

# ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Rochedale Springwood

Since 1974

955 Rochedale Rd, Rochedale

## Third Sunday of Advent

11th December 2022

Readings: **Isaiah 35:1-6,10** **James 5:7-10** **Matthew 11:2-11**

### John is the voice, and Christ is the Word

*The third Sunday of Advent tells us 'Gaudete, rejoice!' because the Lord is near. On Gaudete Sunday, the dark penitential violet may be lightened to what the documents call 'rose' but most laypeople would call 'pink'. Rose is a lighter version of violet, because today the penitential violet is mixed with the white of the approaching festival. However, there is nothing wrong in keeping violet as violet. Ultimately the liturgical colours are there to serve us, not we to serve them. Below is **an excerpt of a sermon by Saint Augustine**, talking about the difference between John the Baptist and Jesus. It is a good reading for this weekend as the gospel reading for this Sunday continues to be about John and Jesus.*

*Enjoy Reading.*

*Fr Baiyi*

John is the voice, but the Lord is *the Word* who was *in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: *The word ought to grow, and I should diminish?* The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: *My joy is complete.* Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offence to the word. *I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet.* And the question came: *Who are you, then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."*

*(Please turn to page 2 to continue reading)*



#### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Baiyi Gong

Email: [pp.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pp.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au)

Phone: 3341 4421 (Parish Office)

After-hours emergencies: 0481 975 660

#### 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."



December		In our parish this week
Mon	12th	8.00am Mass 7.00-8.30pm Advent Reconciliation
Tue	13th	<b>St Lucy</b> 8.00am Mass
Wed	14th	<b>St John of the Cross</b> 6.30am Mass
Thu	15th	No Mass
Fri	16th	9.00am Rosary 9.30am Mass 6.00pm Young Adults Christmas Party
Sat	17th	5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 7.00pm Christmas Carols on the lawn
Sun	18th	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 9.00am Mass (No children's liturgy) 6.00pm Mass followed by Cuppa and chat.

**Advent Reconciliation** Monday 12th December 7pm to 8.30pm. There will be 4 priests offering Individual Reconciliation. Please book in for a timeslot with this QR code.



**Care & Concern – a Christmas Craft stall** will be available to purchase unique craft items on the church veranda at this weekend's Masses. Great gift ideas for Christmas.

**Planned Giving: Envelopes for 2023** are ready for collection.

**Readings for next weekend:**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent (Yr A)**  
**Isaiah 7:10-14    Romans 1:1-7    Matthew 1:18-24**

*Reflection Continued from Page 1:*

What does *prepare the way* mean, if not “pray well”? What does *prepare the way* mean, if not “be humble in your thoughts”? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory  
If he had said, “I am the Christ,” you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.  
He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

**LETTER BOX DROP** Thank you to those who have already delivered cards to 15 areas in our parish. We have one final pack left which needs to be delivered before Christmas. If you can help to deliver to this one final area, please grab the bundle. Thank you.



**St Vinnies Christmas Appeal:** A Big Thank you to all those who donated to the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Your gift gave hope this Christmas to those less fortunate.

**A Night of Carols:** Everyone is welcome to come along on Saturday 17th December 7pm (after 6pm Mass) on the grassed area beside the church. The youth will lead us in singing the carols. BYO picnic rug or chair. Tea, coffee and cocoa provided.



**Books for sale in the church or Parish Office**

**Heart of the Disciple** - \$5 - a 28 day prayer and reflection resource for Advent or anytime.

**Break Open the Word 2023** - \$20 - a fabulous resource for those who are Ministers of the Word.

**God's Word 2023** - \$15 - Liturgical diary with all of the daily readings for 2023 plus daily reflections.

**The Catholic Leader** - December edition - \$4 (Gerard is on the cover!)

**Those who have died:** Kay Topping, Clyde Spearitt, Gerard Gillen, Graham Swan, Mary Joseph, Denis Lyons, Kathy Pickering

**Book of Life & Mass Requests:**

Mary Becker, Clifford Sharp, Frederick Taylor, Hazel Taylor, Luise Warwas, Lindsay Maiden, Jim Whewell, Philippe de Baritault, Margaret Quigg, John Jolley George, Thelva O'Shea, Ethel Bevan, Noela Parker, John Francis Doyle, Mary Duncan, Gagry Patingale, Margaret Lynch, Margaret Bradley, Hanorah Henderson, Rod Caligari, Udhav Mone, Emily Jane Mahony, Sarah Hamill, John Pulley, Maria Riccobon, James Glancy, Clare Breen, Kevin Mullins.

