



Welcome to the Parish

*Social Justice Sunday*

23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> August 2025

## To see Christ in the poor and poor in Christ

by: Margaret Naysmith  
President St Vincent de Paul Bundaberg

I am honoured to be appointed Conference President of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Bundaberg, and with Vice Presidents Dennis Beckton and Faye Scherer and a dedicated team of Vincentians, we operate a Support Centre to assist individuals and families with essentials such as food, clothing, household goods, furniture, prescription medicines, education assistance, and other support according to circumstances and need. As Vincentians, we value empathy, understanding, and care for everyone, especially the marginalised, the poor, and the vulnerable. "To see Christ in the poor and poor in Christ". Many people from various backgrounds are experiencing poverty, and a growing number are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless; many are facing high rents and other rising costs like power bills and car repairs, and many are dealing with other difficult circumstances such as unemployment, domestic violence, mental health issues, addictions, and other health conditions that require travel and incur medical costs, all of which is putting more demand on charitable organisations like Vinnies.

The St Vincent de Paul Society assists people experiencing disadvantage and adversity in their lives by offering a range of essential services and programs to alleviate the various social and economic pressures many in our community are struggling with, and in Bundaberg this includes:

- *Emergency Relief & Family Support- Bundaberg Support Centre assists people in need every week;*
- *Disaster Relief - Bundaberg Conference has assisted with relief for floods, bushfires, and droughts;*
- *Housing & Homelessness Services – Bundaberg Men's Hostel, and at the former St Mary's Church grounds construction has started on a social housing complex as part of the Society's response to the housing crisis;*
- *Child & Family Services – Bundaberg Family Intervention Service supports families referred by the Department of Child Safety;*
- *Youth Programs – Bundaberg Vinnies Youth offers activities such as Buddies Days and other mentoring opportunities;*
- *Education Assistance – Bundaberg Support Centre each year assists hundreds of students with school and education needs;*
- *Migrant & Refugee Support, and Overseas Development – Bundaberg Conference financially supports 15 Twin Conferences in India to allow Vincentians across India to support locals in need; and*
- *Vinnies Retail Stores - in Bundaberg at 18 McLean St, 68 Johanna Blvd Kensington, and 37 See St Bargara.*

Vinnies stores offer value shopping by recycling and selling a wide range of quality items at affordable prices, and also provide opportunities for people to volunteer and stay active, share their skills and learn new skills, and to contribute to the 'good works' of the Society. Vinnies shops also raise the funds needed for the support services and programs offered in the community. Our operating costs are minimal to ensure most of the proceeds from the sale of goods in Vinnies shops goes directly to benefit the marginalised, the poor, and the vulnerable. In the last (2024-25) financial year more than 4000 people were assisted via the Bundaberg Support Centre. It's a number we expect to increase, and this support is only possible because of donations from the community, both material and financial.

In my 20 years at Vinnies, both in Sydney and Bundaberg, I've seen an increase in families facing financial hardship, and certainly there's been an increase in those who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless. It's for this reason that as a caring Catholic charity in the service of Christ, the Society continues to be a well-respected and much-needed organisation in the community. As Vincentians, we aspire to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love which we do by actively assisting people who are dealing with crisis in their lives, giving them support and opportunities to overcome difficulties and to achieve better outcomes for themselves and their families.

On behalf of all members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference and all staff and volunteers of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Bundaberg, thank you for supporting the Leaving Appeal and for your continued support of Vinnies, it's very much appreciated. It's great to have the parish community behind us. Peace be with you.

# Parish News and Announcements

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev Don White PP**  
Parish Priest

**Rev Anthony Nguyen**  
Associate Pastor

**Grant Sutherland**  
Seminarian

**Mr Jeffrey Caluag**  
Finance, Marketing & Property Officer

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

**Mrs Jan Aplin**  
Safeguarding Representative &  
Bereavement Co-ordinator

**Ms Judy Pidcock**  
Pastoral Care Practitioner

**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 Jenés**  
**Miss Clare O'Rourke**  
**Mrs Helen Stanley**  
**Dr Presly Varghese**  
**Mr Matthias Visona**  
**Mr Michael Walker**

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Principal**  
**Mrs Monica White**  
[sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au)

Ph: 4151 4771

**St Mary's Principal**  
**Mr Bill Goodwin**  
[smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Ph: 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Principal**  
**Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard**  
[spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au)

Ph: 4152 1380

**Shalom College**  
**Principal**

**Mr Dan McMahon**  
[shalomcollege.com](http://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

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2025-2026

### Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving homeless people with mental ill-health

In this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis reminded us, as Christians, of our "fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope." *Taken from the social Justice Statement 2025-2026*

Shalom College is very excited to announce the formation of our very own St Vincent de Paul Society Conference called, 'Holy Rosary Conference'. Our aim is to include our Primary School staff, marking a new chapter in our commitment to compassion, community, and faith in action.

