



OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 8.30am - 12.30pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 8.30am - 3.30pm
Friday: 8.30am - 12.30pm

Address: 100 Mayfield Road
Carina Qld 4152

Postal: PO Box 305,
Carina Qld 4152

Phone: (07) 3398 2977

Email: carina@bne.catholic.net.au

Website: www.carinacatholicparish.org.au

Facebook: Our Lady of Graces Catholic
Parish, Carina

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am & 5.30pm
10.30am (Italian)

Weekday: 6.30am & 9am
Monday - Friday
8am Saturday
& Public Holidays

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 8.30am - 9.00am
5.30pm - 6.00pm
or by appointment

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Alex Vickers O.P.
Assistant Priest: Fr Maurice Keating O.P.
Pastoral Associate: Shelly Stone
Email: sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Chris Larter
Email: carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Finance Officer: Chris Larter
Email: fo.carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Italian Chaplain: Fr Luis Antonio Diaz
Lamus CS
Phone: 0403 948 967

Spread the Word

Vol. 38 No. 48 1st Sunday of Advent 3 December 2023

The community of Our Lady of Graces acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish stands.

Reflection by Nick Brodie

Advent is a season best lived in a wakeful way. Pope Francis has characterised it as a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history.' Every year we prepare for Christ's final return by preparing to celebrate his birth, all while reminding ourselves that he is already present.

This season is therefore a time in which every Christian is called 'to listen to the Lord who knocks', as the Pope put it. Jesus is knocking already; it is we who need to wake from our slumber and spring into action. The Church isn't a waiting room. We need to do more than sit and wait. While a season of expectation, Advent is also an annual reminder that the Christian adventure is already underway! Which is what being 'on guard' really means. It is not a negative sort of guardedness, closed off from the world. Rather, the gist of Jesus' message is about readiness, preparedness, awareness. As Pope Francis says, this means we should strive to avoid being 'overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality'. Admittedly, there is much to be distracted by at this time of year. Yet, in the end life is not measured by Christmas presents but by being truly present. As the Pope says, Jesus wants each one of us to be a person who 'lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others.'



Have you thought? Beginning Advent

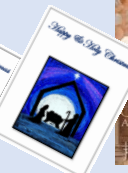
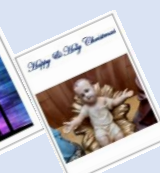
The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet – the same colour as used in Lent. In recent years, some parishes have moved to a more blue/mauve colour for Advent to try to distinguish it from the season of Lent.

Parish Shop

The following are available for purchase from the Parish Shop until sold out.



Advent & Christmas Daily Reflection Books: \$6
Parish Christmas Cards: \$5 for a pack of 5
2024 Columban Calendars: \$10



PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 3 December

- 9.00am Baptisms in Mass – Church

Monday 4 December

- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group Mass – Church

Tuesday 5 December

- 9.30am Japanese Language Playgroup
– Hospitality Area

- 10.30am Funeral: Loma McLennan – Church
(Rosary will be recited at 10.00am)

- 5.30pm Social Justice Group – Hospitality Area

Wednesday 6 December

- 9.45am Novena: OLPH – Library

- 6.30pm Legion of Mary – Front Parlour

Friday 8 December

- 12noon Hour of Grace – Library

Saturday 9 December

- 7.00am Parish Working Bee – Church Grounds

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick Fr Antonio Rosseberg, Thomas Antony, Olivia Campbell, Liam O'Brien, Ancilla Richards, Peter Cartwright, Michael Dalton, Jocelyn Bonney, Ciaran Ayres, Caroline Massa, Marie Atkinson, Elliott Jones-Perrin, Pamela O'Reilly, Noah Riley **those whose anniversaries occur around this time** Gerald & Teresa Simento, Renata Byrne, Ornella Facini, Liliana Cucchiaro, Dolores Reay, Rita Wilkinson, Sharon Grau, Chas Steele, Maureen Ryan, Peona Family, Rostagno Family, Beatrice & John Saunders, Patrick & Devika, Leonard Pashen, Jay Elbourne, Mark Roff, Antoniette Paolucci, Norah Convine, David Di Mascio **and the recently deceased** Loma McLennan, Peter Daley, Paul McKean, Fr David Halstead OP, Lynette Choe, Br Terry Kelly.