**Please pray for those who are sick, especially:**

Reg Van Rooyen, P.J. Paul, Maureen Flynn, Ray Kelley, Lien Pham (Maria), John Donohue, Harriet Ling, Steph and Les O'Gorman, Kaye & Len Torrens, Rhonda Lawson, Margaret Woltmann, Sr Lila Galvin, Margaret Linnett, Meryl Elliott Mitchell, Robert Fuchs, Teresa Leong, Mel Singh, Pat McDonnell, Katie Costello, Kathy Jensen.

Please contact the Parish Office via phone or email to add names to the list for Prayers for those who have died or who are sick. Please ensure you have the permission of the person who is sick to make their name public prior to contacting the Office.



**PARISH OFFICE**

955 Rochedale Rd, Rochedale  
Open: Mon—Fri 8.15am-1.15pm

Phone: **3341 4421**

Website:  
www.stpetersrochedale.org.au

Facebook: stpetersrochedaleparish

**Secretary:**

Julie Hondroudakis  
Email:  
stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

**Co-ordinator of Lay Ministries:**

Josephine Cullen  
Email:  
lm.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au  
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**Youth Ministry Co-ordinator:**

Chloe Chivers  
Email:  
youth.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

**ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Craig Acret  
Phone: 3341 4800  
Email: prochedale@bne.catholic.edu.au

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELP CENTRE**

Phone: 1800 846 643

## Faith Matters: The Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

**Rejoice! He is coming:** On the Third Sunday of Advent, we foreshadow the joyful anticipation of the birth of the Christ-child, our Saviour. Our joy is reflected in the rose-coloured *Shepherd's Candle*, and the priest's rose vestment. We pause in our waiting to rejoice, in the expectation of the fulfilment which is yet to come.

The candle-light of our Advent wreath grows and spreads to light our journey to meet Jesus. Just as the farmer watches and waits for the seed to grow, to become a plant, a crop, a harvest to share (1), so do we watch for the accomplishment of the prophets' herald: *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (Isa. 7:14).

### Pope Francis encourages us in prayer:

May the Virgin Mary help us to hasten our steps to Bethlehem, to encounter the Child who is born for us, for the salvation and joy of all people. To her the angel said: "Hail, full of grace: the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). May she obtain for us the grace to live the joy of the Gospel in our families, at work, in **the parish and everywhere**. An intimate joy, fashioned of wonder and tenderness. The joy a mother experiences when she looks at her newborn baby and feels that he or she is a gift from God, a miracle for which she can only give thanks!

We give thanks. Amen.

1. James 5:7-10 2. Isaiah 7: 1. 3. Pope Francis 15.12.13 Angelus, St Peter's Square 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A Gaudete Sunday Isaiah 35: 1-6A, 10

Faith Enrichment Ministry

## Entertainment Memberships:

Support St Peter's Parish Fundraising and get access to \$1000's worth of discount offers and 2 for 1 deals at a huge number of dining, retail, tourism and accommodation businesses. You can purchase a single city (\$69.99) or Multi City subscription (\$119.99) which gives 12 months access to 21 cities across Australia and New Zealand. St Peter's Online Order Page <https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/2224e97>

## Youth Update

New members always welcome!

✉ youth.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au @rochedaleyouth

**Young adults, Bible study** is on Friday the 9th of December, starting at 4pm in the Parish Centre! There will be a charcuterie board to nibble on so come along and join us! Make sure to BYO Bible!

**Young adults! Our Christmas Party** is on Friday the 16th of December at 6pm! Make sure to save the date, and I'll see you there!

**A Night of Carols** is coming up on the 17th of December, where the youth sing Christmas Carols for our parish! Let Chloe know if you would like to join us!



### St Peter's Planned Giving:

We would be very grateful, if you are able, to support the Parish financially. There are several options.

**Via Direct Bank Transfer:** To direct transfer your Planned Giving to our bank account, our BSB is 064-786 and Account number is 100000067. Please use your surname and Planned Giving (or PG) as reference.

**Envelopes, Credit Card or Direct Debit:** Please contact the Office to set these up.

**'Parish Giving' App:** The logo to look for in the app store is a yellow and white cross forming a circle on a purple background. See our parish website for detailed 'User Guides'.

**Tap & Go Donations:** No cash at Mass? Try our donation terminal near the main doors: \$10 donation per swipe to support St Peter's Parish.

