

# ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH



**Rochedale Springwood**  
 955 Rochedale Rd, Rochedale 4123  
 Phone: 3341 4421 (Parish Office)



## PARISH PRIEST

Fr Johny Edapulavan CMI  
 Email: pp.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au  
 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."

## Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) 17th December 2023

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11    1 Thessalonians 5:16-24    John 1:6-8, 19-28

### Jesus' Light of the World

John the Baptist's job is "to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths". Jesus' call, 'come and follow me' is for us like those fishermen and the purpose is to dispel darkness. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." As Christians, we cannot be selfish to enjoy Jesus' Light only for us but, we must let that light be reflected through our lives. Let us resolve to receive and then reflect the Light that Jesus is for the whole world. We take a candle into a room to dispel the darkness. Likewise, the Light of Jesus Christ must be taken into the darkness of sin that engulfs the lives of those who are not following Him. The light of Jesus is not just to light up street corners but to bring light to our heart so that we can see who God is and how He loves us.

Following Jesus is the condition of two promises in John 8:12. First, His followers will never walk in darkness and the second promise is that we will reflect the Light of Life. Just as He came as the Light of the world, He commands us to be "lights,". The emphasis here is maintaining a credible and obvious witness in the world, a witness that shows us to be faithful, trustworthy, sincere, earnest, and honest in all that we do. We live amid war, terrorism, genocide, and civil strife. Into this darkness comes the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

His call 'come and follow me' today is for us. The purpose is to dispel darkness that hovers over our world. It starts small with one person refusing to hate and resolving to love. It starts small with one person refusing to be selfish but resolving to reach out; with one person refusing to despair but resolving to hope. It starts with you and me. Jesus calls us to be fishers of people in our family, in our workplace and in our play. May be what we do seem so little but remember what the people are doing after the places of war in a particular area, they reach out to people, one at a time to the bereaved, to the little that they could do in consoling the affected. That is how the light dispels the darkness.

At this moment in history, we are a people who live under a cloud of uncertainty, under the threat from those who hate us. But we pray with the Psalmist: "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should, I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge, of whom should I be afraid? Wait for the Lord with courage, be stout-hearted and wait for the Lord."

### The Advent wreath and candles

The wreath reminds us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

First candle / Sunday: HOPE (The Prophecy Candle).

Second candle / Sunday: PEACE (The Bethlehem Candle)

**Third candle / Sunday: JOY (The Shepherd's Candle):** this candle reflects the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us.

Fourth candle / Sunday: LOVE (The Angel's Candle).

Fr Johny Edapulavan CMI

### In our parish this week: December 2023

Monday 18	Tuesday 19	Wednesday 20	Thursday 21	Friday 22	Saturday 23	Sunday 24
8.00am Mass  6.30pm Second Rite of Reconciliation	8.00am Mass  7.00pm Choir & Musicians' practice for Christmas Eve 9pm & Christmas Day 9am Masses	6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  7.00pm Mass	No Mass  <i>Parish Office closed</i>	9.00am Rosary 9.30am Mass  11.00am Mass at Springwood Terrace (Opal)	10.00am Practice for Children's Gospel pageant at the Family Mass  5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass	4th Sunday of Advent 9.00am Mass 10.30am Decorating the Church for Christmas <b>Christmas Eve</b> 6.30pm Family Mass 9.00pm Vigil Mass

**LETTER BOX DROP** Thank you to those who have already delivered our 'Christmas Greetings and Mass Times' cards. We still have a small number of areas to cover. The cards are all packaged up with maps. If you can, please select your preferred map and card bundle, cross it off on the large map and get some exercise while you spread the word about St Peter's. Thank you.



**Calling Christmas Musicians:** We would love to have you sing or play at Christmas. If you are attending the 9 pm or 9am Masses at Christmas, please come along to practice this Tuesday 19th December at 7pm. If you can play or sing at the 6.30pm Family Mass, please attend the Pageant Practice.

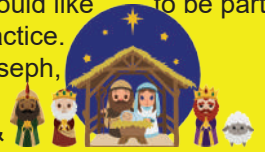


**Mass Ministers needed for Christmas Masses:** Please let Julie know by email or on the slip at the church doors which Mass you will be attending for Christmas and if you would be happy to be involved as a minister at that Mass. We need Mass coordinators, Ministers of the Word and Communion, altar servers, AV and collectors.



**Christmas Church Decorating:** Please come along and help decorate our Church home at 10.30am on Sunday 24th December after 9am Mass. We have crib, lights, tree and tinsel to put up! Many hands make light work, so we hope to see you there! Some people experienced with climbing ladders required for the Christmas lights.

**Children's Gospel Pageant Practice** is at **10am** on Saturday 23rd December for the 6.30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All children who would like to be part of the pageant must attend the practice. We need children to play Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, kings... and we need readers, musicians & singers. The practice usually goes for about an hour. Contact the Parish Office on 3341 4421 for more details.