Since mid-last year, we have been quietly supporting the community each week through the provision of bacon and egg rolls or wraps every Friday of the school term. Michael our Vinnies Youth Engagement and Development Facilitator, collects these rolls and delivers them to the St Vincent de Paul support office who hands them out to those in need.

It was through this idea we began our Holy Rosary Conference, in the hope we can build on it over the coming years to eventually allow us, through a grant, to purchase a van to go out into the community.

Looking ahead, our outreach continues to expand with upcoming projects including:

- **Christmas and Easter Hampers** to brighten the holidays for families in need.
- **Care Bags** with essential toiletries for those experiencing homelessness.

**Service isn't about grand gestures — it's about showing up, consistently and kindly.**



**SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2025-2026:** To read the full statement click on the below link.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2025/08/06/signs-of-hope-on-the-edge-social-justice-statement-2025-2026>

**SEASON OF CREATION:** Starts on **September 1<sup>st</sup>** with **World Day of Prayer for Creation** and concludes on **Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>** with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, The patron Saint of Ecology. The theme for 2025, "**Seeds of Peace and Hope**," had been chosen by Pope Francis to be in harmony with the Holy Year dedicated to "Pilgrims of Hope". The 2025 message also coincides with the 10th anniversary of the late pope's 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si", on Care for our Common Home," from which Pope Leo's message cited extensively. "In Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, "seeds of peace and hope, " Pope Leo wrote.

**ALPHA RETREAT:** A retreat experience is a highlight of Alpha courses.



All parishioners are invited to a Retreat/Reflection afternoon on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September** at **St James's Church**. You do not need to be a participant in the current Alpha course to join the Retreat. The afternoon begins with a welcome Sausage Sizzle at **12.00 noon** and concludes at 4.30pm. Afternoon tea is provided. The NET members will join and lead some afternoon sessions.

**Register your interest by phoning the Parish Office on 41516666.**

**IN STOCK NOW: GIDGEE UNDER THE CROSS-Coal dust and sugar in the blood.**

A history of the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton founded in 1882, written by Maree Ganley. The Parish Office Bookstore has limited copies available for purchase at \$60.00.



**CWL BUNDABERG DIAMOND CELEBRATION:** The Parish community would like to congratulate the Bundaberg CWL (Catholic Women's League) for their **60yrs** of service to the Bundaberg Parish and the wider community.

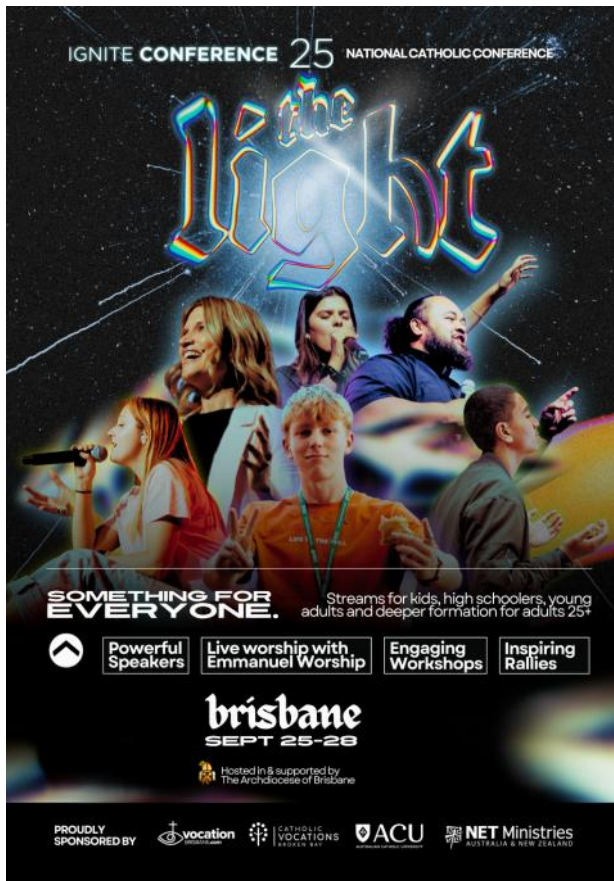


**DIRECT DEBIT GIVING:** If you wish to make a donation to our parish, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. **Thank you for your support.**





## Parish News and Announcements



### Ignite Conference: The Light

Ignite is a National Catholic Conference for young Catholics to experience real world formation, powerful worship and encouragement in their Catholic faith in an exciting, and ground-breaking way.

All high school students are welcome to travel down to Brisbane for the 2025 conference with the NET team as part of our diocesan group.

