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

First Sunday of Advent

30th November 2025

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Season of Advent: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "a coming, approach, arrival." In Advent, we prepare our homes and churches as we joyfully anticipate His arrival, and the light also gets brighter as we near Christmas day, the day on which the Light of the World was born.

In Advent, wreaths and candles are commonly seen in Catholic churches. Many people also display Advent wreaths in their homes and light a candle each Sunday as families. The Advent wreath is a centuries-old Christian tradition. The origin of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany. Historians have suggested that pre-Christian Germanic peoples would light candles around wreaths in the dark winter months in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months in springtime. This tradition likely evolved into an "Advent wreath" at some point during the Middle Ages, transforming the pagan tradition into a Christian one. The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus. "Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay.

The Advent Candles: The four candles of Advent symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically white and larger than the other candles and is placed in the centre of the wreath.

1. **First Advent Candle:** Hope: Hope not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season. The first candle is purple, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.
2. **Second Advent Candle:** Peace: Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It is about the prophesy of Jesus' coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace.
3. **Third Advent Candle:** Joy – "Gaudete Sunday": It symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas, our joy grows more and more. It is the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. It is also called "Shepherd's Candle," and its colour is pink.
4. **Fourth Advent Candle:** Love: It is the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. It is also called the "Angel's Candle," and its colour is purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

We are Your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light. To You, we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Fr Johny Edapulavan CMI

In our parish this week: December 2025

Monday 01	Tuesday 02	Wednesday 03	Thursday 04	Friday 05	Saturday 06	Sunday 07
8.00am Mass **10.00am-12pm** Coffee and chat at More Café, Springwood	**8.00am** Mass with children **4.30pm** SVDP Mtg **6.30pm** Graduation	**8.00am** Mass	**St Francis Xavier** *Parish Office Closed*	**8.30am** Rosary **9.00am Adoration** **9.30am** Healing Mass **11.00am** End of School Year Mass – in the Simon Peter Centre	**5.00pm** Reconciliation **6.00pm** Mass	**Second Sunday of Advent** **9.00am** Mass **6.00pm** Mass

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. Many of us last did a group training back in late October, early November 2023 so we are needing to redo our training. 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 over the next few weeks. Thank you to the 11 people who attended the in-person training session held on 20th November **- more sessions to follow as required.** Please contact the Parish Office to register for a group training session.

Readings for next weekend:
Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)
Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Carols Under the Stars Sunday **30th November** from 7pm on the lawn beside the church (weather permitting!). Helpers are still needed. Contact Carmel on 0417213702.

Rochedale Vinnies' Christmas Appeal

'The Lord hears the cry of the poor' (See Ps 34:7)

Share God's gifts of love & hope at Christmas by giving:

Cash or Gift Cards From

Woolworths, Drakes or Coles

Christmas Goodies

Christmas Cakes ... Christmas Puddings
Fruit Mince Tarts ... Long Life Custards
Tins of Fruit ... Bottles of Cordial

Bring to the **Giving Tree** @ Front of the Church by Sunday 7 December.

Reconciliation during Advent – there will be no communal Second Rite of Reconciliation during this Advent season. Instead, in addition to the usual time for Reconciliation of 5pm -5.30pm on Saturdays, Fr Johny will be available for Reconciliation for 15 minutes before Masses on the Sundays in December leading up to Christmas - that is from 8.30am to 8.45am or 5.30pm to 5.45pm

Morning Tea Gathering: all welcome to meet together at More Café in Springwood Mall (near Woolworths) at 10am on **Monday 1st December**.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who have died: Patricia O' Keeffe, Katarina Warwas *(Ursula Williamson's sister)*, June Power

Book of Life & Mass Requests, Marie Carpenter, Neville Cavanagh, Michael Mildren, Len Louis, Kathleen Walsh, Len Louis, Kathleen Walsh, Mario Gatbonton, Mona McKenna, Vince Fitzsimon, Evelyn Ellwood, Mabel MacDonald, Bernard Luton, Sophie Robinson, Bernard Montegrande, Marie Maguire, Ruth Ballment, Clyde Spearitt, Kay Topping, Les Harris, Silvia Milaudi, Eddie McDonnell.

Please pray for those who are sick, especially: 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: Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas

Advent marks a special time in our Catholic calendar, inviting us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Beginning four Sundays before Christmas Day, Advent is a period of anticipation and reflection. It's a chance for us to slow down in the midst of our busy lives, light the candles on the Advent wreath, and contemplate the true meaning of the season.