Roster: 17th & 18th Dec	Saturday 6pm Mass	Sunday 9am Mass	Sunday 6pm Mass
Mass Co-ordinator	Carl de Mello	Jo Cullen	Helen Graczyk
AV Operator	Michael Collier	Jonny Vigor	Tristan Edison
Readers	C. Marissa Boyles 1. Neil Ballment 2. Shelagh Ballment	C. Alan Vigor 1. Eric Quan 2. Arthur Leow	C. Vickie Routledge 1. Cecilia Lai 2. Anne Fry
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Ann Maree Collier Lyndal Bray-Claridge Carl de Mello	Stephanie Lenihan Julie Hondroudakis Anne Scanlon	Megan Carroll Kate Guy John Blake
Musicians	Liz Fort	Rita Bishop	Liz Fort
Cleaning Group 4: Mary Crowley, Beverly Cramer, John Viola, Francis Yoo, Chris & Callista Jesuthasan.			
Cuppa & Chats after Mass : Sunday 18th Dec: 6pm Mass: Kate Guy, Helen Graczyk & Malcolm Carroll.			
This week 11th -17th Dec:		Sacristan: Prashanthi Selvarathnam	Counting: Mike's group



## Are you new to our Parish? WELCOME!! WELCOME!!

We'd like to formally greet you, so please contact the Parish Office on **3341 4421** or [stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au)

### OTHER PARISH CONTACTS

Care & Concern: Transport: 0450 287 902

♥ Co-ordinator: Lynn White 0403 051 103

♥ Memorial Wall & Gardens:

Mal Jensen 0411 641 312

♥ Evangelisation Task Group Facebook

♥ St Peter's Catholic Parish Evangelisation

### Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Representative: Malcolm Carroll 0410 193 569 or [sgrep.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sgrep.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au)

STOpline: 1300 304 550

Social Justice Group Facebook

St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group

St Vincent de Paul:

New members: John Blake 0411 196 775

## Christmas Date Claimers

**Calling Christmas Musicians:** We would love to have you sing or play at Christmas. If you are attending 9 pm or 9 am Masses at Christmas, please come along to practice on Wednesday 21st December at 7pm. If you can play or sing at the 6.30pm Family Mass, please attend the Pageant Practice.

**Children's Pageant Practice** is at 10 am on Christmas Eve for the 6.30 pm Mass that night. All children who would like to be part of the pageant must attend the practice.

We need children to play the roles in the Nativity story... and we need readers. We would appreciate if parents could complete an expression of interest form asap so that we can prepare. Contact the Parish Office on 3341 4421 for more details.

### Christmas Masses:

**Christmas Eve** Saturday 24th December  
**6.30 pm** (Family Mass with children's pageant) & **9.00 pm** (Vigil)

**Christmas Day** Sunday 25th December **9.00 am** only  
Please note: there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

**Feast of the Holy Family** this year will be celebrated on Friday 30th December with Mass at 9.30am.



**Christmas Church Decorating:** Please come along and help decorate our Church home at 6pm on Friday 23rd December. We have lights, tree and tinsel to put up! Many hands make light work, so we hope to see you there! Some people with ladder confidence required for the Christmas lights.



DO YOU KNOW?

## Advertise Your Business Here

Don't Miss out!! Business advertising.

This is a great opportunity for any parishioners in our congregation who would like to advertise their business or workplace in the Parish Newsletter. Your business will be showcased on our website, facebook, emails to parishioners as well as hard copies available at the church each week.

If you are interested in promoting your business in our community and new estate please contact Jo in the Parish office for pricing and more details.

### St Peter's Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands October 2023:

If you would like to join us or to receive more information, please contact **Stephanie Lenihan** at [salenihan@hotmail.com](mailto:salenihan@hotmail.com) or mobile: 0413 268 860. Numbers need to be finalised soon so please contact Stephanie asap.

### Please check the LOST PROPERTY BOX

Are you missing anything that you may have left at the church?

We have 8 Umbrellas, 5 Water Bottles, 2 Glasses in cases, 1 glasses case, 1 Teddy, 1 Bunny and a Child's Jacket Size 10 all waiting for their owners to collect them.

Last chance to check out the **Lost Property Box** on the church verandah.

There are also **multiple platters and containers** in the Parish Centre kitchen left from various functions. Please check and collect any that belong to you. If these items are not collected soon they will be sold and the proceeds given to St Vinnies.

**House-sitting:** Would you like your home, garden and pet minded while you are away? A parishioner's family is coming to Brisbane from 6th/7th January to 27th/28th January and would love to stay in a home in our parish area. Please call Carmel on 0431375065.

## Around the Archdiocese

**Palms Australia - Reach Beyond:** You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

**At Home:** Palms' Neighbours Without Borders program (January 7 - 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

**Overseas:** Completing a further four days (January 12 - 15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

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