

St Peter's Catholic Parish

Rochedale • Springwood

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PARISH PRIEST

Fr Baiyi (By-yee) Gong

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call the Parish Mobile: 0481 975 660

DEACON

Rev. Mike Jones

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ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Bronwyn Buckley

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELP CENTRE

Phone: 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 A)

22nd December 2019

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

A big time for our RCIA candidates

Two weeks ago, our RCIA candidates received the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time at St Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston. I wrote in my last weekend's newsletter reflection on the special gathering held on Saturday 7th December. It was a big step on their journey of RCIA. Our three candidates experienced God's mercy and forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation. As we know, they have each been baptized within another Christian tradition. To be fully received into our Catholic Church, they will need to receive the other two sacraments of initiation: Confirmation and Eucharist.

About Confirmation, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of the baptismal grace. For 'by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.'" (CCC 1285). By the celebration of Confirmation, the baptized receive "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence and the spirit of holy fear in God's presence." (CCC 1303). Of course, there is no limit to these gifts or fruits. As this sacrament is very important and valuable, our candidates have been preparing themselves for it, really carefully and well, for a long time.

Certainly, Eucharist is another very important and sacred sacrament. There is much more to the Eucharist than simply seeing it as the completion of the process of initiation. The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life", a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity and a Paschal banquet. By celebrating of this sacrament, we welcome our Lord into our hearts under the form of bread and wine. We give thanks to God. We experience God's love and express our love for God. We remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us. Hopefully, we build a community, the kingdom of heaven among us on earth. In one word, we grow much closer to God. Our candidates have already been celebrating Mass with us for a period of time, however, they have not received Holy Communion yet. With a period of time for preparation for this big moment, they have made them themselves ready to receive this sacrament.

My dear friends, this Sunday during the 9am Mass, all of three candidates, Harrison Porter, Deborah Meggs and Jessica Smith, are receiving these two sacraments of initiation. It is a big time for Harrison, Deb and Jess themselves, as well as an important moment for our whole parish community. We are very happy to see our community grow with new members. We are very blessed with them as our new fellow parishioners. Let us thank God for them. Also, let us congratulate them, pray for them and support them at all times.

Fr Baiyi

Readings for next weekend: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

IN OUR PARISH THIS COMING WEEK:	
MON 23rd Dec	8.00am Mass 10.00am Practice for Children's Pageant 6.30pm Decorating the Church for Christmas
TUE 24th Dec	Christmas Eve <i>No Morning Mass at St Peter's</i> 11.00am Mass at Opal Aged Care, Springwood 6.30pm Family Mass & Children's Pageant 9.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass Carols 15 minutes before each Mass
WED 25th Dec	The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day 12.00am Midnight Mass 9.00am Christmas Mass Carols 15 minutes before each Mass
THU 26th Dec	Saint Stephen No Mass
FRI 27th Dec	Saint John <i>Please Note: Rosary Group will not meet today</i> 9.30am Mass
SAT 28th Dec	The Holy Innocents 5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
SUN 29th Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass

RCIA: Congratulations to the new members of our Catholic community here at St. Peter's, Harry, Deb and Jess! Please welcome them with joy and stay after Mass to meet them and offer them your prayerful support and friendship.

Ministers are needed for all Christmas Masses. 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 our Christmas Masses! All are Welcome. We will be decorating on Monday 23rd December at 6.30pm.

Children's Pageant Practice is at 10 am on Monday



23rd December for 6.30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. All children who would like to be part of the pageant please come along. The Practice usually lasts for an hour and a half.

We need Mary & Joseph, angels, kings, shepherds..... We also need readers. Parents welcome! Help welcome!

Contact Jo Cullen on 0419733878 for more information. **Musicians and singers** for the 6.30pm Mass please also attend this practice at 10.00am on Monday.

Youth Update:

High School: Thank you for everything this year! We have loved every moment of our Saturday nights! We are taking a break for the school holidays and will return on the 1st of February.

Annuals available on the table near the doors.
God's Word 2020 (\$11) All the readings for every day of the year as well as reflections.
Break Open the Word 2020 (\$18) is an invaluable resource for anyone in the Reading Ministry.

St Vinnies' News: For Sale from the Piety Stall:



New books, prayer cards, statues.

Columban Calendars for 2020 \$8.

Christmas Cards—pack of 8 for \$4.

Also, some single cards \$0.50 each.

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. We delivered 50 hampers locally.

CARE & CONCERN Wishing our wonderful committee members and volunteers & their families and the St Peter's community, a very Holy and joyful Christmas and the Lord's abundant blessings for the New Year.

Lynn

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2020 are ready for collection from the table near the main doors. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Faith Matters! Fourth Sunday of Advent
How might we make time and space for God in these last days of Advent?



Advent is a time for noticing our God who 'comes' to us in everyday life and our God who 'waits' patiently to welcome us, nurture us and hold us close to his heart. God is with us!

During Advent, we are invited to commit to times of silence and stillness and to notice God in our everyday experiences.

Practical suggestions that might help us become more aware of God's presence include: *going for a slow, mindful walk; lighting the Advent candle/s at the family table; spending time with someone who is alone; gardening; listening to relaxing music; journaling or sketching; soaking in the beauty of creation e.g. gazing upon the sky, the clouds, the trees, the ocean, the sunrise or sunset.*

Perhaps this time of slowing down in the midst of the last days of the Christmas rush is a reminder for us to discover more of what **Julian of Norwich** said: "**The fullness of JOY is to behold God in everything!**"¹

May we welcome our Everyday God into this time so that our preparations are joy-filled. Amen.

