



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 11th December

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

Tuesday 12th December

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

Wednesday 13th December

St Lucy

8:15am Morning Prayer
8.30am **Mass**
9.00am Rosary
6.30pm Advent Program

Thursday 14th December

St John of the Cross

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

Friday 15th December

8:15am Morning Prayer
8.30am **Mass**
9.00am Adoration
10.00am Legion of Mary

Saturday 16th December

11.00am Reconciliation
5.00pm Reconciliation
6.00pm **Mass**

Sunday 17th December

Third Sunday of Advent

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



Saint John the Baptist Bearing Witness by Annibale Carracci, c. 1600. Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Second Sunday of Advent - 10th December 2023

Dear Parishioners,



Advent is a Latin word that means arrival, presence, coming. **In Advent, we hear the voices of the prophets, announcing the coming of the Messiah.** Also the voice of John the Baptist and Jesus himself, announcing the proximity of the Kingdom of God. **Advent is a time of joyful expectation.** It is a time to wait, to be attentive and vigilant, joyfully preparing ourselves for the coming of the Lord. The season of Advent is a **time of hope, because Christ is our hope;** hope in the renewal of all things, in freedom from our miseries, sins, weaknesses, in eternal life, hope that forms us in patience in the face of the difficulties and tribulations of life and in the face of persecution. Advent is also a time of conversion. **It is necessary that we prepare the way of the Lord in our own lives, fighting against sin, through prayer and meditation on the Word of God.**

This Sunday we have before our eyes the preaching of John the Baptist in the desert. **Conversion is the great word of John the Baptist's preaching, continued later by the Church.** Converting is leaving the wrong path and returning to the right path. John the Baptist said: **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"**. This message comes to us, and invites us to **open our eyes to see the One who always approaches.** The message of conversion to prepare the way for the Lord is a matter of every day; because **each day can be the "day of encounter with the Lord"** for each person.

In this season of Advent, **let us also remember the Virgin Mary, the one who is blessed because she believed in the Lord's message.** In Mary, preserved from any sin and full of grace, God found the fertile soil, in which he planted the seed of the new humanity. To her, preserved from guilt and filled with divine grace, we place our hope. **Let us ask for her intercession for each one of us, so that we can prepare the Lord's paths with dignity and make his paths straight so that, one day, we can contemplate the salvation that comes from God.**

The Parish Advent Program continues on Wednesday 13 & 20 December, at 6.30pm. The next topic will be **'Mary & the Holy Family towards Advent'**. A reminder that there will be **Advent reconciliation on Thursday 21st December at 6pm** in the Church. **The Unite Youth Charity Shoebox Operation continues this weekend.** The Shoebox operation is designed to be our parish way of giving and receiving. **To help us reach that person in need in our community, please nominate them by using our Shoebox charity nomination form.**

The 3rd edition of our Annual Parish Christmas Carols & Sausage Sizzle was held on Friday with great success. **Thank you so much to the Filipino Choir and the students of OLOL Primary School** who lead the carols. **A special thanks also goes to the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council** for organising the event.

God Bless,

Fr Francisco Evangelista

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Isaiah's joyful message to those exiled from Jerusalem in Babylon is that their ordeal is almost over! Have no more fear of any punishment, says the prophet, but shout for joy to God with a loud voice. They should prepare for the journey home because the glory of the Lord shall soon be revealed.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 What we are waiting for is what God promised; the new heavens and new earth. In the second reading today, Peter encourages his Christian community to continue trusting in God who is always faithful. Although the people have been waiting a very long time for the Parousia, their Lord is not slow to act – but simply waiting patiently so that everybody has a chance to repent and change their ways.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 Commentators have often remarked that Mark's Gospel does not have much varnish on it. This is true. The first word (in Greek) 'beginning' recalls the opening of the Hebrew Bible where the Book of Genesis simply starts 'beginning'. And then, we are straight into it! In our introduction to John the Baptist, readers would have heard echoes of the great prophet Elijah. Just as Elijah was succeeded by another, this prophet will be succeeded by someone following, someone more powerful: Jesus.

Purcell, Michele. "Second Sunday of Advent - 10 December 2023." Pastoral Liturgy 54, no. 1 (2023): 1-6.

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
- * 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

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: 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.

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



AN ADVENT STORY VIDEO SERIES

Advent season is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas. It is a time of spiritual renewal, a chance to direct our hearts and minds to receive the nativity of Christ, our Saviour. As prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3), we fill our hearts and soul with joyous anticipation and hope of the fulfilment of God's plan in the person of Jesus Christ.

