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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st December 2025

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

Dream of St. Joseph vs Virgin Birth

Advent invites us to contemplate in a special way on St Joseph. The central character in Matthews's Gospel of Jesus' birth is Joseph. He doesn't appear very much in the Bible. St. Joseph's loving, responsive obedience to God is modelled for us. This obedience is the central theme on the Virgin Birth of Jesus. Prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel". Matthew considers this prophecy as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ. It reminds us that we must choose to allow Him to enter our hearts with His love and grace. Joseph had to freely accept Jesus as his son. This formal acceptance made Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David.

Jewish marriage started with an engagement arranged by parents, often between children. Just prior to marriage, couples began a year-long betrothal very much like marriage except for sexual rights. Betrothal was binding and could be terminated only by death or divorce. If a person whose betrothed dies, he/she becomes a widow or widower. Joseph found that Mary was pregnant without his knowledge. Now, the law required that Mary be stoned to death because of her unfaithfulness. Since Joseph was a just man of great mercy, he resolved to divorce Mary quietly so that he might not cause her unnecessary pain. In doing so, he showed us Christ-like compassion in the face of sin. He also demonstrates a Godly balance between the Law of Torah and the Law of Love. And then in a dream he learned that the Child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and that he himself was to be the foster-father of Christ, claiming the Child by naming Him, and then rearing Him. Joseph, through trust and Faith in God, accepted his mission as the foster-father of the Son of God.

It is through Joseph that Jesus will be of the house and lineage of David. By naming him, Joseph makes Jesus his son and brings him into the house of David. His hallmark is prompt, simple, and unspectacular obedience. In the end, Joseph obediently took Mary as his wife, despite his fears, and he claimed her Son as his own by naming him Jesus. Despite his earlier decision to divorce this woman quietly, Joseph nurtured, protected, watched over and loved both Mary and her Child. Ignatian spirituality often says that God's deepest desires for us are our own deepest desires. That is, our hopes and dreams are God's hopes and dreams for us. We need to see that God has put desires and dreams inside us.

"The doctrine of the Virgin Birth of the Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man is crucial to our Redemption. But Joseph's role cannot be reduced to this legal aspect. It is therefore particularly appropriate in the days that precede Christmas to establish a sort of spiritual conversation with St Joseph, so that he may help us live to the full this great mystery of faith. Pope St. John Paul II says his silence is steeped in contemplation of the mystery of God in an attitude of total availability to the divine desires. Let us allow ourselves to be "filled" with St Joseph's silence!

Fr Johny Edapulavan CMI

In our parish this week: December 2025

Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26	Saturday 27	Sunday 28
8.00am Mass **7.00pm** Choir Practice	**8.00am** Mass **5.00pm** Decorating the church for Christmas	**Christmas Eve** **10.00am** Pageant Practice **6.30pm** Family Mass **9.00pm** Vigil Mass	**The Nativity of the Lord** **9.00am** Mass	**St Stephen** No Mass *Parish Office Closed*	**St John** **6.00pm** Mass	**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph** **9.00am** Mass followed by Cuppa. **6.00pm** Mass

Music Practice for Christmas Masses: Calling all singers and musicians, please come for a practice for the **9pm Vigil and 9am Christmas Day Masses.** This will be held in St Peter's Church at **7pm on Monday 22 December.** Please note that the **Family Mass at 6:30pm** will have its own separate practice on **Christmas Eve at 10am.** All are welcome, even if you have not played or sung with us before. Come along!

Thank you, Elizabeth

Decorating the Church for Christmas: We have a wonderful tradition of decorating our Church for Christmas with the Crib, Tree and lights...Please come along and help us transform the Church for Christmas! We will start at **5pm on Tuesday December 23** so come when you are able!
Thank you for your kind assistance.

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 Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, kings…
and we need readers.
Please contact the Parish Office on 3341 4421 for more details.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December
6.30 pm (Family Mass with children's pageant) & 9.00 pm (Vigil)
Christmas Day Thursday 25th December
9.00 am Mass only
(No evening Mass)

St Peter's Parish shares Archbishop Shane Mackinlay's response to the Bondi attack: 'The tragic events that occurred at Bondi on Sunday were confronting to witness and appalling to even consider…The Catholic community in Brisbane joins with people of all faiths and cultural traditions across Australia in expressing our deepest condolences and are praying for those who are grieving and affected by this terrible attack.'

