MASS TIMES

WEEKENDS:		
Saturday	-	**5.00pm** *Reconciliation,* **6.00pm Mass**
Sunday	-	**9:00am & 6:00pm Masses**
WEEKDAYS:		
Monday	-	**8:00am Mass**
Tuesday	-	**8:00am Mass** *(Children's Mass during School Terms)*
Wednesday	-	**8:00am Mass**
Thursday	-	**——**
Friday	-	**9:00 am** *Rosary,* **9:30 am Mass** *First Friday – 8:30 am Rosary, 9 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* *Reconciliation available during Adoration* *9:30 am Mass of healing and Anointing*

Christmas COLOURING FUN

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Rochedale ◇ Springwood

955 Rochedale Rd Rochedale 4123
Phone: 33414421
Email: stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST, FR. JOHNY EDAPULAVAN CMI

Peace on Earth, goodwill to all

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, it's Christmas once again. May the Child Jesus bless each one of you abundantly and bring you peace. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. Our hearts are deeply aware of the trials that have marked this year. Wars have brought immeasurable sufferings to humanity all over, fires have ravaged homes, cyclones have torn through communities, and bushfires have scorched the land we love. Many have faced loss of property, livelihood, and even loved ones. These calamities remind us of the fragility of life and the unpredictability of nature. Yet, in the midst of devastation, we also witness the resilience of the human spirit and the power of faith. Christmas is not merely a season of lights and gifts; it is the profound mystery of God entering our world in vulnerability and love. The Child Jesus was born not in a palace but in a humble manger, amid uncertainty and hardship. His birth proclaims that God is with us in every storm, every fire, and in every moment of despair. This truth gives us courage to face the challenges before us.

In times of disaster, we often ask, "Where is God?" The answer is found in the hands that reach out to help, in the communities that rebuild together, and in the hearts that refuse to give up hope. God is present in the firefighters who risk their lives, in the volunteers who bring food and shelter, and in the quiet prayers whispered for those in pain. Christmas calls us to be that presence of God for one another. It is the hope which transforms our world. Hope, which so often is experienced more by its absence than by its presence. Hope which enables us to believe that peace is possible in our world.

As we celebrate, let us remember those who cannot rejoice Christmas easily this year like the displaced families, the grieving, the exhausted and so on. Let us offer not only words of comfort but concrete acts of love: a donation, a visit, a prayer etc. In doing so, we become instruments of Christ's peace. The star that guided the Magi still shines for us today. It leads us beyond darkness to the light of Christ, who conquers fear and restores hope. May this Christmas renew our faith that even after the storm, dawn will break. May it inspire us to care for creation, to protect our common home, and to stand in solidarity with all who suffer.

On behalf of our St. Peter's Catholic Church community, I extend heartfelt prayers for you and your families. May the joy of the Nativity fill your hearts and may the peace of Christ reign in our communities. Together, let us walk into the New Year with hope, courage, and love.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are at home,
When the shepherds are back with the flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoners,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
And to make music with the heart that sings

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2026 to all!

St Peter's welcomes everyone. Our parish community is friendly, and our parishioners always offer a smile and a warm welcome, especially to new members and guests who attend the Masses. We invite you to come along and feel the joy of this special time of the year. **We look forward to seeing you at St. Peter's. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

FROM THE WELCOME GROUP

SOME MINISTRIES OF ST PETER'S

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The St Peter's Bereavement Ministry responds to Jesus' words in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit… Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

The ministry contacts parishioners who have recently experienced a bereavement. A short time after the death of a loved one, a card is sent offering the parish's sympathy and prayers. On the first anniversary, a memorial card and prayers are also sent.

Each year on 2 November, the Feast of Holy Souls, we offer a Memorial Mass, especially for families who have lost loved ones in the past 12 months, though all are welcome to attend this Mass to pray for departed souls. A cuppa afterwards provides time to reflect, share memories and heal.

If you would like prayers for a recently deceased family member, please write his or her name on the Ministers sign-in sheet at weekend Masses in the relevant section or contact the Parish Office. Names can also be added to the Book of Life on request.

We warmly welcome new members to the Bereavement Ministry. Please contact the Parish Office on 3341 4421 to express your interest.

VINNIES ROCHEDALE

Rochedale Vinnies volunteers assist people in our local area experiencing significant hardship. We visit individuals and families in their homes, as well as homeless people sleeping in cars, couch-surfing, or in crisis accommodation. We encounter refugees, single-parent families fleeing danger, people who have lost homes and jobs after long hospital stays, those leaving prison who cannot find work, and people living with mental illness or disability. Many of these situations echo the Christmas story.

Inspired by one of our 19th-century founders, we aim to be kind and show love, for love is our greatest gift to the poor. We respond with kindness and practical help, providing food, vouchers, and at times basic furniture in emergencies. At Christmas we offer hampers, and we support families with back-to-school costs through the Child Education Fund. Often, people tell us that our simple act of visiting and listening is the greatest gift, because it shows someone cares and they are not alone.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways St Peter's supports this ministry. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with love, life, and a sense of God's presence.

