. By answering this call, we embark on a journey of faith, trusting that Jesus will guide and equip us. Like the fishermen, we are called to leave behind anything that hinders our commitment and follow Jesus with our whole heart.

The disciples experience on the lake that day led them to trust Jesus.

Can we trust Jesus enough to embark on a similar venture?

Source: God's Word 2025

By Bill Goodwin

Principal

St Mary's Primary School.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

If you have a child who will celebrate their Sacraments this year **you must attend one** of the **Parent Information Sessions. Contact the Parish Office to Register or use the QR Code**

SESSION TIMES:

Wednesday, February 12th 5.30pm in the Parish Office.

Saturday, February 15th 10.30am in the Parish Office.



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg respectfully acknowledges the Taribelang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Bailai Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the country in which we live. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Don White PP
Parish Priest

Rev Sijo George
Associate Pastor

Grant Sutherland
Seminarian

Br Ted Magee
E.O/ Visitation, Property & Stewardship

Ms Pauline Leahy
Lit, Mus, Sac & RCIA Co-ordinator

Mr Jeffrey Caluag
Finance, Marketing & Property Officer

Mrs Jan Aplin
Safeguarding Representative &
Bereavement Co-ordinator

Mrs Sandra Fox
Receptionist

PARISH STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Mrs Kaye Beston
Chair

Ms Madonna Davitt
Deputy Chair

Ms Nadene Pettett
Secretary

Members:

Dr Ken Avenell

Mr Steve Jenes

Miss Clare O'Rourke

Mrs Helen Stanley

Dr Preshy Varghese

Mr Matthias Visona

Mr Michael Walker

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Joseph's Principal

Mrs Monica White

sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 4151 4771

St Mary's Principal

Mr Bill Goodwin

smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 4152 2167

St Patrick's Principal

Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard

spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 4152 1380

Shalom College

Principal

Mr Dan McMahon

shalomcollege.com

Ph: 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church

14 Powers Street

St James' Church

38 See Street Bargara

Parish News and Announcements

COMMISSIONING OF PARISH STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



After a process of nomination and discernment, the new and ongoing members of our Parish Stewardship Council were commissioned last Sunday.

The first meeting of the new Council was held on Wednesday evening and you will receive a report of this shortly.

We express our gratitude to the five new and five ongoing members and assure them of our prayerful support as they begin their term of office.

PASTORAL CARE PRACTITIONER – HOSPITAL AND VISITATION.

The Parish is seeking the services of a person in a part-time capacity in this new role in the Parish.

The successful applicant will support and work with Hospital Faith Visitors and Visitation Ministers.

Appropriate qualifications are required.

To receive a copy of the Position Description, please contact the office 4151 6666 Expressions of interest will close on **Friday, February 28th**.

POST MASS BRIEF MEETINGS: Fr Don would like to meet with all Mass Assistants and Sacristans for a short time after the 6.00pm, 8.00am and 5.30pm Masses this weekend.

VISITATION MEETING : On **Wednesday, February 19th**, there will be the monthly meeting of all involved in Visitation.

The meeting commences at **10.30am** and there will be a cuppa before the meeting from 10.00am.

Please "save the date" as we hope to finalise arrangements for all regulatory requirements at this meeting.

All present ministers and anyone who is interested in this ministry are very welcome to attend.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 COOK ISLANDS

DATE: Friday, March 7th

TIME: 9.30am

LOCATION: Bundaberg Uniting Church

Barolin Street.

Everyone is welcome.

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING : Our Diocesan Safeguarding Representative (Graham White) will be holding two training sessions in the Parish Office on **Monday March 31st** at **10.30am and 5.30pm**. To maintain full compliance of our obligations, all parishioners who perform a ministry within the Parish (Cleaners, Readers, Communion, Visitation and many more) are required to attend this training.

DIRECT DEBIT GIVING: If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. **Thank you for your support.**



EL SHADDAI PRAYER GROUP

Novakoski Hall 10.00am
Sunday 9th February.

~

FR JOHN MAIN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Weekly Session

Tuesday: 10.00am-10.30am

Sessions are held in the
Chapel in the Parish Office.

New members welcomed

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton

abides by the principles of the **National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2022)**, and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults. For further information or support please contact the **Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office:**

Response Line: 1800 830 113
(free call)

Email: pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net

Diocesan website for more information:

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/>

To view the **Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk commitment statement and policy:**
www.rock.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html

OTHER CONTACTS

Graham White: 4887 3080

Diocesan Safeguarding

Catholic Care: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4339 3700

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Mater Hospital: 4153 9539

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

AFTER HOURS

Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies

Phone 4151 6666

& follow the prompts

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH OPEN HOURS

Holy Rosary Church will be open weekdays from 9.00am – 3.00pm. On weekends and Public Holidays, it will be open a short time before and closed soon after any liturgies or rituals in the Church.

Gospel Meditation

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

My parents' garage is full of old junk that no longer serves any purpose in my life. As a 46-year-old man, I admit that's pretty lame. Either due to my sentimentality or laziness (or both, probably), I just couldn't get myself to throw things away. But a few days ago, by a grace of God, I thought: "I'll hire my nephew Ryan to throw a bunch of my stuff away – he couldn't care less about my junk!" And you know what? It worked. In one day, Ryan chucked the majority of his uncle's useless stuff. I feel so free, ready for a new junk-free chapter in my life.

This kind of thing happens in this Sunday's Gospel. Peter's net is full of useless junk. Luke says he and the others are cleaning their nets after catching no fish. Imagine them dejectedly and impatiently removing a nasty assortment of seaweed, sticks and muck. The Lord teaches and calls them once their nets are cleared out. So it goes with us. Spiritual life begins by removing that which is useless and merely taking up space in our hearts, minds and lives. Then Jesus teaches and acts in a marvelous way in our lives, too.

So what's junking up your net? What habits, attachments, possessions, preoccupations? If, like me, you struggle to clean your nets by yourself, ask the Lord to send you someone like my nephew to be your "Peter" and help you clean it out. It is well worth it. Once Peter's net is clean, he is free to make a wonderful catch. - Father John Muir ©LPi



Passionist
Family Group Movement
A Ministry of the Passionists

The family groups hope you all had a safe, happy and fun-filled Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming existing and new members. On the 1st of April we will be celebrating 25yrs of the Passionist Family Group in the Bundaberg Parish.

In 2024 the leaders of the family groups had been focusing on and will continue to focus on the Motto, Goals and Aims of the movement. The motto of the Passionist Family Groups is all about **"A Family for All"** Singles, Young couples, Widows, Divorced, Married, married with children, Catholic, non-Catholic, church-going or not with a good cross-section of ages that mirror an extended family.

With gatherings once a month the groups celebrate important milestones, help support each other through sickness and loss. The gathering range from picnics, games afternoons, casserole nights etc, just like any family does.

It's about building relationships and getting to know one another, extending acceptance, support and experiencing Christian life with others and feeling part of "A Family".

The more people know each other the more they are seen to become involved in the life of the Parish Community. Pastoral needs such as visiting one another, helping each other in times of need, continue to build community and help people understand what belonging to church really means.

The Passionist Family Group Movement is a place where genuine love and friendship can be experienced, as St Mother Teresa said *"Do something beautiful for God"*.

Why don't we make that "Something" in 2025 the promotion of the Passionist Family Groups. What better "Something" can we imagine in the 25th Year of Passionist Family Groups in our Catholic Parish of Bundaberg.

Helen Mackie- Mackillop PFG