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

The Parish Office will be closed from 1.15pm on 24th December - reopening on Monday 5th January
No Masses on Friday 26th December,
Mon 29th, Tues 30th or Wed 31st December.
Weekend Masses 27th & 28th December as normal for the feast of the Holy Family

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Mass on New Year's Day, Thurs 1st January at 9.00am
First Friday 2nd January - Rosary at 8.30am, Adoration 9am, Healing Mass 9.30am.

Merry Christmas to ALL from Children's Liturgy! A big thank you to all who were involved in this ministry this year, Leaders, parents and children. It's a true blessing to be a part of developing the faith journey of our youngest parish members. If anyone is interested in being a part of our team for 2026, please don't hesitate to contact me. During the holiday break we will be leaving children's activity pages in a blue folder at the back of the church together with crayons which we hope will be used responsibly.
Thank You. *Jodie Baigent 0405 406 337.*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Gail Wyer

Book of Life & Mass Requests
Alexander Forbes, Thomas Doherty, Helen Lawlor , Ronald Kennedy, William "Bill" Carver, Leo & Jeffrey Lawlor, Mary Blattman, Patricia Holzknecht, 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: Jan Taylor, Claire MacMahon, Lameka Eketi, John & Simon Weatherley, Angela Russo, Betty Partridge, Ursula Williamson, Carol Timkoe, Victor Timkoe, Kate Kim, Veronica Scholes, Tany Lemon, Lynda Sweeney, Shelly Furman, Ray Dupreez, June McCrenor, Ian Forno, Brent Austin, Rex Bransdon, Don Tallon, Robert Cussans, Rikki-Lee Curran, Janet Hicks, Valerie Isaac, Mel Singh, Kerrianne Meulman, Kent McMahon, Maxine Macdonald, Kevin Collier, Ray Parker, Sr Lila Galvin, Phillip Van Rooyen, Olga Mariani, Patricia Green, Joy de Souza, Teresa Leong, Reg Van Rooyen, Rhonda Lawson, Kathy & Danae Jensen, Steph & Les O'Gorman, Laurie Newnham.
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, Tues, Wed & Fri 8.15am-1.15pm
Closed Thursdays
Phone: 3341 4421
Website: www.stpetersrochedale.org.au
Facebook: stpetersrochedaleparish

Parish Secretary: Julie Hondroudakis
Email: stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au
Coordinator of Lay Ministries: Belmira D'Souza
Email: layministry.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL:
Principal: Michael McInerney
Phone; 3341 4800
Email: prochedale@bne.catholic.edu.au

ST PETER'S OSHC:
Phone: 3219 7672
Email: co.rochedaleoshc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL (VINNIES) HELP CENTRE:
Phone: 1800 846 643

Faith Matters:

With Praise and Thanksgiving We Acclaim …

We pause to contemplate …. to shift our senses from the whirlwind of the secular Christmas Season … we peel away the distractions … a welcome calm. We wait in peace. Our Advent journey brings us to the threshold of the birth of the Christ child. The words of the Preface II of Advent resound with the majesty of our language, with the weight of the coming days, and the anticipation of our greatest gift – 'a Saviour comes into our world'.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the 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.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy... (1)

With praise and thanksgiving, we acclaim.

(1) Prefaces from the Roman Missal

Faith Enrichment Ministry

Care & Concern Thank You: A very big thank you to everyone who supported, attended, purchased raffle tickets and helped make the Care & Concern brunch in support of St Vinnies a successful enjoyable event!
Many thanks to our committee members and volunteers for your contributions and all those who helped on the day, to our MC Mike Collier & to Fr Johny and Julie and office staff for your great support!
Thank you & may God Bless you all, *Lynn*

Rochedale Youth: The Youth & young adults gatherings are usually held fortnightly on Thursday evenings in the Parish Centre starting at 7pm. The next meeting will be in January – Date TBA. For information on our Youth Ministry or Young Adults Group, please contact the Parish Office.

