

St Peter's Catholic Parish

Rochedale • Springwood

Serving the Rochedale and surrounding communities since 1974

PARISH PRIEST

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HELP CENTRE

Phone 5561 4712

MISSION STATEMENT

"Saint Peter's Parish is a community who lives in faith of Jesus Christ and, moved by the Spirit, continues to grow in our love for God and all people."

Third Sunday of Advent—Year A

11th December 2016

Pastor's Note:

Isaiah 35: 1-6; Matthew 11:2-11. Has He Come? Did I Meet Him Somewhere in My Life?

The text from Isaiah is a prophetic announcement of salvation and portrays the hope at the end-time in the midst of a seemingly dire situation. The central theme of the proclamation is the renewal of creation and human salvation. *Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, "courage, do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming... he is coming to save you" (Isaiah 35:3-4).*

The gospel presents the forerunner John the Baptist put in prison for criticizing Herod the ruler. John was a man of the desert, of no fixed abode; his life was that of a hermit, with the freedom of heart. To someone like him in prison would have demoralized him. May be, he is in confusion as about his role and that is why he sends his disciples to ask Jesus, 'Are you really the one or are we to wait for another?' He was totally committed to preparing the way for the Lord, and then in prison, just before he dies, he doubts, asking Jesus if he is really the one? John's faith was slipping and he needed, he craved support. And Jesus just answers that the prophesies about the Messiah are being fulfilled: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear - of course, I'm the one, and happy is the one who does not lose faith in me. The Greek word for 'lose faith' is *skandalon*; happy the man who is not scandalized by me, not scandalized by me being no apparent help at all. We can all be scandalized by God's being no apparent help at all and thereby lose faith in him. Faith has to survive utter barrenness, and it can happen to the best of us, as we heard about the life of Mother Teresa who had been deprived of faith, she felt, for many decades. And the final point is that finding faith doesn't get rid of our barrenness. John remains in the prison, Jesus on the cross, even when their faith is restored. The same happens with us. God does not take our cross away, he just says, *Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, take up your cross and follow me.* He only helps our spirit, which can learn from him and follow him, yet our spirit will be alone with that burden. The faith of Jesus and John the Baptist fell over when their burdens became too heavy. The gospel writers did not try to cover this up or hide it for propaganda purposes, but let everyone see it; if their faith stumbled, so will ours. We will lose our faith when burdens are unbearable, but no one wants that loss to destroy our faith, but to make connections to life and to God.

How much are we prepared? How far we have gone to meet with God in this Advent? Join the **Night to be with God on Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm** for renewing faith and enkindling our hope in God. Also, be there for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation on 19th Monday at 7.30 pm** so that we are ready to wait for the Lord and his coming.

Fr Jacob Chacko, MCBS

Readings *Third Sunday of Advent*

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 God himself will come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10 You must also be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

Readings for next Sunday: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

IN OUR PARISH THIS COMING WEEK:	
MON 12th December	8.00am Mass 7.30pm Liturgy meeting
TUE 13th December	St Lucy 8.00am Mass 8.30am St Vinnies hamper collating begins 7.30pm Christmas Reflection
WED 14th December	St John of the Cross 6.30am Mass 8.30am St Vinnies Hampers finalised 7.00pm Music Ministry meeting
THU 15th December	No electricity today - Office closed
FRI 16th December	9.00am Rosary 9.30am Mass
SAT 17th December	7.30am Parish Working Bee—many helpers!! 5.00pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
SUN 18th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent 9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass

Can you spend just one hour with Jesus!!! Reflection night 7.30 pm Tuesday 13th December. A time of quiet semi darkness in the church. A time to unwind, reflect on the year and feel the closeness of Jesus in prayer and quiet space. Small reflective pieces will be read. Please come along to prepare yourself for the joyful birth of Our Lord Jesus. Only an hour—no longer! All are welcome

St Vinnies' Christmas Hamper Appeal



Last weekend for donations. Thank you for all your generosity. Helpers will be needed to sort the donations on Tuesday 13th & collate and pack the hampers on Wednesday 14th December. Delivery people also needed for 17th December. Start time for each of these days is 8.30am.



Advent Wreath: The candles on the Advent Wreath will be lit at each weekend Mass from now until Christmas. Volunteers will be needed to light the candles.

VOLUNTEER Readers, Communion Ministers & Altar Servers are needed for all Christmas Masses. If you know which Mass you will be attending please consider if you can volunteer to help out in any way. Write your name on the sheets on the back table.

