



St Peter's Catholic Parish

Rochedale • Springwood

Serving the Rochedale and surrounding communities since 1974

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Jacob Chacko

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ST PETERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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."

Christmas

25th December 2016

Pastor's Note:

The Nativity of the Lord: Merry Christmas. Luke 2:1-14: Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to...

The night Mass at Christmas, whether at midnight or earlier, has a unique feel about it. The sense of expectation built up over the four weeks is coming to a climax and what remains is joy and celebration! The festival is building over with symbols of the season (holly, ivy, Santa, and whatnot) and with people's heightened emotions on Christmas day. Moreover, the mystery that we come across is so much more than anything capable of being put into words and that is why celebration means a lot to speak its spirit. There are people inside the Inn when the Birth of Jesus happened. For them this birth was an irrelevance: it didn't touch them and they showed no interest. To them it was just an external knock on the door, and they just kept going on with what they were doing. Place yourself among the shepherds, and these are the people who are open to wonder. They can accept good news, for they are already part of a simple faith tradition; they shared the practices, hopes, and fears of the people, but were also ready to respond with faith to the voice of God. You can be like Joseph, caring for the welfare of the Faith Community, working in the community, taking on special responsibilities towards the Word made flesh. He is the one co-operating fully with God at the risk of his life. And we can be like Mary bearing Jesus in our own life and carrying the loving presence of the Son of God in this world divided and confused due to many social issues including starvation, poverty and no place to live their life. So we can be the living presence of the Holy Child bringing great hope to the despair of the people by our love, care and sharing.

Amidst the excitement and confusion associated with Jesus' birth, we learn that his mother Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart' (Lk 2:14). She acknowledged that God had done great things in her life, as we recite in the famous Magnificat prayer. None of the many layers of wrapping had gone unnoticed by the mother of Jesus. She never forgot the goodness of God and the tremendous blessing that he had given, not only to her but to his Chosen people. We sometimes forget Jesus and the blessings he has given us through his birth as one among us. A Christmas without the Word made flesh is no Christmas at all, but only a season's celebration as it happens in the commercial world.

As for me, this Christmas is very special. This is my fourth Christmas in Queensland and three of them with you, my parish community. As many of you know, *I am returning to my country by the beginning of March 2017, and hence this is my last Christmas in Australia.* So I had been trying to make it a special one, going through each day of Advent with its wonder and joy. **Just be there and to imbibe into this great experience of God-with-us, Emmanuel. May I wish you a Merry Christmas - to you in person, to your family and friends.** As we go home from Mass today, let us remember to notice everything about the presents that we receive from those who love us. *And, think creatively about those who are deprived of these things not only on Christmas but throughout their lives.*

Fr Jacob Chacko, MCBS

Readings Christmas

Christmas Eve 6.30pm: Isaiah 9:1-7 Children's Pageant telling the story

Christmas Eve 9pm & Day 9am:

1st Reading—Isaiah 9:1-7: A son is given to us.

2nd Reading—Titus 2:11-14: God's grace has been revealed to all people.

Gospel—Luke 2:1-14: Today a saviour has been born for you.

Readings for next weekend: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21



IN OUR PARISH THIS COMING WEEK:

MON 26th December	St Stephen 8.00am Mass
TUE 27th December	St John 8.00am Mass
WED 28th December	The Holy Innocents 6.30am Mass
THU 29th December	
FRI 30th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 9.30am Mass <i>NOTE: No Rosary group today</i>
SAT 31st December	New Year's Eve 5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
SUN 1st January	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 9.00am Mass <i>NOTE: no evening Mass</i>

Collections at Christmas Masses:

There will be two collections held at Masses this Christmas.

The first is to support our Parish of St Peter's and help with the day to day operational expenses.

The second collection will support the work of our parish chapter of St Vincent de Paul to help those in our local area most in need during 2017.

Thanks for your generosity with both these collections.

Care & Concern - on behalf of the Care & Concern Committee, we would like to sincerely **thank Jo Cullen** for her amazing contribution as Co-ordinator & Funerals Team Leader through the years. Jo's contribution has been invaluable, inspiring, selfless, and has touched many lives in serving St Peter's parish and the wider community in this regard. Thank you Jo. We wish you the very best.

A very big **thank you** also to parishioners and our community at large for your support at our very well attended **Care & Concern Christmas luncheon**. It was a most enjoyable afternoon with proceeds going to St Vinnies. Many thanks to all our committee members for their excellent support and contributions, and in particular **Rita Bishop**, for her tireless efforts and organisation in ensuring the day went off without a hitch.

We also take this opportunity to **thank** all the **wonderful volunteers** for their generous support in 2016, and wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and God's blessings for 2017.

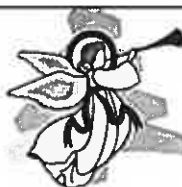
Many thanks, Lynn White

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

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.



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



**Mass times next weekend for the
Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God**

New Year's Eve Saturday 31st Dec 6.00pm

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

God's Word 2017—Daily Reflections 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.

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 & also those in the Liturgy Group and Music Ministry!

New Communion/Readers Roster: some rosters still waiting for collection this weekend.

Home Communion Ministers: New Rosters for January to March are available for collection.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the working bee last weekend & setting up on Friday night. The church and grounds look lovely for Christmas.

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



Vinnies News: **Raffle:** A BIG Thank You to Carmel Northey-Cherrett and all who contributed in any way to the recent raffle. Just over \$1000 was raised to help us help the needy in our area in 2017. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought and sold tickets. Thanks for your support. Prize winners were: Lyndal Bray-Claridge, Pat Smith, Pauline Angus, Val Holzberger, Anne Scanlon, Rob & Trish Meulman, Catherine Brown and Anna Carver. Congratulations!

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. Over 40 hampers were delivered locally last weekend, with extra goodies going to the SVDP Logan Migrant and Refugee Conference, Logan East Neighbourhood Centre. 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.



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.

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.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

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

Book of Life & Mass Requests: Leo Lawlor, Mary Blattman, Patricia Holzknacht, John Moy, 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, Daniel Lourigan, John Mackintosh, Ann Praske, Fr Tom Concannon

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Flex Dance, Michael Ah Koy, Monica Ah Koy, Mary Menso, 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 31st December 2016 & 1st January 2017

Communion		Readers		Altar Servers	Musicians
Sat 6:00pm	Mal Jensen Lyndal Bray-Claridge Shelagh Ballment	C 1 2	Peta Grandin Michael Claridge Neil Ballment	Volunteers please	Liz
Sun 9:00am	Deacon Mike Jones Bev de Paola Marilyn Mills	C 1 2	Stephanie Lenihan Monica O'Leary Maria Chamberlain	Volunteers please	Carmel
	NO Evening Mass		NO Evening Mass	NO Evening Mass	—

Church Cleaning: 6 Neil Mone, Greg Rosso, Michael Porter, Dona Thomas

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

Cuppa: Sunday 8th January after 9am Mass: Tongan community & Julie Hondroudakis & Marilyn Mills



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
- 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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