Roster: 27th & 28th Dec.	**Saturday 6pm Mass**	**Sunday 9am Mass**	**Sunday 6pm Mass**
Mass Co-ordinator	Mark Connolly	Blanca Mastrangeli	Malcolm Carroll
AV Operator	Mike Collier	Alina George	Jonathan Vigor
Readers	C. Neil Ballment 1. Cecilia Lai 2. Edmund Lai	C. Eric Quan 1. Alan Vigor 2. Clive D'Silva	C. John Blake 1. Bob Burns 2. Raylee Burns
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Ann Maree Collier Carl de Mello Michael Jarvis	Conrad D'Netto Lisa Hammett Stephanie Lenihan Deseree Quan Rosie Bertolacci	Kate Guy Vickie Routledge Laly Chakoo
Musicians	Elizabeth Fort	Carmel Northey-Cherrett	Elizabeth Fort
Altar Servers	**Volunteer**	Nora & Rose	Lesley
Cleaning Group 3	Lance George, Liberty De Jesus, Blanca Mastrangeli & Karin Biedermann.		
Cuppa & Chat: after 9am Sunday 28th Dec Mass: Blanca Mastrangeli, Vickie Routledge & Indunil Fernando.			
This week: 21st – 27th Dec:	**Sacristan:** Prashanthi Selvarathnam		**Counting:** Bob's Group

Are you new to our Parish? 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: 0413 268 860
Co-ordinator: Lynn White 0403 051 103
Memorial Wall & Gardens:
Mark Connolly 0434 147 835
St Vincent de Paul:
New members: Kevin Fry 0417 002 782

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative: Malcolm Carroll 0451 804 058 or sgrep.stpetroch@bne.catholic.net.au
Social Justice Group Facebook:
St Peter's Rochedale Social Justice Group

Welcome to Flocknote: December Signup! Parishioners and visitors are invited to sign-up to Flocknote, our communication and engagement tool. Our Parish (and the Archdiocese of Brisbane) has officially adopted Flocknote for all parishes, as a safe, new, and improved database and means of communicating in parishes. Flocknote is free for parishioners to use, and there is no need to download anything. Please register to update our parishioner information. Your info is kept secure and private.
It only takes a couple minutes to sign up to receive emails from the parish. You are even able to reply directly back to those emails so we can get feedback and hear from you. Parishioners and visitors are invited to use the link or QR code and signup and register with the parish.
If you have any questions, please see Fr Johny, or speak with Julie in the Parish Office.
Please go to https://rochedale.flocknote.com/register or scan the QR code

LETTER BOX DROP Thank you to all those who have delivered our 'Christmas Greetings and Mass Times' cards to spread the word about St Peter's. Thank you.

SVDP Piety Stall is open after Sun 9am Mass: Columban Calendars for 2026 on sale **$10** each. **Christmas cards $5** for a pack of 5.

Safeguarding Training: We are all responsible for the Safeguarding of each other especially children and Adult-at-risk whenever we are at the church or parish. Every volunteer in any role of the parish potentially dealing with children or adults-at risk must undertake Safeguarding Training every 2 years. This is now ideally done via the Arch elearn portal. Please go to https://welcome.brisbanecatholic.org.au/.
For those unable or unwilling to use the online portal, we will be running group training sessions. Please contact the Parish Office to register for a group training session.

Chairs. TV and a fish tank to give away! We have 20 plastic chairs from the Parish Centre that we would like to give away. We also have a rather large fish tank and a 42 inch colour TV. Please speak to Fr Johny or contact the Parish Office if you are interested in any of these items.

Entertainment Memberships Fabulous Christmas special!! Until 7th January, buy one Entertainment Membership, Gift one FREE PLUS Multi City upgrades on BOTH MEMBERSHIPS… at no extra cost!! It's gifting gold — two presents, one price, zero stress.
An Entertainment Membership gives you savings on dining, retail, entertainment and a Multi-City covers over 20 cities – great for travel!
* 20% of your purchase goes directly to our parish.
Your key to exclusive savings and meaningful impact awaits! St Peter's Online Order Page is https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/2224e97

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.

Tap & Go Donations: No cash at Mass? Try our donation terminal near the main doors: you can choose from 4 options for your donation amount to support St Peter's Parish. Thank you for your support.

These businesses support our parish, please support them:

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Pool Safety Inspector
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