



## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Sunnybank

Calamvale, Kuraby, Macgregor, Parkinson, Robertson, Runcorn, Stretton, Sunnybank, Sunnybank Hills

† Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 121 Mains Road, Sunnybank

**Parish Office** (adjacent to Church, Sunnybank) **Ph: 3345 3766** **Office Hours** Monday to Thursday, 8.30 am - 4.00 pm; Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm  
**Post:** PO Box 32, Sunnybank, QLD 4109 **Web:** www.olol.com.au **Email:** sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au  
**Priests:** Fr Enoch Iheme (Parish Priest) Fr Francisco Evangelista (Associate Pastor)

### Monday 4th December

8:15am Morning Prayer  
8.30am **Mass**

### Tuesday 5th December

8:15am Morning Prayer  
8.30am **Mass**  
9.30am Bible Study  
7.00pm Adoration

### Wednesday 6th December

8:15am Morning Prayer  
8.30am **Mass**  
9.00am Rosary  
6.00pm Advent Program

### Thursday 7th December

*St Ambrose*

7:50am Christian Meditation  
8.45am Morning Prayer  
9.00am **Mass**

### Friday 8th December

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:15am Morning Prayer  
8.30am **Mass**  
9.00am Adoration  
10.00am Legion of Mary  
6.00pm Christmas Carols

### Saturday 9th December

10.00am Rosary & Novena  
11.00am Reconciliation  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
6.00pm **Mass**

### Sunday 10th December

*Second Sunday of Advent*

6.30am **Mass**  
8.00am **Mass**  
9.15am **Mass**  
10.30am **Mass**  
6.00pm **Mass (Youth)**



## First Sunday of Advent - 3rd December 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Amen! Amen!! Amen!!! Like St Paul to the Corinthians, **I never stop thanking God for the grace of our beautiful and faithful community.**

I wish to begin this Advent season by saying **Amen to your past, present and future prayers.** After three years as your parish priest, I have been reflecting on your unreserved goodwill, support, understanding and companionship. **You have made my life so beautiful and fruitful. Three years ago, you said this prayer at the start of my pastoral leadership of your parish:**



*Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of Fr Enoch. Through him, we experience Your presence in the Sacraments. Help him to be strong in his vocation. Set his soul on fire with love for Your people. Grant him the wisdom, understanding, and strength he needs to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire him with the vision of your Kingdom. Give him the words he needs to spread the Gospel. Allow him to experience joy in his Ministry. Help him to become an instrument of Your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as Our Eternal Priest. Amen.*

I am confident to say that as we have gone through the Church's liturgical circle together, I feel **enriched and nourished in so many ways by the faith, hope and love** that we shared through the years. **As we begin the Advent, it is my turn to pray for you:**

*May the God that neither sleeps nor slumbers keep you on your guard as you await the great Advent. May you be awake in the presence of God and welcome him when he comes to you. May God keep you steady and without blame until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Congratulations to All the Staff and Students of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and St Thomas More College for an amazing 2023 School Year.** They all deserve a break and a time to renew their energy before the next School Year. **We pray for the graduating students and the staff that will be leaving us to the next stage of their life.** Our parish community loves you and will be ready to welcome you any time.

**Welcome to 2023 Advent season and join our Parish Community weekend as we pray and share a cuppa after Mass.** I would propose that during this weekend Cuppa, that we share our personal, family or group plans for advent. Some of the simple and ordinary things we do may encourage our fellow parishioners to start preparing for Christmas. Beside your personal Advent Preparations, we have the Parish Advent Program for everybody in the parish. **On 6, 13 & 20 December, at 6.30pm, there will be an Advent Retreat** with teachings on how to rediscover Advent in our Liturgy, our Popular Piety, and our social and commercial life. As a community, we acknowledge that some of us will need a helping hand this season and so our **Unite Youth are organising a Charity Shoebox Operation** to collect essential needs for our needy. There will be **Advent reconciliation on Thursday 21st December at 6pm in the Church.**

We are ready for the 3rd edition of our **Annual Parish Christmas Carols and Sausage Sizzle on Friday 8th December.** It is always a wonderful evening and it can only get better. This parish event is for everyone and our simple way of spreading the joy of Christmas. Come along with your family and friends.