MEMORIAL WALL AND GARDENS

The columbarium was established in 1977 with the construction of the western wall at St. Peter's. In recent years the eastern wall, St Paul's, and the Memorial Garden, St Francis of Assisi, have been added.

As Co-ordinator of this ministry, my role is to liaise with parishioners and relatives who wish to reserve a niche or site for themselves or their loved ones following death and cremation. I am also responsible for the general upkeep of both Memorial Walls and the Gardens.

The columbarium operates as a non-profit service within the parish and is quite economical compared with similar funeral establishments. Many parishioners find solace and peace when visiting their loved ones, and its closeness to the church offers a prayerful place for families to remember the departed.

WOW (SENIORS') MINISTRY

In 2025 the Wise Old Owls met monthly for camaraderie, prayer, fun activities, and always a scrumptious morning tea, raffles, and lucky door prizes. We began in February with a Valentine's theme, "That's Amore," celebrating friendship with stories, games, and a quiz. March brought "St Patrick's Day with a Twist," followed in April by a bus outing to the Lord Mayor's City Hall Concert, Journey of Remembrance, marking the 110th anniversary of ANZAC Day.

In May we honoured mothers with a Kahoot digital quiz, and in June lifted spirits with a sing-along of old favourites and chair yoga. July's Christmas High Tea marked WOW's second anniversary, with preschoolers from Seedlings performing for us. August's theme, "All Things Humorous," featured a comedy movie and joke fest.

September welcomed spring with a sausage sizzle, plant swap, produce stall, and a talk by Michael Jarvis on issues facing small farmers. In October we enjoyed a bus trip to Wellington Point and lunch at Oxley's Café. Our final event was a Christmas special at Sunpac, Back to the Tivoli – Christmas Spectacular, followed by our break-up lunch at the Sunset Bar and Grill on 10 December.

In 2026 we look forward to welcoming new members. WOW is open to all those over 65.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The members of the Social Justice Group wish our wonderful parish family a Christmas filled with God's gifts of love, joy, hope and peace. May these gifts bring us strength and contentment for 2026 and may good health and wellbeing be our blessing.

In line with our mission statement, the Social Justice Group raises awareness about those who are discriminated, marginalised and exploited in our society and worldwide. We do this through liturgy and worship, education, practical action and advocacy. Those who are enslaved, trafficked, exposed to domestic violence, those suffering in war zones, the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers- all are very dear to God's heart. God hears the cry of the poor and demands a reconciling response from us.

The Social Justice Group aims to encourage everyone to be informed and to take action to create a fairer and more just world. In the past year, in many ways, you, the community of St. Peter's, have shown awareness, empathy, love, and a generous heart towards our suffering sisters and brothers. God bless you.

THE FAITH ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

The Faith Enrichment Ministry provides opportunities for parishioners to encounter and recognise God's love and grace. Through these experiences, parishioners deepen their understanding of the Church's truths, traditions, practices, rituals, and liturgical seasons. Lent and Advent are key seasons for faith enrichment, with close collaboration with the Liturgy Ministry to plan reverent and relevant ceremonies.

Lenten Reflections with Stations of the Cross offer prayerful, penitential time to step aside from daily life. As we trace Jesus' ministry and contemplate His suffering, we prepare for the Paschal Triduum and the joys of Easter.

The ministry also prepares a weekly newsletter message, Faith Matters, highlighting worship, faith, and practice within the Catholic tradition. To join or help plan Faith Enrichment activities, please contact the Parish Office.

ST PETER'S YOUTH

A year ago, we started with a spark — just a few young people, a few prayers, and a hope that God would do something new. Today, St Peter's Youth has become a wildfire: a vibrant community of over sixty young people on fire for Jesus. A space alive with laughter, music, curiosity, learning, and a faith that transcends the surface.

This is a group for all young people — wherever you are on your faith journey. Here, you'll find belonging and purpose.

We believe you are the future of the Church — the spark that keeps the fire burning. So come and see what God is doing here.

It might just change your life.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: A JOURNEY OF FAITH WITH ST PETER'S COMMUNITY

Our Parish of St Peter welcomes and supports all who enquire about the Catholic faith. RCIA is the formal pathway for exploring the faith and traditions of the Church. We recognise that choosing this journey is a courageous decision. Through RCIA, enquirers are welcomed as 'members of the household of Christ' and grow in faith as part of our St Peter's community.

All parishioners are encouraged to share their faith and support those seeking to belong. We invite anyone wishing to nurture their faith to 'come and see' what a life of faith might mean.

To learn more or join the RCIA Ministry Team, please contact the Parish Office.

CARE & CONCERN

It is with hearts filled gratitude that we wish to extend to all our wonderful volunteers and to those who offer support to the works of the Care & Concern Ministry and their families, a very happy, Holy and blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year! Thank you all very much for your support throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated! Our services include communication with the elderly, visitation, transport for medical appointments, provision and service of light refreshments at funerals, practical support for the homeless, organising social functions and provision of meals.