

St Peter's Catholic Parish

Rochedale • Springwood

Serving the Rochedale and surrounding communities since 1974

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Baiyi (By-ye) Gong

Email: pp.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

Phone: 3341 4421 (Parish Office)

For after-hours emergency

call the Parish Mobile: 0481 975 660

DEACON

Rev. Mike Jones

Mobile: 0400 559 177

PARISH OFFICE

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Web: www.stpetersrochedale.org.au

Facebook: stpetersrochedaleparish

Secretary: Julie Hondroudakis

Office: 3341 4421

Fax: 3341 8644

Open: Mon-Fri 8.15am-1.15pm

ST PETERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phone: 3341 4800

Email: prochedale@bne.catholic.edu.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

HELP CENTRE

Phone: XXXXXXXXXX
1800846643

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."

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

24th December 2017

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Make good preparations for the celebrations of Christmas

The jubilant season of Christmas is knocking on our doors. We are very excited about the coming celebrations. Every parish, and even all shopping centres are preparing to celebrate Christmas. They put up beautiful lighting and decorations and prepare heaps of tempting food and drinks etc. However, if you have a closer look, you will notice that the preparations people are making for Christmas are not very different from the ones they make for other secular festivals. As followers of Jesus, what are the proper preparations that we should make for this solemnity?

To begin with, the most important thing is to make spiritual preparations. Religions always stress the importance of spirituality, namely, the relationship between God and us. We believe in Jesus and listen to His teaching. In Him, we try to pursue a calm mind and seek the eternal life in the kingdom of God. It is our hope that one day we can be in unity with God, being in the highest spiritual state in His bosom. So then, what should we do to spiritually prepare ourselves? Firstly, we need to reflect on the religious meaning of Christmas. Why has Jesus humbled himself to take flesh? What grace and change has His birth brought to humankind? What does His birth mean to me as an individual? Secondly, we need to question whether we have tried to practice the religious meaning of Jesus' birth in my day-to-day life? God's Son descended to earth in order to show us the amazing and unconditional love he has for us. At the same time, He called each of us to follow and imitate Him to live a life of love. Have I tried to love the people around me, especially the marginalized and oppressed? Thirdly, we need to check on our spiritual maturity. What spiritual changes have we made since last Christmas? During the past year, have I deepened the love I have for Jesus? Has my relationship with Jesus been closer now than before? Am I now more mature spiritually than I was last year?

In addition to this, we ought to prepare our liturgical celebrations, too. If you are a member of the liturgy committee, of course, you should make yourself familiar with the readings of the day and try to comprehend them fully and deeply. Or if you need to help set up the Masses, you should allow enough time for this to happen and avoid rushing the job. Even if you don't play a role in the liturgical planning, you still have the responsibility to familiarize yourself with the content of the liturgy, the readings and hymns. Then you will be part of the whole liturgical celebration and enjoy the liturgy better. In so doing, you will make Christmas more meaningful and individual. It will be your Christmas.

Lastly, we should prepare our settings and clothing, too. We are not purely spiritual beings but physical ones as well. Having settings and decorations that match the meaning of the festival helps us enter fully into the spirit of Christmas. Appropriate clothing that suggests the importance and jubilation of Christmas will acknowledge our commitment to this feast. So here I would like to remind you: please don't wear clothes that are too casual when participating in the Christmas celebrations.

Dear friends, in every way, please prepare well for Christmas. I wish you a blessed, fruitful and joyful Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and you loved ones.

Fr Baiyi

Readings for next weekend: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Year B Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Luke 2:22-40

IN OUR PARISH THIS COMING WEEK:

MON 18th Dec	Christmas Day 9.00am Mass (Carols 15 minutes before Mass)
TUE 26th Dec	St Stephen 8.00am Mass
WED 27th Dec	6.30am Mass
THU 28th Dec	
FRI 29th Dec	9.30am Mass
SAT 30th Dec	5.00pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
SUN 31st Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass
MON 1st Jan	Mary, Mother of God 9.00am Mass

A Happy and Holy Christmas to all our parish family at St Peter's.



Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December
6.30 pm (Family)
& 9.00 pm (Vigil)

Christmas Day Monday 25th December
9.00 am only



Mass times this week and next weekend are as normal except there will be **no rosary** on Friday and **New Year's Day**

Monday 1st January for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God: Mass will be at 9.00am only

The Parish Office will be closed this week. We apologise for any inconvenience. If you need to contact Fr Baiyi urgently please call 0481 975 660. The Office will re-open for business on Tuesday 2nd January.

Advent Wreath: The candles on the Advent Wreath will be lit for the last time this weekend. Volunteers still needed to light the candles.



Ministers for Christmas Masses are still needed. We still have some gaps to fill on the roster sheets. Please consider if you can volunteer to help out in any way. Write your name on the sheets on the table near the main doors.

Christmas Decorating: We would love your help with decorating the Church for Christmas! This year is tricky with 24th December being both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. We will decorate the church after 9am Mass (which will be the last Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent as the evening Masses will be Vigil Masses for Christmas).

So please come on **Sunday 24th December at 10am.** There are lights to put up, the tree to decorate and general draping with material. (We need people who are able to use ladders with ease also!) We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank You, St Peter's Liturgy group.

God's Word 2018 —is a Liturgical diary which has the readings for every day from the New Jerusalem Bible, inspiring reflections on the readings of the day. A great resource for yourself or it would make a fantastic **Christmas gift**—special deal ** still only \$10!

Please read Archbishop Mark Coleridge's letter in response to the findings of the Royal Commission.

Care & Concern: A very big **Thank you** to all Care & Concern volunteers and committee, Fr Baiyi and Julie for your caring support during the year. Wishing you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas and God's abundant blessings in the New Year. **Lynn Home Communion Ministers Rosters** ready for collection.