1. Julian of Norwich (1342 – 1416.) Revelations of Divine Love, trans John Skinner, 2004, Gracewing, Herefordshire, UK, p. 59.

Faith Enrichment Group

St Peter's Planned Giving via 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.

Bequests and Endowments: Have you considered leaving a bequest or endowment to the parish in your will? Pick up one of our bequest brochures.

<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Readings</p> <p>Christmas Eve 6.30pm: <u>1st Reading:</u> Isaiah 9:1-7 <u>Gospel:</u> Children's Pageant telling the story from the Gospel of Luke Chapter 2</p> <p>Christmas Eve 9.00pm and Midnight Mass <u>1st Reading:</u> Isaiah 9:1-7 <u>2nd Reading:</u> Titus 2:11-14 <u>Gospel:</u> Luke 2:1-14</p> <p>Christmas Day 9.00am <u>1st Reading:</u> Isaiah 52:7-10 <u>2nd Reading:</u> Hebrews 1:1-6 <u>Gospel:</u> Luke 2:1-14</p>	<p>St Stephen: Have you ever wondered about St Stephen, whose Feast day we remember every year on 26th December and after whom our Cathedral is named? St Stephen was the first Martyr. He died in Jerusalem about the year 35AD. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).</p>
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The Parish Office will be closed for a few days over Christmas and New Year We apologise for any inconvenience. The Office will be closed from Christmas Day and will re-open for business on Monday 6th Jan. **Weekday Masses** will be as usual over this period. However, Rosary Group will not meet on Friday 27th December.

Mass on New Year's Day Wednesday 1st January will be at 9.00am to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Please come along to honour Our Lady.

First Friday Rosary, Adoration and Healing Mass will be held as usual from 8.30am on Friday 3rd January.

See the Noticeboard for Invitations from around the Archdiocese

Lights of Christmas: December 11 - 24, 6.30pm - 10.30pm on the lawn at St Stephen's Cathedral. The lights of Christmas is a free event open to the public that will delight families with a wonderful sound and light show.

Be Part of the Media Apostolate: If you can comfortably commute to the Cathedral parish at least once every 3 months and would like to become a volunteer webcaster, please phone 3324 3227 or email communications@bne.catholic.net.au. This service is an invaluable assistance to those who are infirm or shut-in.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Chris Land (Stephen's brother), Paul Delley, Gaye Harnell, Brant Jones, Maria Chu, Elizabeth Ribic

Book of Life & Mass Requests: Alexander Forbes, Thomas Doherty, Helen Lawlor, Ronald Kennedy, William 'Bill' Carver, Leo Lawlor, Mary Blattman, Patricia Holzknacht, Jodie Louise Ryan, Vera Adcock, Hilary Dempsey, Maurice Malloy, Leonard Stitt, John Bray, Christine Fitz-Gibbon, Jan Cuskelly, Betty Simpson

Please pray for those who are sick, especially: Diego Tagini, Winston van Rooyen, Oliver Akomolafe, Elmore Kotzur, Kevin Fry, Michael O'Grady, Joseph Peki, Vickie Routledge, Alan Camp, Ian Thompson, Kevin Kelly, Edna Bultitude, Vilma Ghouse, Callum Poynter, Sue Power, Rebecca Power, Rex Bowen, Catherine Nystrom, Kevin Hargrave, Joyce Byrne, Simon Hinton, Ray Parker, June Richards, Brad Richards, Barrie Martin, Marcos Mendoza, Gwen Green, Esme Jensen, Fabio Viola, Michael Harkin, David Richardson, Kaitlin Bakker, Karen Johnston, Warren Williams, Vivian Kennedy, Danny Costello, Benny Santanaraj, Lexie Harding, Violet Adamson, Max Drummond, Lori Hodder, Ramona Cruz, Kieran McKenna, Trevor Parker, Sesinando de Leon Jnr, Sandra Murphy, Sylvia Privitera, Johnny Summers, Hamish Stuhmeke, Bonnie Dematillar, Ursula Williamson

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.

28th & 29th Dec	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 6pm
Mass Co-ordinators	Carl De Mello	Efren Tuazon	Kate Guy
AV Operators	Mike Collier	Julie Hondroudakis	John Donohue
Readers	C. Peta Grandin 1. Clive D'Silva 2. Shenelle Nelson	C. Jonathan Vigor 1. Kimberley Kanages 2. Mary Naughton	C. Malcolm Carroll 1. Lynn White 2. Fiorenzo Matarazzo
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Carl De Mello Rob Meulman Trish Meulman	Deacon Mike Jones Steph Lenihan Alan Scanlon Gwen Martin	Cesarina Gigante Kate Guy Jo Cullen
Altar Servers	Angelina	Leo, William, Eugene	Talia, Marissa
Musicians	Anne Flood	Geoff & Robyn	Eliz

Church Cleaning: Group 2 Lyndal Bray-Claridge, Kate Guy, Jenifa & Suresh

Children's Liturgy: None **This week: Sacristan:** Glenys Peters **Counting:** Carl's Team

Cuppa: None, Fifth Sunday of the Month

Are you new to our Parish? WELCOME!! 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 Baiyi or to one of the Parish Councillors.

Other Parish Contacts:
Care & Concern: Transport: 0412 267 337
Co-ordinator Lynn White 0403 051103
Family Group Facebook: St Peters Rochedale Family Groups
Memorial Wall & Gardens: Mal Jensen 0411641312
St Vincent de Paul: New members: John Blake 0411 196 775

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative: Malcolm Carroll 0410 193 569 or sgrep.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au
Social Justice Group Facebook: St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group
Rosary Group: Fridays 9:00am (1st Fridays 8.30am)

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