



# The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8:30 - 3:30 Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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[www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishbundaberg](https://www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishbundaberg)

**Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church**

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

The PRESENTATION of the LORD

2 February 2020

### FOCUS *by Mark Fox*

Richard Leonard SJ, offers this reflection on today's reading.

The word *presentation* is used in two revealing ways these days. In psychology they talk about a “presenting problem.” In medicine, people are said to “present” with certain symptoms. In both cases, the word *presentation* is used to indicate that something more important lies beneath what is first observed. Further investigation reveals the deeper causes and the best course of action.

So to us. We present ourselves in the Temple knowing that God is intimately familiar with us. It is crazy that we should be anything but ourselves before Him. But we sometimes go through the pretence of dressing things up, pretending otherwise or putting on a show.

Today's feast reminds us that when we encounter the presence of God, a range of responses are on display. Just recall the ones in today's Gospel, expectation, hope, frailty, thanksgiving, foreboding, puzzlement, love and joy.

Jesus' presentation enables us to let pass in peace any need to act before God, but rather embrace a new way of encountering God's presence, where we own just how we are, and not how we would like to be. When we do this, we discover the possibilities of a rich, deep and realistic relationship with God. We also find then that it's so much easier to discover with God, the causes and actions that will lead us to healing, fulfilment and peace.

This was brought home for me during a recent retreat with Fr John, when staff were invited to look at their reflection in a mirror, and share what they saw. Among these beautiful people, each saw faults – age spots, wrinkles and so on. Fr John was very clear about the fact that the God we believe in, loves us just as we are, and sees only our beauty and our potential. God has no interest in our faults, accepts where we are on our faith journey and offers His support to help us become the best version of ourselves that we can be.

In my position, I am privileged to know Fr John well, and I see that same quality lived in all of his interactions with everyone he meets. Fr John embraces those within and outside the local church community. He welcomes, accepts and loves people wherever and however they are.

## PASTORAL TEAM

### Rev Peter Tonti PP

Parish Priest

### Rev Gasper Peruvellil

Associate Pastor

### Mrs Anne Sheehan

Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

### Mrs Denise Tuzes

Bereavement Co-ordinator

### Mrs Marcia Sharp

Visitation Co-ordinator

### Mrs Jan Aplin

Parish Safeguarding Representative

### Mr Norm Whyte

Business Manager

### Mr Jeffrey Caluag

Administration & Finance

Co-ordinator

### Mrs Raquel Arriola

Reception

## SCHOOLS

### St Joseph's Catholic Primary

Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston

[sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au)

Ph: 4151 4771

### St Mary's Catholic Primary

Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt

[stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au](mailto:stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au)

Ph: 4152 2167

### St Patrick's Catholic Primary

Principal: Mr Mark Fox

[saintpatricks.qld.edu.au](mailto:saintpatricks.qld.edu.au)

Ph: 4152 1380

### Shalom College

Principal: Mr Dan McMahon

[shalomcollege.com](http://shalomcollege.com)

Ph: 4155 8111

## CHURCHES

### Holy Rosary Church

22 Barolin St (Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Sts)

### St Patrick's Church

14 Powers St

### St Mary's Church

139 Barolin St (Cnr Barolin & Boston Sts)

### St James' Church

38 See St Bargara

## OTHER CONTACTS

### Diocesan Safeguarding

Judy Pidcock: 4887 3080

### The Diocese of Rockhampton

Response Line: 1800 830 113

Centacare: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4151 5455

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

## AFTER HOURS

### Anointing of the Sick for Medical Emergencies

Phone 4151 6666  
& follow the prompts.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### Healing Our Blindness

The value of stewardship living is difficult to see unless we are experiencing that way of life for ourselves. You can read 100 Everyday Stewardship reflections and go to church every Sunday, but unless you are actively growing in faith and trying to live a life of generous stewardship, you cannot see the power of such a lifestyle. Like most things, we need direct, purposeful experiences to really understand.