New Communion/Readers Roster ready for collection this weekend.

Parish Working Bee to tidy up the Church in preparation for Christmas Saturday 17th Dec starting at 7.30am. The Gardening Group has already done an amazing job but if anyone wishes to work on the gardens on the 17th that would also be welcome. (Note this is the same day the St Vinnies' hampers are being delivered)

LETTER BOX DROP Can you help with our 'Christmas Greetings and Invitation' letter-drop? Please take some leaflets from outside the Church if you are able to deliver them in your street or local area. Please mark which street you are doing on the map provided.



Children's Christmas Pageant Practice is at 10.30 am on Saturday, Christmas Eve for 6.30 pm Mass that night. All children who would like to be part of the pageant please come. We need angels, shepherds, kings... and of course Mary and Joseph. We also need readers. The practice lasts for a couple of hours. Parents welcome! Help welcome! Contact Jo Cullen on 0419733878 for more info **Musicians and singers** for the 6.30pm Mass please also attend practice at 10.30am.

God's Word 2017—is a Liturgical diary which has the readings for every day from the New Jerusalem Bible, inspiring reflections on the readings of the day and even space to note down important events and reflections of the day. A great resource for yourself or it would make a fantastic Christmas gift—only \$10! - from the back table.

Planned Giving Envelopes: The envelopes for 2017 are ready for those who contribute to Planned Giving in this way. Please collect yours today. Thank you to all who give to our Planned Giving Program either through envelopes, Direct Debit or Credit Card or even direct bank transfer. Your assistance keeps the Parish functioning. We have more envelope packs so if your set is not there or should you wish to contribute or change your current contribution please contact the Parish Office or complete a Pledge Card at the back or the Church and place it on the collection plate or hand it to Fr Jacob or to Julie or John. Thank You **Little Blue Books** (\$4) and **The Word Among Us** (\$5) for Advent available now.

Break Open the Word 2017: now available on the back table. Cost \$18 each. *Break Open the Word* is an invaluable resource for anyone in the Reading Ministry **Volunteers needed:** We still have vacancies on our church cleaning teams and now also we are in need of someone who could **wash and iron the Church linen** once a month. Any helpers would be greatly appreciated. **Bereavement group** is also seeking volunteers. Please contact Julie in the Parish office.

Christmas Date Claimers

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION:

7.30 pm Tuesday 13th December

COMMUNITY 2ND RITE of RECONCILIATION:

7.30 pm Monday 19th December

CHOIR & MUSICIANS PRACTICE:

7.30pm Wednesday 21st December

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT PRACTICE for

CHRISTMAS EVE: 10.30 am Saturday 24th Dec.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th Dec

6.30 pm (Family)

& 9.00 pm (Vigil)

Christmas Day Sunday 25th Dec

9.00 am only

New Year's Eve Saturday 31st Dec 6.00pm

New Year's Day Sunday 1st Jan 9.00am only





Vinnies News: 1. Christmas is fast approaching and we are in the process of organizing Christmas hampers. This is the last weekend for your donations of non perishable goods, toiletries, age appropriate gifts, toys and festive fare. Hampers are a way of bringing a little Christmas joy to those most needy in our community. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Helpers needed at 8.30am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday this week. Contact a St Vinnies member or Julie in the Office for more information.



2. Christmas cards \$2.50 per pack and "Columban Calendars" for 2017 (cost \$9) available from the St Vinnies piety stall

PCI House Supervisor Volunteers Required: Pregnancy Crisis Incorporated (PCI) who assists mothers confronted with an unplanned pregnancy in difficult circumstances require the services of Volunteer House Supervisors for the Charity's safe house. She (or a married couple) will have a separate suite, free rental, free electricity, water and rates, but beyond that this work is a labour of love. This position is a live-in position which oversees the running of the house including the safety and security of our guests and volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer House Supervisor, relief Volunteer House Supervisor or Volunteer Support Worker, please call the President, Patti Camp on telephone: either 1300 777 777 or 07 3892 7662, alternatively email: pci777@bigpond.com or write to PO Box 427, Moorooka Qld 4105.