**Christmas cards** (\$2.50 for 5) and **Columban Calendars** (\$10) for sale at the SVDP Piety Stall.

**Readings for next weekend:  
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)**  
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26 - 38

**Second Rite of Reconciliation for Advent:**

**Waiting with Hope-filled Hearts.**

Monday 18th December 6.30pm.

As this is the 2nd Rite, we will celebrate a liturgy of the Word then everyone can approach Fr Johny or Fr Joseph Vattaparambil from Daisy Hill for a very short reconciliation. We will then finish with the remainder of the liturgy. If you desire a longer reconciliation experience please come along to the church on Saturday at 5pm.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent** is also Christmas Eve this year - so Masses 6pm Saturday 23rd December & 9am Sunday 24th December will be Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The evening Masses on Sunday 24th will be Christmas Masses.

**Christmas Masses:**

**Christmas Eve** Sunday 24th December

**6.30 pm** (Family Mass with children's pageant)

& **9.00 pm** (Vigil)

**Christmas Day** Monday 25th December **9.00 am** only

**Gardening Working bee:** Thank you to those who came to weed the gardens, scrub off sticky residue in the church and get the church looking good for Christmas. If you have some spare time **any day** and could help with the weeding that is still to be done, please contact the Parish Office and let us know. Thank you.



**Thank you** to all who donated cash, gift cards or food to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2023. The donations will help those in need in our local area have a better Christmas. Thank you also to the St Vinnies group members.

**Books for Sale from the Church or Parish Office**

**With Expectant Hearts** - \$6 - a 22 day prayer and reflection guide for Advent or anytime

**Break Open the Word 2024** - \$22 - a fabulous resource for those who are Ministers of the Word. This commences with the readings for this weekend.

**God's Word 2024** - \$15 - last copies - get in quick!!

**Those who have died:** Stella Joseph (*Tony's wife*), Mark White

**Book of Life & Mass Requests:**

Emily Jane Mahony, Sarah Hamill, John Pulley, Maria Riccobon, James Glancy, Clare Breen, Kevin Mullins, Sr Philomena Lyons, Ken White, Alexander Forbes, Thomas Doherty, Helen Lawlor, Ronald Kennedy, William 'Bill' Carver, Leo Lawlor, Jeffrey Lawlor, Mary Blattman

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

Michael Burns, Darrell Lusk, Philomene Crowley, Nan Hauff, Janet Hicks, Maxine Macdonald, Doris Choy, Joy de Souza, Lee Mazzaglia, Sandra MacDonald, Don Tallon, Dan O'Gorman, Don O'Donoghue, Phillip Van Rooyen, Kevin Collier, Leigh O'Shea, Ray Parker, Olga Mariani, Diane Land, Patricia Green, Reg Van Rooyen, Rhonda Lawson, Sr Lila Galvin, Steph & Les O'Gorman, 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—Wed 8.15am-1.15pm  
Closed on Thursdays  
Open: Fri 8.15am-1.15pm  
Phone: **3341 4421**

Website:  
www.stpetersrochedale.org.au  
Facebook:  stpetersrochedaleparish

**Parish Secretary:** Julie Hondroudakis  
Email: stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

**Co-ordinator of Lay Ministries:**  
Position Vacant  
Email:  
lm.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

**ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Acting Principal: Michael McInerney  
Phone: 3341 4800  
Email: prochedale@bne.catholic.edu.au

**ST PETER'S OSHC**

Phone: 3219 7672  
Email: co.rochedaleoshc@catholicearlyyedcare.qld.edu.au

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELP CENTRE**

Phone: 1800 846 643

## FAITH MATTERS: REJOICE!

On this Gaudate (Rejoicing) Sunday we light the pink Shepherd's candle, in the liturgical colour for Joy.

**We rejoice:** the Second Preface for Advent has cues for us to express our joy in this week of Advent - *for all the oracles and prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came* (1)

**Pray with joyful longing:** in the words of St Teresa of Calcutta:  
*Let us thus praise You in the way You love best, by shining on those around us.  
 Let us preach You without preaching, not by words but by example,  
 by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do,  
 the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear for You* (2)

**Sing of the coming of the Lord:** play, sing, whistle, hum the expectant and joyful music of the season – through daily tasks; in the car; in the garden; in sacred spaces. Pray. Smile.

**Proclaim:** Witness the humility of John, the last of the Old Testament prophets, baptising in readiness for Christ, but 'unfit to undo his sandal strap' (2)

**Rejoice:** that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Jesus Christ.

**Share your joy:** Pope Francis sees a warm and joyful connection between holiness and good humour. He commends to us his Morning Prayer attributed to St Thomas More (3)

### References

1. St Pauls Sunday Missal (2012) Australia: Society of St Paul, p.16.
2. St Teresa of Calcutta
3. Morning Prayer St Thomas More Pope Francis (2018). Gaudete Exultate: On the call to holiness in today's World. Strathfield, St Pauls, p72. [https://aletteia.org/2014/12/23/st-thomas-mores-prayer-for-good-humor/]

Faith Enrichment Ministry

## Youth Update

New members always welcome!