As we begin the spiritual journey towards Christmas, each week we invite you to explore the Christmas traditions and stories within the families and communities in our Archdiocese and the different ways we prepare to encounter Christ.

Episodes available now:

1. Preparing Hearts
2. Loving Wholeheartedly
3. Coming soon...

To watch the videos, go to

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/articles/an-advent-story/>

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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 2023

For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



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.



Your Prayers Are Asked For:

recently deceased: **Betty Pengelly, Manuel Caragay, Agnes Hyland, Andrew Te Whiu, Johnny Lozano Ticman, Michael Davis, Elisa Arcely Granados de Borja, Sister Milagros Amos S.P.C, Kevin Coorey**

those with anniversaries & others who have died: **James Johnston, Mark Woods, Benito Alarcon, Rosario Alarcon, Mercedes Ventura Tamayo, Una Glennon, Annie McErlean**

those who are unwell: **Lorraine Johnston, Lili Muñoz, Sheila Daley, Cecilia Morandini, Maria Fortozo, Cathy & Mick Crust, Adhi Nugraha Wirawan, Gloria Betancurt, Jose de Ita, Fredy Noyola**

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:

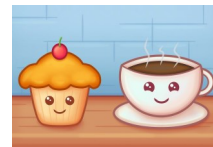
<https://www.olol.com.au/uploads/1/0/3/8/103877698/parishlibrarylisting.pdf>



Second Monday of the Month Coffee Morning

When: Monday 11 December 9:30am

Where: Chatterbox Coffee Shop,
Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown,
661 Compton Road, Sunnybank Hills.
All are welcome!



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

63. "the universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible richness of God". Hence, to be wise, "we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships". Along this path of wisdom, it is not a matter of indifference to us that so many species are disappearing and that the climate crisis endangers the life of many other beings.

64. Jesus "was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attraction full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things".

65. Hence, "the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise, because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence". If "the universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely...there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face". The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?

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.

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

If you would like to start receiving the parish newsletter via email, please contact the parish office at sec.sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au

COLUMBARIUM

Friends, as you are aware the Parish has a Columbarium which is located along the southern side of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a quiet location surrounded with gardens and seating. There are three granite walls at present, with other walls to be erected in the future, for the resting place of the mortal remains of our loved ones.

The Columbarium garden is a peaceful prayer filled garden, and offers a special area for prayer and reflection.

For further information please contact the Parish Office by emailing sec.sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY—REHEARSAL DATES

The children of the parish are invited to participate in this year's Nativity Plays at the 4pm & 6pm Christmas Eve Masses. Register via the sign up sheets in the church, or through the parish office.

Rehearsals for the Nativity Play at the **4.00pm Children's Mass** on Christmas Eve:

- * Wednesday 20th December, 2pm - 4pm in the Church
- * Saturday 23rd December, 2pm - 4pm in the Church

Please attend both rehearsals if possible

Rehearsals for the Nativity Play at the **6.00pm Children's Mass** on Christmas Eve:

- * Thursday 21st December, 9:30am - 11:30am in the Church
- * Friday 22nd December, 9:30am - 11:30am in the Church

Please attend both rehearsals if possible





PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

Pastoral Ministry Coordinator

Noel Arceo

pa.sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au

Local Safeguarding Representative

Fiona Eastgate

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Secretary

Megan Carroll

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Accounts

Tam Nguyen

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Caring Ministry

care.concern.sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au

Unite Youth/Young Adults Coordinators

Abbey O'Toole & Gabby Alamo

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0493 100 177

Parish Music Coordinator:

Barbara Elliott

elliottba@bne.catholic.net.au

Housekeeper:

Louise Weston

Paloma Reception Centre

3345 3766

LOL School, Sunnybank

Principal - Phil Manitta

3345 0700

LOL OSHC

Co-ordinator - Sheleen Lata

sunnybankoshc@bne.centacare.net.au

3344 3064

St Thomas More College,

Sunnybank

Principal - Les Conroy

3323 4600

St Vincent de Paul

1800 Vinnies

1800 846 643

Centacare

Service Delivery Manager -

Emma Rohde

3323 2100

LOL Operation Shoebox

Help us support people in our community this advent.



There are 3 ways to give to Operation Shoebox including:

1. Creating and filling 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.

LOL 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.

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 4pm & 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



FREE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

RESOURCES FOR KIDS



GROWING WITH JESUS



Evangelisation Brisbane's Children and Families team has created a collection of free resources to help engage children and parents in your parish during the upcoming liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Resources can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/adventchristmasresources2023>, including printable Advent Calendar, craft activities, a weekly Advent video series and animated Nativity story video.