Foundations for Lay Pastoral Ministry (FLPM) is a course offered by the Institute of Faith Education (IFE) in partnership with Evangelisation Brisbane. Workshops will be hosted starting from April 29, 2017 at the Francis Rush Centre. For more information see the IFE website ife@bne.catholic.net.au or call (07) 3336 9167 or email: www.ife.qld.edu.au

St Gerard's Christmas Festival is on now and will continue every night till 23rd December from 6pm till 10pm. Huge lights display, food outlets, gift shop and free entertainment every night at 7.30pm. Check website for more details: www.olaparishchermside.org.au

Centenary of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Corinda 1917—2017. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brian Finnigan 6pm Sat 28th January 2017 at St Joseph's Church, Corinda. Dinner will follow at the Sherwood Services Club, Clewley St, Corinda. Cost of dinner: \$30 per person. Please contact the Corinda Graceville Parish Office on 3379 1534 or at corindagraceville@bne.catholic.net.au to make a booking.

Become a Mission Ambassador for Catholic Mission. Have you experienced Mission in an overseas context? Have you a heart for sharing the Good News? Do you want to help us make a difference in the world? At this stage, we are simply looking for names and contact details – we will then be in touch early in 2017 to discuss the logistics and clarify your availability and level of interest. Ph 3336 9239 or ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Eduardo dela Cruz, Mary Easton (Anne Hawkins' mother)

Book of Life & Mass Requests: Bernard Luton, Sophie Robinson, Bernard Montegrando, Marie Maguire, Ruth Ballment, Les Harris, Silvia Milaudi, Eddie McDonnell, Alfie Healan, Bobby Smith, Bernie Minton, Bill Smith, Otilie Brandt, Vincent Blundell, Charlie Fry, Anastasia Medcraf, Desmond van der Haar, Mary Becker, Clifford Sharp, Frederick Taylor, Hazel Taylor, Luise Warwas, Lindsay Maiden, Jim Whewell, Philippe de Baritault

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Kevin Kelly, Annette Sparks, Hamish Stuhmeke, Joe Wegener, Roger Byrne, Ingeborg McIntosh, Don Bechly, Brian Button, Ramona Cruz, Bonnie Dematillar, Terri Mills, Johnny Summers

Prayer requests should be recorded on the form on the back table of the church nearest to the lectern.

Please ensure you have the permission of the person who is sick to make their name public.

Roster 17th & 18th December 2016

Communion		Readers		Altar Servers	Musicians
Sat 6:00pm	Faith Coyer John Coyer Kevin Healan	C 1 2	Anthony Della Brooke Della Geoff Hondroudakis	Volunteers please	?
Sun 9:00am	Lydia Chew Stephanie Lenihan Alan Scanlon	C 1 2	Arthur Leow Jo Cullen Mal Jensen	Volunteers please	?
Sun 6:00pm	Deacon Mike Jones Kevin Fry	C 1 2	Anne Fry Lynn White Helen Graczyk	Volunteers please	?

Church Cleaning: 4 Murray Wickman, Efren & Grace Tuazon

Children's Liturgy: none **This week: Linen:** ? **Counting:** Carl's team

Cuppa: Saturday 17th December after 6pm Mass: Anne Maree Collier, Peta Grandin



Are you new to our Parish? If you've recently joined the Parish, **WELCOME!!** Please make yourself known to us. We'd like to formally greet you, so please complete a 'New Parishioners Card' at the back of the Church and place it on the collection plate or hand it to Fr Jacob or to one of the Parish Councillors.

Parish Ministry Group Co-ordinators

In our parish we have many ways you can be involved. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to speak to one of our Co-ordinators whose numbers is not listed.

- Baptism Preparation:** Julie Hondroudakis
- Bereavement Group:** Contact the Parish Office
- Care & Concern:** Transport: 0412267337
Co-ordinator Jo Cullen 0419733878
- Children's Liturgy:** Jodie Baigent
- Family Groups:** Alan & Kristy Scanlon
Facebook: St Peters Rochedale Family Groups
- Memorial Wall & Gardens:** Les O'Gorman 3341 3862
- Mothers' Prayers:** Trish Bakker
- Music Liturgy Group:** Liz Fort

- Parish Pastoral Council:**
Chairperson: Malcolm Carroll
- Play Group:** Kristy Scanlon
- RE Teachers in State Schools:** Rita Bishop
- Rosary Group:** Fridays 9:00am
(1st Fridays 8.30am)
- Social Justice Group:** Erika Meerwald
Facebook: St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group
- St Vincent de Paul Rochedale Conference:**
John Blake

Our Parish Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative is Malcolm Carroll. If you have any questions or concerns contact Malcolm on 0438 949 099 or mcarroll580@gmail.com

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