What will you notice at St Peter's? The colours in the church will be light purple, there will be a poster each week that focuses on the theme of the Gospel, slides will go up at Thanksgiving time after Communion with the image repeated for your reflection. And…of course the Advent wreath is a feature and we will sing as we light the candles each week.

The four candles—each representing hope, peace, joy, and love—remind us of God's promises and the fulfilment we find in Jesus. In our parish, Advent is a wonderful opportunity to deepen our prayer life, participate in reconciliation, and reach out to those in need. Whether through attending Mass, volunteering, or generously supporting the poor, we are called to bring Christ's light into our community.

Let us journey together this Advent, embracing the quiet moments for prayer and reflection, and preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus anew. May this season fill you and your loved ones with hope, peace, joy, and love as we await the birth of our Saviour.

Faith Enrichment Ministry

WOW (Wise Owl Wednesdays): Our next WOW will be the 'Back to the Tivoli Christmas Spectacular' Concert at Sunpac, Sunnybank at **11am on Wed 10th December.** Tickets are $20 and there is only one left!!! Please see Julie, to pay for this last ticket asap. Transport to Sunpac is of your own arrangements. Lunch to follow the concert is optional and at your own expense at Sunset Bar and Grill restaurant at the Sunnybank Sports Club. It will be best to place your lunch order before the concert begins so check your emails for the menu.

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.

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.

Rochedale Youth: Next Youth & young adults gathering Thursday evening **11th December** in the Parish Centre starting at 7pm. For information on our Youth Ministry or Young Adults Group, please speak to Clive D'Silva when you are at Mass or contact the Parish Office on 3341 4421.

Roster: 6th & 7th Dec.	Saturday 6pm Mass	Sunday 9am Mass	Sunday 6pm Mass
Mass Co-ordinator	Carl de Mello	Francis Yoo	Liberty de Jesus
AV Operator	David Crowley	Alina George	Trevor Waturoucha
Readers	C. Cecilia Lai 1. Edmund Lai 2. Shelagh Ballment	C. Alan Vigor 1. Eric Quan 2. Clive D'Silva	C. Megan Carroll 1. Anne Fry 2. Aleena D'Silva
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Joseph Varkey Michael Jarvis Joyce Lyster	Julie Hondroudakis Vivienne Linnett Leroy Lobo Deseree Quan Anne Scanlon	Ann Maree Collier Cesarina Gigante Vickie Routledge
Musicians	Roger Ta'ale	Carmel Northey-Cherrett	Elizabeth Fort
Altar Servers	**Volunteer**	Anthony & Damien	Malcolm Carroll & Kyle
Cleaning Group 5	Neil Mone, Julie Hondroudakis, Kathy Winter & Jackie Leema.		
Cuppa & Chat: after 6pm Saturday 6th Dec Mass: Ann Maree Collier, Peta Grandin & Michael Jarvis.			
This week: 30th Nov – 6th Dec:	**Sacristan:** Tina Nguyen		**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: November 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

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.

Christian Religious Instruction (CRI) Needs YOU!

Do you have a heart for local mission – reaching those literally in your own backyard?
Why not consider going back to school in 2026?
In Queensland State Schools we have the wonderful privilege of being able to volunteer to teach children within the Christian Religious Instruction program. Volunteers from many different Christian denominations form a team to teach CRI at Rochedale State School. As a CRI teacher or helper, you can read the Bible and share the gospel message clearly though our curriculum which has full lesson plans, student workbooks and online resources. All that is needed is 30 minutes a week to teach, some time to prepare, 3 online training modules, a Blue Card and a letter from our parish priest.
We always need and welcome new volunteers of all ages and all walks of life to our group and I can confirm that it is such a rewarding outreach ministry of our church. Maybe you would consider joining us?
If you would like more information, please contact our CRI coordinator Sonia Kenny soniajkenny@gmail.com or 0422 068552 or Rita Bishop ritajbishop@yahoo.com or 0408154751

Entertainment Memberships Your 12 months Membership gives you savings on dining, retail, entertainment and travel. You can chose between a Single City membership or Multi-City which 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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Pre-Purchase Building and Pest Inspector
Pool Safety Inspector
THE BEST BUILDING AND PEST INSPECTION
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