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

**Seeking volunteers or beneficial ideas on growing our youth ministry:** Do you have a passion for promoting the Catholic faith to our young people? Do you have any great ideas for ways to engage our primary school, high school and young adults? Are you a parent or grandparent or a young adult yourself who would like to be involved? Please contact the Parish Office

**Primary School Youth gathering changed to Children's Liturgy:** Rosie will run Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9am Mass in the school holidays instead of the gathering after Mass.



### 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: 23rd & 24th Dec	Saturday 6pm Mass	Sunday 9am Mass	Sunday 6pm Mass
Mass Co-ordinator	Joyce Lyster	Jo Cullen	
AV Operator	Callista Jesuthasan	Julie Hondroudakis	
Readers	C. Neil Ballment 1. David Crowley 2. Shelagh Ballment	C. Megan Philpott 1. Alina George 2. Eric Quan	1. Special roster for Christmas Eve Masses
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Trish Meulman Rob Meulman Carl de Mello	Anne Scanlon Deseree Quan Stephanie Lenihan Joan D'Netto     Alan Vigor	
Musicians	Elizabeth Fort	Carmel Northey-Cherrett	
Cleaning Group 3: Lance George, Liberty & Arthur, John Viola			
Cuppa & Chats after Mass No cuppa next weekend 23rd & 24th December			
This week 17th - 23rd Dec.		Sacristan: Celine Phillips	Counting: Bob'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**

### OTHER PARISH CONTACTS

Care & Concern: Transport: 0450 287 902

♥ Co-ordinator: Lynn White 0403 051 103

♥ Memorial Wall & Gardens:

Mark Connolly 0434 147 835

♥ 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

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



**St Peter's Parish Golden Jubilee:** Pentecost Sunday 19th May 2024 commencing with Mass at 10.30am with Bishop Tim Norton. Please mark this date in your diaries! We would love you to jot down your memories of St Peter's and hunt out any photos you may have of St Peter's parish life over the years. All will be useful in compiling our 50th anniversary book. Please send your memoirs to the Parish Office by email if possible at [stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au) Many thanks.

**Position Vacant: Co-ordinator of Lay Ministries:** We are looking for someone to take over the role of recruiting volunteers and coordinating our parish ministry groups. For more information or to apply for the role of Lay Ministry Coordinator, which is a paid position for 10 hours per week, please contact the Parish Office.

**Safeguarding Training:** Thank you to those who attended the Safeguarding Training sessions and to those who have done the training online at home. Anyone who missed these training sessions or has not recently viewed the training video will still be required to do the training online at home. Those ministers who must renew their Safeguarding Training every 2 years include Pastoral Council and Finance Council members, Adult altar servers, Mass Coordinators, Sacristans, Children's Liturgy leaders, Sacramental Program leaders, Care & Concern Visitation and transport volunteers, Home Communion & Nursing Home Communion Ministers, WOW Senior's Ministry & RCIA team, St Vinnies members, counters, Office admin, musicians & choir. The link to the Safeguarding training video can be found on the Archdiocese of Brisbane website. Go to: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>. Please contact Julie for more information.

**Mass Ministers:** The new rosters for January to March 2024 will need to be compiled soon. Could all those who minister in any way at weekend Masses, please advise any dates that you will be unavailable either by email to Julie or on the yellow slips on the table near the doors in the church. Thank you all!

**The Catholic Leader:** The December issue has arrived and is available in the church \$4. This will be the second last issue available from the church - only the Christmas issue to come.

In 2024 The Catholic Leader will move to an individual subscription distribution model. Parishes will no longer receive a bulk delivery of the paper after the Christmas 2023 delivery. The production of the digital online edition of the paper will also stop at this time. Readers will need to take out individual subscriptions and will receive the newspaper delivered to their door. If you take out a subscription for \$65 before 10th December you will receive the December & Christmas editions as well as all 2024 editions. Subscription envelopes available at the church beside the paper copies of the Catholic Leader.

### Around the Archdiocese

See the noticeboards on the Church verandah for the events below

**Advent Concert Series at St Stephen's Cathedral in December:**

5pm Sunday 17th - (in the chapel) Susan Colins (violin)  
\* Ticketed admission  
3pm Saturday 23rd - Christmas Carol Service \* Free admission

**The Queensland Choir presents: Sounds of the Season.** A Choral Christmas with the Queensland Choir conducted by Kevin Power - 7.30pm Saturday 16th December at the Concert Hall, Old Museum Building, 480 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills. Tickets \$45, Concessions \$40, Full-time Students \$20. Call 3257 4089 or visit [www.oldmuseum/event](http://www.oldmuseum/event)

**Entertainment Memberships:** You can purchase a 3, 12 or 24 month Entertainment Membership for Brisbane or for multiple cities. Get access to \$1000's worth of discount offers and 2 for 1 deals to many hospitality, retail, leisure & travel businesses. Help boost St Peter's fundraising. Great for the school holidays or as a Christmas gift! St Peter's Online Order Page is <https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/2224e97>

These businesses support our parish, please support them.

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