# ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Parish Priest: Fr Johny Edapulavan CMI
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## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
## 28th December 2025

**Readings:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 1-23

### "Christmas restores righteousness in the world"

In 2025, the world faced several humanitarian crises, natural disasters, terrorist attacks and tragedies. "God incarnates to restore righteousness in the world whenever there is a large-scale erosion of moral values." The Bible teaches that: "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life." So, Christmas reminds us that we need a Savior every day to free us from every evil.

The birth of Jesus is the greatest gift that God has ever given. Pope Julius I, authorized December 25 to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus in 353, who would have ever thought that it would become what it is today? In 1223 St. Francis of Assisi used a nearby cave to set up a manger filled with straw, and his friend, Vellita, brought in an ox and a donkey, and a married couple with their infant, just like those at Bethlehem, nobody saw how that novel idea was going to evolve through centuries. When Professor Charles Follen lit candles on the first Christmas tree in America in 1832, who would have ever thought that the decorations would become as elaborate as they are today?

Christmas is the Feast of God sharing His love with us. Jesus brought the "Good News" that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful and rewarding God. He demonstrated all these by his very life. All his miracles were signs of this Divine Love. Each Christmas reminds us that sharing love with others is our Christian privilege and duty. We admit with Angelus Silesius "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem, but all in vain until He is born in me." Hence, let us allow Jesus to be reborn in our lives every day, so that he may radiate his sharing and selfless love, expressed in compassionate words and deeds, unconditional forgiveness, the spirit of service and overflowing generosity. God is a God who lives with us as the "Emmanuel".

We live in a time when hatred, fear, and violence infiltrate spaces of peace and festivity. When sacred celebrations become scenes of terror, what does Christmas truly mean? It is a time to acknowledge the evil we face today. Across many nations, old hatreds are inflamed, and holy places and festivals become targets once more. This Christmas, we must ask: how do we prevent tools of destruction from falling into hearts of hatred?

**Christmas Matters Now:** At Christmas, we celebrate God entering our broken world, knowing our sorrows. In Jesus, God stands alongside every grieving parent and terrified child. As Bishop Greg Homering wrote, "Christmas is a time we remember the love of God made manifest in a small baby born into poverty". That humble birth means God understands suffering, hatred and fear personally. The lights of Christmas, candles, trees, nativity scenes are symbols of God's defiance of darkness. In this season, may the light of Christ embolden us to stand firm against evil.

**Christmas is a call to unity.** This season remembers Joseph and Mary: a poor couple trusting God amidst uncertainty. Their humble obedience changed the world. So, we must change for hearts renewed in grace. We are reminded to practice forgiveness, restorative justice, and courageous love.

**Live Christmas daily:** speak kindly, forgive freely, and offer hospitality. Our lives too can shine bright in ordinary moments.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2026!** *Fr Johny Edapulavan CMI*

## In our parish this week: December 2025 / January 2026

| Monday 29 | Tuesday 30 | Wednesday 31 | Thursday 01 | Friday 02 | Saturday 03 | Sunday 04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No** Mass<br><br>*Parish Office Closed this week* | **No** Mass | **No** Mass | **Mary, The Holy Mother of God**<br><br>**9.00am** Mass | **Sts Basil & Gregory**<br><br>**8.30am** Rosary<br>**9.00am** Adoration<br><br>**9.30am** Healing Mass | **5.00-5.30pm** Reconciliation<br><br>**6.00pm** Mass | **The Epiphany of the Lord**<br><br>**9.00am** Mass<br><br>**6.00pm** Mass |

**Mass time changes this week:**
**There will be no Masses** on Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th or Wednesday 31st December.
**Mass on New Year's Day, Thurs 1st January at 9.00am for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.**
**First Friday** 2nd January - Rosary at 8.30am, Adoration 9am, Healing Mass 9.30am.

***Readings for next weekend:***
**The Epiphany of the Lord – (Year A) - 4th Jan**
Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

***Readings for the following weekend:***
**The Baptism of the Lord (Year A) – 11th Jan**
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Titus 2:11-14: 3:4-7 Matthew 3:13-17

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** from the Parish Office. Thank you for your support during 2025. **The Parish Office** will be **closed** from Christmas Day and **re-opening on Monday 5th January.**

**Christmas at Shalom World Media:** This Christmas, share moments of true joy with your family. Heartwarming Christmas shows, inspiring talks, joyful music and stories of hope – for every age. Watch all for free. No pay walls. No ads. Just Christmas with Jesus. Go to shalomworld.org/Christmas.

**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.*

**In our parish next week: January 2026**

| Monday 05 | Tuesday 06 | Wednesday 07 | Thursday 08 | Friday 09 | Saturday 10 | Sunday 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **8.00am** Mass<br><br>*Parish Office Re-opens* | **8.00am** Mass | **8.00am** Mass | *Parish Office Closed* | **9.00am** Rosary<br><br>**9.30am** Mass | **5.00-5.30pm** Reconciliation<br><br>**6.00pm** Mass | **The Baptism of the Lord**<br><br>**9.00am** Mass<br><br>**6.00pm** Mass followed by Cuppa |

## *PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:*

***Those who have died***: Sesinando de Leon Snr, Gail Wyer

***Book of Life & Mass***, Leonard Stitt, John Bray, Christine Fitz-Gibbon, Jan Cuskelly, Betty Simpson, Betsy May Burton, Flo Beechworth, Warren Jackson, Joan Marrinan, Jennifer Ann Lee, Paul Young, Ronald Connors, Kathleen Murray, Daniel Lourigan, John Macintosh, Anne Praske, Fr Tom Concannon, Ludlow Pettiford, Angelina Cho, Anthony Winter, Thomas Power, Colin Simpson, Eileen Naughton, Gai Hocking, Francis Waters, Ken Evans, Jesse Nicholson, Kane Thorpe, John(Jack) Elliott, Violet Williams, Trish Pareezer, William Mahony, Patrick Clarke, Greta Van Bekkum, Colleen Watt, Michael Sullivan, Isabel McCarthy, John Carvel, Richard Smith, Bernadettte Connolly, Patrick Kelly, Viktor Brandt , Pauline O'Neil, Michael Sullivan.