God Bless, Fr Enoch Iheme

**Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

**2 Peter 3:8-14**

**Mark 1:1-8**

## First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

**First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8** Isaiah reminds God of the covenant commitment made to Israel. He accuses God of not properly supporting the chosen people, causing them to harden their hearts and stray from God's ways. The prophet begs God to "tear the heavens open and come down" – to once again guide the people who are, after all, just like clay needing to be reformed in the hands of their Father, the potter.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9** In 1 Corinthians, Paul assures his readers they can confidently leave the future in God's hands because they have already been given all the graces and gifts they need as they wait for the return of Christ Jesus.

**Gospel: Mark 13:33-37** As we begin our reading of Mark's Gospel in this new liturgical year, Jesus is seen as the Prophet in the Temple, using a parable of the master returning home, encouraging, urging, admonishing his disciples to be awake and ready for the Master's imminent, unexpected return.

Purcell, Michele. "First Sunday of Advent - 3 December 2023." Pastoral Liturgy 54, no. 1 (2023): 1-6.

### PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH THE... *Parish Advent Retreat*

Let us share in Advent Teachings as we wait for the Lord's arrival with reflections and a variety of family activities for all ages.

**Date:** 6th, 13th & 20th December 2023

**Time:** 6:30pm—7:30pm

**Place:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sunnybank

Join your parish family for activities centred on Advent as a season of repentance, preparation and joy.

**RSVP:** By Monday 4th December

**Email:** sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au

**Phone:** Parish Office, 3345 3766



### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### 4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday 24th December

- \* 6:30am Mass
- \* 8am Mass
- \* 9:15am Mass
- \* No 10:30am Mass

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December:

- \* 4pm Children's Mass with the Nativity Play & Youth Carols
- \* 6pm Children's Mass with the Nativity Play & Youth Carols
- \* No 8pm Mass
- \* 12.00am Midnight Mass with Christmas Carols

#### Christmas Day, Monday 25th December:

- \* 8.00am Mass
- \* 9.30am Mass

Sunnybank Parishioners Trip to Marian Valley, Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians with our priest, Fr Enoch Iheme.  
Saturday, 18/11/2023

Teaching by Fr Zachary Lewis



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish  
invites you to the...

## Christmas Carols & Sausage Sizzle

Come and join us for an evening of  
singing, friendship and fun,  
lead by our amazing Filipino choir!

**Date:** Friday 8th December  
**Time:** Commencing at 6pm  
**Place:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church,  
121 Mains Rd, Sunnybank

*Merry Christmas & we'll see you there in  
your best Christmas dress!*

### ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Advent is starting and with it preparations for Christmas are beginning. Have you considered preparing spiritually by attending Advent Reconciliation?

**When:** Thursday, 21 December at 6pm

**Where:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church



# ALIVE

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE



### A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

Here comes December and the end of another school year. The graduation of the 2023 Year 12 classes struck a chord with me – they were in Year 1 when I moved to Brisbane. I remember the enthusiasm of those young students when I first visited schools around southeast Queensland. Those classes have lost none of that energy and excitement for life. May that long continue. To all of our students, staff, families and, of course our remarkable teachers, congratulations on another year of schooling. May you enjoy the holiday break as we celebrate Christmas and the moment that God became one of us. May Christmas be a time of light, joy and peace. A very happy Christmas to all.

## Your Prayers Are Asked For:

recently deceased: **Kevin Coorey**, Colin Nicholls, Nicholas Reynolds

those with anniversaries & others who have died: Arthur Bailey, Kathleen Bailey, Alfonso Pineda, Carlos Herrarte, H. Karvelis

those who are unwell: **Betty Pengelly, Adhi Nugraha Wirawan, Gloria Betancurt, Jose de Ita, Fredy Noyola**, Josh Campbell, Antonio Duke, Laura Hernandez, Ellen Garrigan, Katura Henriquez, Corbin Mullamphy



### PARISH COMMUNITY WEEKEND

Come celebrate with us on the weekend of **2 & 3 December** at the usual Masses and share a 'cuppa' and meet new friends and old. The Welcoming Group invites you to stay for a while after Mass and get to know your fellow parishioners. See you there!



### OUR PARISH LIBRARY

In the **MEDIA ROOM** next to the Church  
**OPEN:** Sunday 10 December, 7.30am - 12noon

Come and look...find something of interest...  
borrow for 1 month!

