

# MASS TIMES

## WEEKEND:

**Saturday** - 6:00pm  
**Sunday** - 9:00am & 6:00pm

## WEEKDAYS:

**Monday** - 8:00am Mass

**Tuesday** - 8:00am Mass  
 (Children's Mass during School Terms)

**Wednesday** - 6.30pm  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
 - 7.00pm Mass

**Thursday** - no Mass

**Friday** - 9:30am Mass

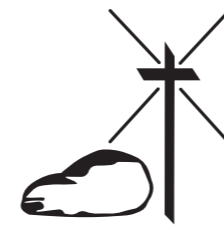
### First Friday

- 9:00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Reconciliation available during Adoration
- 9:30am Mass of Healing and Anointing



**Don't forget** our St Peter's 50th Anniversary on **19th May at 10.30am**.  
 Mass and celebration will take place at the Simon Peter School Hall.  
 Please let past and present of our community know. **All are welcome!**

*Christmas*  
 COLOURING FUN



# ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Rochedale ♦ Springwood

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## Message from Parish Priest, Fr. Johny Edapulavan CMI

Friends, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024. Christmas is finally here. It is a time to relax, reflect, and to enjoy with family and friends. It is a time to share gifts of love. It is the one day when Peace on earth, good will to all people can seem to be a reality. That is the truth of Christmas for us. It is also the Christmas truth for the person living next door, for those we love, for those who are like us and those who are different, for the stranger, and for our enemies. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

So, why do we celebrate Christmas? It is more than the birth of Jesus. It is a celebration of God with us, Emmanuel. It is the realisation that God's love and faithfulness dwells among us. It is a sign that we are to carry that love and faithfulness to others. May the Light that is Christ shine upon you, and the peace of the Child Jesus be yours at this Christmas!

We come together this night to celebrate the coming into our midst of Jesus, the Son of God, knowing that God's gift of Himself, in the person of Jesus, is entirely free. Tonight, my friends, is not a night so much for words, as for silence, for meditation of the mystery of the incarnation. What we celebrate today is not an escape from our world. It is the hope which transforms our world. Hope, which so often is experienced more by its absence than by its presence. Hope which enables us to believe that peace is possible in our world. I believe,

dear friends, that our greatest challenge today, in the midst of all the confusion, conflict and struggle in our lives, and in the lives of those around us, is the task of bring hope to people we meet, in word, in deed, sometimes in sharing of pain or anguish or anger, but above all in love. Our God whose beauty is perhaps best glimpsed in our very poverty. In our world, so full of riches and so full of poverty, it is our task to live our faith at a much deeper level, to bring Christ to our culture, to our poor world, which needs to understand and experience, in whatever way, for forgiveness and the love of God.

Christians celebrate that ordinary night as the most extraordinary event in human history, for on that night "God was in Christ, reconciling the cosmos to Himself." (2 Cor 5:19) Nothing unusual was happening that night to break the tedium of human boredom.

If we look and listen carefully, we realise that, like the shepherds, we too can walk haphazardly by starlight, straight into the kingdom of heaven. When the song of the angels is tilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are at hope, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoners, to bring peace among brothers and sisters, and to make music with the heart that sings.

*Welcome*

St Peter's welcomes everyone, our parish community is friendly and our parishioners always offer a smile and a warm welcome, especially to new members and guests who attend our masses.

We invite you to come along and feel the joy of this special time of year and look forward to seeing you there.

*The Faith  
 Enrichment  
 Ministry*



The Faith Enrichment Ministry of St Peters, Rochedale offers opportunities for parishioners to encounter and recognise God's love and grace at work in their lives, and to explore a variety of expressions of prayer and reflective spiritual practices. Through faith enrichment experiences parishioners might deepen their understanding and experiences of the rich truths, traditions, practices, rituals and liturgical seasons of our church.

## St Vinnies

An Update on the Activities of St Peter's Rochedale Saint Vincent de Paul Conference.



SVDP members (Vincentians) reach out and respond to the needs of those less fortunate or facing financial hardships. The call or visit entails "hearing" what the needs are of the person or family and offers not only financial support but equally, emotional support.

Year to date the St Peter's Parish Conference and Parish have provided support to 1100 souls including almost 400 households. These companions have been supported with food, finances, furniture pharmacy, clothing, and school uniforms to name but a few needs.

Altogether the assistance provided amounts to approximately \$43,000 plus another \$16,000 for The Children's Education Fund and Christmas hampers.

Thank you, St Peter's, for your ongoing prayers and support.

## Baptismal Preparation

The Baptismal Preparation team guides parents through this most important sacrament for their children. Our 3 step process ensures that parents are welcomed, well informed and appreciate the significance of each part of the Baptismal celebration. Please contact the Parish Office to begin the faith journey of your child through Baptism at St Peter's.



## Social Justice Group

Greetings! For the past 27 years, the group, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit had the great privilege and honour to introduce local, national and international justice issues to the parish community. In the process, the parish family was encouraged to become agents of positive social change and make the world a better place for everyone. Wishing our parish family a blessed, holy Christmas.



## Memorial Wall and Gardens

The columbarium was established in 1997 when the western wall St Peter's was built. In recent years an eastern wall St Paul's and the Memorial Garden St Francis of Assisi were added.

As the Co Ordinator of this ministry my role is to liaise with parishioners and relatives who wish to reserve a niche or site for themselves or relatives in the event of the death and cremation.

I'm also responsible for the general upkeep of the two Memorial Walls and Gardens.

It has been set up as a non -profit service within the parish and in comparison, to similar funeral establishments it is quite economical cost wise.

Many parishioners have found solace and peace when visiting their loved ones. Being so close to the church, it is another prayerful area for family and relatives to remember their departed ones.



## Bereavement

St Peter's Bereavement Ministry makes respectful contact with parishioners when loved ones pass away.

Memorial and first-anniversary cards are sent, reassuring families that St Peter's Parish continues to pray with them.

Holy Souls evening Memorial Mass in November invites all parishioners to honour in prayer the lives and souls of their loved ones.

New members are warmly welcome. Contact through the Parish Office.



## Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community who come together with the Priest to share the responsibility for the development of our Community of Faith and the Mission of the Church in our area. Parishioners are able to contact any Council member at any time with their concerns or issues and have them raised at the next Council meeting. The name and photograph of each Councillor is situated on the wall at the back of the church. Councillors also greet parishioners outside the church at each Mass. The PPC meets on the first Monday of each month.



## Seniors Group

An over 65's group, WOW (Wise Owl Wednesday) commenced 2023 and meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12 noon. Seniors enjoy activities of interest and make new friends or catch up with old friends in a safe and caring environment at no or minimal cost. Activities have included Christmas in July lunch, bingo and cards day, book and plant swap day, outing by bus to Logan Big Day Out for Seniors which included a Judy Garland Tribute concert. Morning tea is provided. All seniors are welcome. For further information contact Parish Office



## RCIA Group

Have you ever wondered about the Catholic faith? Our Parish of St Peter welcomes and supports all who enquire about our Catholic faith. You are invited to 'come and see' how a life of faith might be for you. Taking your first step? Contact the parish office 3341 4421 to arrange a chat over coffee or a phone conversation.