***Please pray for those who are sick, especially:*** Phyllis Mayer, 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, 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:** **The Grace of Compassion**

As we journey to the brink of a new year, we pray that it unfolds to be a year filled with grace-filled moments of compassion.

Compassion is more than a feeling, rather it is a grace that flows from God's love. In Catholic teaching, compassion reflects the heart of Christ, who entered into human suffering to redeem and restore. The Catechism reminds us that charity, the greatest virtue, calls us to love as Christ loves. Compassion is charity in action, when we see the pain of others and respond with mercy.

Jesus' family especially needed compassion during their journey to Egypt and back to Nazareth. Compassion is not mere sympathy; it is a deliberate choice to share in another's burden, echoing St. Paul's exhortation to "bear one another's burdens," (Galatians 6:2). This grace moves us beyond self-interest toward solidarity with the vulnerable, which is exemplified in Jesus' compassionate outreach to others throughout his ministry. Compassion transforms communities because it reflects God's kingdom on earth.

To cultivate this grace of compassion, we turn to prayer and the sacraments. The Eucharist strengthens us to love generously. When we receive Christ, we are empowered to be his hands and heart in the world.

As St. Teresa of Avila reminds us: "Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle and melt the soul." Ultimately, compassion is a gift and a calling—an invitation to become instruments of healing, hope and grace.

*Faith Enrichment Ministry*

| **Roster: 3rd & 4th January** | **Saturday 6pm Mass** | **Sunday 9am Mass** | **Sunday 6pm Mass** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Mass Co-ordinator*** | Anthony Andradi | Claudio Ramos | Malcolm Carroll |
| ***AV Operator*** | David Crowley | Alwin Joseph | Trevor Waturoucha |
| ***Readers*** | C. Neil Ballment<br>1. Joyce Lyster<br>2. Peta Grandin | C. Alina George<br>1. Mae Marfil<br>2. Caitlin Marfil | C. David Roati<br>1. Aleena D'Sila<br>2. Cesarina Gigante |
| ***Extraordinary Ministers of Communion*** | Shelagh Ballment<br>Lyndal Bray-Claridge<br>Carl de Mello | Rosie Bertolacci<br>Conrad D'Netto<br>Anne Scanlon<br>Julie Hondroudakis<br>Lisa Hammett | John Blake<br>Megan Carroll<br>Anne Fry |
| ***Musicians*** | Elizabeth Fort | Rita Bishop | Elizabeth Fort |
| ***Altar Servers*** | | | |
| ***Cleaning Group 4*** | Mary Crowley, Beverly Cramer, Francis Yoo, Chris and Callista Jesuthasan | | |
| ***Cuppa & Chat:*** *after 6pm Sunday 3rd Jan Mass: Care & Concern group* | | | |
| ***This week: 28th Dec – 3rd Jan:*** | ***Sacristan:*** *Celine Phillips* | | ***Counting:*** *Marcos' Group* |

| **Roster: 10th & 11th Jan.** | **Saturday 6pm Mass** | **Sunday 9am Mass** | **Sunday 6pm Mass** |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Mass Co-ordinator*** | Chrysanth Jesuthasan | Francis Yoo | Kate Guy |
| ***AV Operator*** | Callista Jesuthasan | Tony Arakakunnel | Jonathan Vigor |
| ***Readers*** | C. David Crowley<br>1. Lyndal Bray-Claridge<br>2. Peta Grandin | C. Eric Quan<br>1. Rosie Bertolacci<br>2. Clive D'Silva | C. John Blake<br>1. Malcolm Carroll<br>2. Anne Fry |
| ***Extraordinary Ministers of Communion*** | Joyce Lyster,<br>Michael Jarvis<br>Joseph Varkey | Vivienne Linnett, Leroy Lobo, Alan Vigor, Deseree Quan & Anne Scanlon | Cesarina Gigante<br>Vickie Routledge<br>Laly Chakoo |
| ***Musicians*** | Elizabeth Fort | Rita Bishop | Elizabeth Fort |
| ***Altar Servers*** | | Damien | |
| ***Cleaning Group 5*** | Neil Mone, Julie Hondroudakis, Kathy Winter, Jackie Leema | | |
| ***Cuppa & Chat:*** *after 9am Sunday 11th Jan Mass: Peter Hondroudakis, Joan D'Netto & Sharita Lobo.* | | | |
| ***This week: 3rd – 10th Jan:*** | ***Sacristan:*** *Suma Joseph* | | ***Counting:*** *Carl'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:** 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

**Books for sale from the Parish Office & church.**
**God's Word 2026:** With all the readings for every day of the year. Cost $15 each.
**Break Open the Word 2026** resource for readers at weekend Mass. Cost $33 each.

**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.

**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.

**'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.

Thank you for your support.

***These businesses support our parish, please support them:***