Break Open the Word 2018: \$18 each. An invaluable resource for anyone in the Reading Ministry but also for those in the Music Ministry and Liturgy Group.

Christmas Readings

Christmas Eve 6.30pm:

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Gospel: Children's Pageant telling the story from the Gospel of Luke Chapter 2

Christmas Eve 9.00pm

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

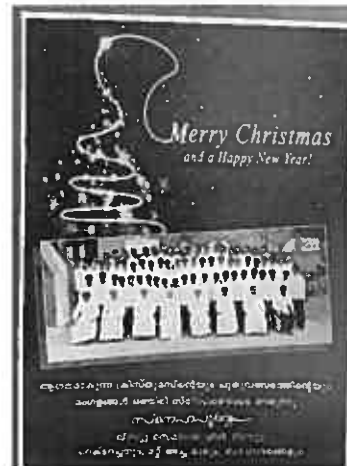
Christmas Day 9.00am

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18.

Greetings from Fr Jacob: Thanks for the signed greeting Card.



I appreciate very much your care and love. May The Holy Child bless you and your families and friends.

I am very happy and of course very busy here in the seminary, teaching, guiding and directing them. I enjoy the work and hence no burden I feel. May your parish and your homes have a Christmas. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a great 2018.

Fr Jacob Chacko mcbs

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy:

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and protected from any harm.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Malcolm Carroll: contact 0438 949 099 or mcarroll580@gmail.com



Beautiful Vinnies Christmas cards for sale after Mass. Pack of 8 for \$4.

Vinnies News: **SVDP Christmas Hampers:** A HUGE THANK YOU from St Vincent de Paul St Peter's Conference to everyone (St Peter's School and Rochedale State School teachers, students and parents, parishioners and friends) for your helpful, thoughtful generosity and invaluable support. Donations of all kinds, time as well as considerable effort, both physical and financial are much appreciated. 44 hampers were delivered locally this week, with extra goodies going to the SVDP Logan Migrant and Refugee Conference. A huge thank you to Woolworths at Underwood and Drakes IGA at Rochedale for their generous support once again this year!! Happy Christmas and God Bless.

Columban Calendars for 2018 also available (cost \$9).

Planned Giving Envelopes: The envelopes for 2018 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 (apologies) 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 Baiyi or to Julie or John. Thank you

Direct Bank Transfer. If you would like to direct transfer your Planned Giving to our bank account, our BSB is 064-786 and Account number is 007021101. Please use your surname and Planned Giving (or PG) as reference. Thank You

Calendar: Reminder to all ministry group leaders: please send in your groups' dates for any events, meetings etc for 2018 so we can prepare a parish calendar of events.

Social Justice News: We have past copies of *New Internationalist* magazines to give away. This magazine covers a variety of Social Justice issues Please take any that you would be interested in reading. Look in the red box at the back of the church. *Erika on behalf of the SJG*

YEAR OF YOUTH 2018: "Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" *Pope Francis Tweet*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Edmund Ho, Evelyn Scanlon, Bishop John Gerry, Michael Bahn, Terri Mills, Noel Christie, Kevin Desbois, Eliza Calabria

Book of Life & Mass Requests: Ronald Kennedy, Bill Carver, Leo Lawlor, Mary Blattman, Patricia Holzknecht, Jodie Louise Ryan, Vera Adcock, Hilary Dempsey, Maurice Malloy, Leonard Stitt, John Bray, Christine Fitz-Gibbon, Jan Cuskelly, Betty Simpson, Betsy May Burton, Flo Beechworth, Warren Jackson, Joan Marrinan, Jennifer Ann Lee, Ronald Connors, Kathleen Murray

Please pray for those who are sick, especially John Green, Tricia Dowing, Kathleen Anderson, Kevin Dingwall, Anthony Van Rooy, Evelyn Scanlon, Alan Camp, Ramona Cruz, Ursula Williamson, Kieran McKenna, Sesinando de Leon Jnr, Rev. Dcn. Peter Olsen, Trevor Parker, Sandra Murphy, Fabio Viola, Michael Smith, Peter Harris, Sylvia Privitera, Andrew Briskey, Pat Mildren, Elmore Kotzur, Flex Dance, Monica Ah Koy, Kevin Kelly, Annette Sparks, Hamish Stuhmeke, Joe Wegener, Bonnie Dematillar, 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 30th & 31st December 2017

Co-ordinator		Readers		Communion	Altar Servers	Musicians
Sat 6:00pm	Joyce Lyster	C 1 2	Les O'Gorman David Crowley Jo Cullen	Joyce Lyster Rob Meulman Trish Meulman	Clive Angelina	Tim
Sun 9:00am	Efren Tuazon	C 1 2	Bev de Paola Romana Langdon Maria Chamberlain	Donald Fernando Stephanie Lenihan Julie Hondroudakis	Finn Leo	Rita
Sun 6.00pm	Helen Graczyk	C 1 2	Raylee Burns Bob Burns Fiorenzo Matarazzo	Deacon Mike Jones John Blake Helen Graczyk	Rena Chevonne	Liz

Church Cleaning: 2 Lyndal Bray-Claridge, Kate Guy, Wiasa Beak, Efren & Grace Tuazon

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

Cuppa: no cuppa next weekend 5th Sunday of the month

Other Parish Contacts

Care & Concern: Transport: 0412267337
 Co-ordinator Lynn White 0403 051103
Family Group Facebook:
 St Peters Rochedale Family Groups
Memorial Wall & Gardens: Les O'Gorman 3341 3862

Rosary Group: Fridays 9:00am (1st Fridays 8.30am)
Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative:
 Malcolm Carroll 0438 949 099 or mcarroll580@gmail.com
Social Justice Group Facebook:
 St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group

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