We have well over 1000 books, and our on-line catalogue can be accessed through Our Lady of Lourdes website:

- ⇒ menu
- ⇒ contacts & links
- ⇒ forms & downloads
- ⇒ parish library listing



or via this link:

[https://www.olol.com.au/  
uploads/1/0/3/8/103877698/parishlibrarylisting.pdf](https://www.olol.com.au/uploads/1/0/3/8/103877698/parishlibrarylisting.pdf)

### CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME AND ITS PEOPLE: *Laudato Deum*

#### VII. Spiritual Motivations

61. I cannot fail in this regard to remind the Catholic faithful of the motivations born of their faith. I encourage my brothers and sisters of other religions to do the same, since we know that authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole.

62. The Bible tells us: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" ( Gen 1:31). His is "the earth with all that is in it" ( Deut 10:14). For this reason, he tells us that, "the land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants" ( Lev 25:23). Hence, "responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world".

**This Advent and Christmas season is a time when we can take to heart the words of Pope Francis and ensure the way we gift each other and celebrate our faith can also care for our common home and its people.**

### SUNNYBANK CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP



Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Charismatic Prayer will resume on 3 February 2024

## THE CATHOLIC LEADER

The December edition of the Catholic Leader is now available for \$4 from the church foyer.

This month, read about Toowoomba's new transitional Deacons, a priest who delivered twins outside a US Cathedral, discussions of ethics of new AI technologies and several articles on preparing spiritually for Christmas.

A reminder that the Catholic Leader will be switching to a subscription only model in 2024 and newspapers will no longer be available from the church.

### PREPARE FOR ADVENT 2023 WITH...

#### **Bruce Downes, *The Catholic Guy***

Join Bruce and people all around the world for a free Daily Devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.

Starting 3rd December, you'll receive a short inspirational video each day filled with real life stories and practical ways to help you in your prayer and spiritual journey. Bruce finds, "You don't become what you hope to become. You only become what you do."

What will you do this Advent?

Register here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Advent/>  
For more information, email: [info@brucedownes.org](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

For more information:  
[www.idpwd.com.au/](http://www.idpwd.com.au/)



3 December  
**International Day of  
People with Disability**

### Archdiocese of Brisbane Safeguarding Commitment

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services.

***The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.***





**PARISH STAFF  
& CONTACTS**

**Pastoral Ministry Coordinator**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Unite Youth/Young Adults Coordinators**  
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Barbara Elliott  
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**Housekeeper:**  
Louise Weston

**Paloma Reception Centre**  
3345 3766

**OLOL School, Sunnybank**  
Principal - Phil Manitta  
3345 0700

**OLOL OSHC**  
Co-ordinator - Sheleen Lata  
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3344 3064

**St Thomas More College,  
Sunnybank**  
Principal - Les Conroy  
3323 4600

**St Vincent de Paul**  
1800 Vinnies  
1800 846 643

**Soubirous Place**  
Sr Bridgid

**Centacare**  
Service Delivery Manager -  
Emma Rohde  
3323 2100

# OLOL Operation Shoebox

Help us support people in our community this advent.



There are 3 ways to give to Operation Shoebox including:

1. Creating and filing a shoebox for our Gift Tree
2. Adding to our Items Box
3. Financial Support

Find more information in the Church Foyer or contact the Youth Team.

# OLOL Operation Shoebox Recipient Nominations



Please nominate people within our community who will benefit from our assistance this Christmas Season. Use the above QR Code or the form in the church foyer.

UNITE YOUTH SUNNYBANK

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

**SUN DEC 03 2023  
AFTER 6PM MASS**

MOVIE NIGHT OUT.  
HOYTS SUNNYBANK

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
GO TO OUR WEBSITE

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL DAY

**When:** 10th of December 2023, 3:00pm before the 6pm Mass  
Everyone aged 18-35 are welcome!



The Youth Choir has been asked to sing the Christmas Carols before the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass. We are in need of more SINGERS and MUSICIANS

**Please text Gabby 0490 479 087  
if you would like to join our Youth Choir**

**STAYIN' ALIVE SUMMERCAMP '24**

11-14 January 2024

ignifyouth.com/summervcamp