This year Ignite runs from **September 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.**

For more details scan the QR code or contact Mick on **0433 897 973** or

**youth@rok.catholic.net.au.**



## LITURGIES

### Monday 1 Sep 2025

#### World Day of Prayer for Creation

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass  
6.00pm Holy Rosary  
**Adoration and Penance**

### Tuesday 2 Sep 2025

8.30am St James' - Penance

9.00am St James' - Mass

10.30am St Patrick's

**CWL 60yrs Celebration Mass**

### Wednesday 3 Sep 2025

#### St Gregory the Great

8.00am Shalom - Mass

12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

### Thursday 4 Sep 2025

7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

### Friday 5 Sep 2025

11.00am Holy Rosary- Exposition

11.30am Holy Rosary- Penance

12.15pm Holy Rosary- Mass

### Saturday 6 Sep 2025

7.30am St Patrick's- Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary- Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's -Mass

### Sunday 7 Sep 2025

7.00am St James' - Mass

8.00am Holy Rosary-Mass

9.00am St Patrick's-Mass

12.00pm Baffle Creek-Mass

5.30pm Holy Rosary- Mass

## SCRIPTURES

### First Reading

*Wisdom 9: 13-18*

### Second Reading

*Philemon 9-10, 12-17*

### Gospel

*Luke 14: 25-33*

## WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Suzanne Ostermann, Gwenovlina Mapa (Philippines), Bob Newberry (Traralgon Vic) Judith Conway (Sydney), Leslie Elsey, Marie Logan (Clifton), Lucille Gott, Barry Southeron.

**MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES:** Judith Renshaw 22.08.2024, Edna Christensen 20.09.2014, Sergio De Paoli 20.09.2016, Agostino Asnicar 1.09.2019, Lina Baggetto 30.09.2012, Kerry Maie 08.09.1995, Pietro Felesina 10.08.2022, Pietro Giuseppe "Peter" Felesina 1.09.2001, Damian Mullins 1.09.2024, Fr Pat Mooney 10.08.2023, Kenneth Small 14.08.2021, Terence Cagney 4.08.1990, Genoveffa Lituri 7.08.2023, Stan Bryant 19.07.2023, Marie Schneider 5.07.2024.

**MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST:** Kathleen & Stanton Saroff, Santa Leonardi, Pat Higgins, Szigmund, James & Kelly Families, Fr Pat Mooney, Attard & Zammit Families, Janine Wylie, Szigmund, James & Kelly Families, Jem Ireland, Bill Ireland, Lily Ballinger, Hannah McCall Kemp, Robert Potter, Ron Cook, Ramon D Andres, Rosa A Andres, Joyce Galea, Terence James Cagney, Sheelah Margaret Cagney, Margaret Mary Cagney & Gloria Mary Collins, Br Ted Magee, John Boniface Edwards, Joseph Galea, Giuseppe Matteo Marin, Lavene Bailey, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mick and Mary Galea deceased relatives of the Galea & Zahra Families. Kevin and Doris Whalley.





## PRAYER GROUPS

### United Hearts Catholic Charismatic Group

Next gathering will be held on  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
commencing at 7.00pm in  
Novakoski Centre.

### ROSARY GROUP

The Rosary Group meets every  
Tuesday at St Patrick's Church  
5.00pm and Thursday at Holy  
Rosary Church 5.30pm.

## 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.au](mailto:pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net.au)

Diocesan website for more  
information:

[https://rok.catholic.net.au/our-  
diocese/safeguarding/](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](http://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

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.



Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: "When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table" (Luke 14:10). This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

©LPI

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING VIDEO :** is now available for viewing by those parishioners who were unable to attend the annual March training held in the Parish Office.

You can access the training on-line by clicking on the link below.

<https://rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-training-2025/>

**SPECIAL SCREENING OF SAFEGUARDING VIDEO:** Will be shown in the Parish Office on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September** at either **10.30am** or **5.30pm**. The video runs for 1 hour.  
It can also be viewed any day (Mon-Fri) in the Parish Office between **9.00am-2.00pm**.

**JOHN MAIN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION ONLINE -BUNDABERG:** Silent Prayer of the Heart.

A Journey towards the gift of Contemplative Prayer.

You are invited to participate in this silent form of prayer, **Wednesdays at 7.00pm online** at a zoom gathering. If you are interested, leave your email address with the Parish Office and a link will be forwarded to you. A Guide and Trial is available if you haven't prayed this way before. For more information contact the Parish Office.

**The order of the prayer gathering will be:**

3-5 minute (Welcome and relaxing preparation) Opening John Main prayer.

20 minute (Meditation) 3-5 minute (Closing Prayer and conclusion).

**Everyone is welcome.**

**YOUNG ADULTS CONVERSATION GROUP:** If you are aged between **17yrs and 35yrs**, you are invited to come along to the Parish Office every **Sunday at 6.30pm**.

The group shares food, fellowship and conversation about the Catholic Faith.

**New members are warmly welcomed.**