I worked in a stewardship parish for over 20 years, but it was only after I started treating all I have as God's, and began to actively offer all I am to Him for His glory, that I really got the message. That doesn't mean I am a perfect steward. Far from it! However, the stress and anxiety that comes with life has greatly diminished because all is in God's hands. I choose to act more generously than before, which provides me with a sense of fulfillment and joy. How I act towards my family, friends, and even people I meet daily has changed. Now I am more mindful of their presence, and I seek to give them a part of me that just might change their day and bring them a little closer to Christ. I am transforming into a disciple who seeks to use all I have been given to transform all that is around me.

It would be a shame to be blind to the important things for an entire life. Today, consider taking a path of life-changing stewardship. Give it all to God. In the midst of all you have been given, you just might find God in a profound way. You may even find the real person God created you to be.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

There is a close correlation between what has come from the national discussions and our own diocesan discussions. The Plenary Council themes for discussion and discernment are

### HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST CENTERED CHURCH THAT IS

- MISSIONARY AND EVANGELISING (bringing ourselves and others to live the gospel more closely)
- INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY AND SYNODAL (sharing ideas and inspirations with respect so we can move forward together)
- PRAYERFUL AND EUCHARISTIC (continually seeking the guidance of the Spirit)
- HUMBLE, HEALING AND MERCIFUL (revealing God's healing and ever-present love through our lives)
- A JOYFUL, HOPE FILLED AND SERVANT COMMUNITY (recognising the light of Christ shining even in the darkest time)
- OPEN TO CONVERSION, RENEWAL AND REFORM (recognising our need to change if we are to be a catalyst for good in our world)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Recently Deceased:** Fanny Elizabeth Lourigan, Anita French, Fr John Rasmussen, Audrey Mary Churchill, Elena McGrath



### "Blessing of the Candles"

*Some may remember it as Candlemas, as the liturgy includes the Blessing and Procession of Candles. Christ is "the light to enlighten all nations", and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites.*

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**UNITED HEARTS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** Starts on Tuesday, **4th February** 7.00pm in the Novakoski Hall. Please feel welcome to come along and join in a time of prayer and praise.

**BUNDABERG CWL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Tuesday, **4th February** commencing with a mass in Holy Rosary at 12.15pm followed by a catered lunch in Novakoski Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. For further information contact Maureen 4152 1263.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:** Next session 'Reconciliation' on Sunday, **9th February**, 10.30am OR Wednesday, **12th February** 5.30pm for parents and children. All sessions are held at the parish office.

**ROSTERS:** Rosters are now being prepared for **April, May and June**. It is extremely important, if you are making changes to your Ministry, your contact details or if you will be away for at least a month, to advise the parish office by Friday, **14th February**. Also, if you no longer use your e-mail, please ring the office on 4151 6666.- Judy Vollmerhouse

**LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP LEADERS 2020:** Do you think you have the gifts to be able to lead a small group of people in discussing the Lenten Sunday gospel? Would you be interested in leading a Lenten discussion group, either at the Parish Office or other suitable venue, at a time that suits you, with all resources supplied? If so, please contact the parish office. The Brisbane Lenten program, *Be Opened. A Journey to a New Life*, will be used this year. Groups need to begin forming soon.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED - ST PATRICK'S:** Looking for some people who are able to assist before and after mass, and closing the church and parking area. For further information please contact the parish office 4151 6666.

**THANK YOU:** We have raised a total of \$8,037.10 for the **VINNIES BUSHFIRE APPEAL**. Thank you for your generosity. Let's continue to support St Vincent de Paul in helping people rebuild their lives after the devastating bushfires. The parish office is still accepting donations for those who would like to support this appeal.

### CALLING ALL RETURNING AND INTERESTED STATE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (RI) CATECHISTS

Please note of the following important dates:

Bishop's In-service Day at Shalom College, Tuesday, **18th February**, 8.30am to 3.00pm. You will need to register for the workshops. Please contact Pauline Merefield if you have not registered yet at 0407 589 023 or e-mail [pauline@cqsat.net](mailto:pauline@cqsat.net)

Main training day for all State School Christian RI presenters, Thursday, **20th February** at the Apostolic Church Hall on Ashfield Rd, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Book handout morning, Friday, **21st February**, 9.00am to 12.00pm at Novakoski Hall.

CRI should begin in the schools the week beginning Monday, 24th February. Please contact me or the parish office if you have any questions.

**ARE YOU A NEW PARISHIONER?** We'd love to meet you. Please write your name and details in the new parishioners book at the church door or contact the parish office at 4151 6666.

**New Parishioners Welcome**  
**on Friday, 6th March 2020 at the Parish Office Conference Room**

### **ADULT FAITH by Fr Peter Tonti**

All are welcome to come and depth  
the unfolding love story of the Sacred Scriptures

**WEEK 1:** *Introduction to Discovering the Bible for those who are new to the course. Revision and Scriptures Sharing for the ongoing 2019 Scriptures Lovers*

**WHEN:** Monday, 3rd February 2020, 1:00 pm and repeated at 5:30 pm

**WHERE:** Parish Office Conference Room

*Make a date for the first Monday of each month. Please bring your Bible.*

## LITURGIES

### **Monday 3 February 2020**

*Sts Blaise and Ansgar*

9.00am Holy Rosary - Mass

### **Tuesday 4 February 2020**

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

### **Wednesday 5 February 2020**

*St Agatha*

8.00am Shalom - Mass  
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

### **Thursday 6 February 2020**

*St Paul Miki and companions*

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

### **Friday 7 February 2020**

*St John Bosco*

12:15pm Holy Rosary - Mass  
1.00pm Holy Rosary - Adoration

### **Saturday 8 February 2020**

*Sts Jerome Emiliani and  
Josephine Bakhita*

7.30am St Mary's - Mass  
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance  
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

**9 February 2020**

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Year A (2)*

7.00am St James'  
8.00am Holy Rosary  
9.00am St Mary's  
11.00am Carinity  
5.30pm Holy Rosary

## **SCRIPTURES** *for next Sunday*

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 58:7-10

**Second Reading**  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

**Gospel**  
Matthew 5:13-16





## SCRIPTURE REFLECT and RESPOND

### Malachi 3:1-4

Four hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Malachi spoke of “the messenger of the covenant” who would be sent to refine and purify the Jewish community. How would you assess the current state of your own faith community in terms of its refinement and purity?

### Hebrew 2:14-18

The author of Hebrews writes that Jesus was like us “in every way,” even being tested, suffering, and dying. In what ways are you most tested in your life?

### Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph receive further revelations about the infant Jesus during the Jewish presentation rite in the Jerusalem Temple. How do you imagine they supported each other with these revelations about Jesus?

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

## CHRISTIAN GIFT and BOOKSTORE AT THE PARISH OFFICE

**Open: Monday to Friday  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

*In association with the  
Rockhampton Cathedral  
Gift and Bookstore*



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise  
of many in Israel.” - Lk 2:34a

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Very often, having more light is not something we desire as it forces us to confront something we really do not want to see. There can be comfort found in darkness. It has an eerie sense of security to it. We do not have to challenge ourselves or be challenged and can simply exist in some fabricated state of self-fabricated blissfulness. Jesus came to bring light, and it is a light that is resisted by many and hated by some. It is a light that causes us to see things as they really are and not as we would want or need them to be.

It is no wonder then that Simeon boldly and honestly proclaims to Mary, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” We have to take the Gospel message as it is and not just use those parts that are useful to us or more palatable. Taking Jesus at face value can and will lead to turmoil and dissension. Hearts will be pierced. Whether we like it, Jesus’ proclamation of what the world God created really ought to look like has real and absolute social implications.

It has a lot to say about how we treat our brothers and sisters: spiritually, personally, economically, and globally. It has everything to do with the poor, the immigrant, the scared, the unborn, the vulnerable, the sick, and the broken. The light opens us to a challenging, table-turning experience that may not be something we want to see but shows us where we need to be.