2024 Planned Giving Envelopes

The Planned Giving Envelopes for 2024 are available near the main door of the Church for our envelope-givers. Please collect your envelopes to save the parish the time and cost of posting them out. Please note that some givers may have a new envelope number due to a reduction of envelope givers. If you cannot find your envelopes, please contact the parish office on 3398 2977 or carina@bne.catholic.net.au.

Available with the 2024 Planned Giving Envelopes will be Direct Debit and Credit Card forms. This is for any of our envelope-givers who may wish to move across to giving via either Direct Debit or Credit Card. Please note that moving across to Direct Debit or Credit Card giving is completely optional, and that you are still welcome to use envelopes if this is still your preferred way of giving.

Parish Office Hours

(Monday 4 December - Friday 8 December)

Shelly will be on leave this coming week. Therefore, the Parish Office Hours this next week may vary from the 'usual' times listed on the front page of Spread the Word. If you need to visit the parish office during this next week, you may wish to call first and check if the office is attended.

Social Justice Group will meet on Tuesday, 5 December, **5.30pm** in the Hospitality Area. New members more than welcome.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Work on the Church Skylights

Work on the Church Skylights will commence, at this stage, on Wednesday 6 December.

As explained in Spread the Word last weekend, the work on the Church Skylights will involve the installation of the new Polycarbonate Sheeting to reduce the amount of light and heat currently coming through the skylights. The colour selected for the sheeting throughout all four skylights is Grey Tint, which to the eye looks more of a Blue colour. This is the middle option in the samples that have been above the main door of the Church the last few weeks. In addition, the yellow panels in the atrium of the skylights will be painted white.

It is expected that this work will take at least one week and a half to complete. Please note the following changes below.

- **Wednesday-Friday (6-8 December)**
6.30am & 9am Masses, as well as Prayer / Devotional Groups, will be held in the Parish Library.
- **Saturday & Sunday (9 & 10 December)**
Masses will be held in the Church, as per usual.
- **Monday-Friday (11-15 December)**
6.30am & 9am Masses, as well as Prayer / Devotional Groups, will be held in the Parish Library. The only exception is NO Rosary or Novena after 9.00am Mass on Wednesday 13 December due to Advent Adventures.
- **Funerals**
We will not be able to accommodate any Funerals while these repairs take place.
- **Car Park Spaces Near the Parish Office**
Some of the car park spaces near the parish office will be blocked off for the builders to store their equipment to complete this work.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this work takes place.

Parish Shop Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to open-up and sell items from the Parish Shop at the **Saturday 6.00pm Mass** and the **Sunday 5.30pm Mass**. If you are interested in volunteering in the Parish Shop at either of these Masses or for further information, please contact the Parish Office.

Hour of Grace will be held this Friday 8 December, 12noon-1pm, for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Library.

Parish Working Bee

The Parish Working Bee, in preparation for Christmas, will be held next Saturday, 9 December, from 7.00am onwards. Please mark the date and time in your diary. Many hands make light work.



OLOG Diners will meet at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 13 December, at the Camp Hill Hotel Bistro (724 Old Cleveland Road, Camp Hill). There is parking at the front and rear of the hotel. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Nativity Displays at Local Shopping Centres

Westfield Carindale and Kmart Plaza Cannon Hill have Nativity displays in their centres - under the southern stairs near Santa at Westfield Carindale and near Kmart at Kmart Plaza Cannon Hill.

Parishioners may like to contact Centre Management to thank them for the displays and to encourage them to continue the practice.

We acknowledge, they may continue in future years but, if no one seems to care, they may discard the displays one day.

Westfield Carindale 3120 5400, option 5
Kmart Plaza Cannon Hill 3399 3600, option 3

Advent Adventures 2023

Wed, 13 & Mon, 18 Dec

8:45am-12:30pm



\$5 per child or \$10 per family

Primary age children (can drop and go)

Younger welcome with a parent/caregiver

Includes:

- fun craft and sports-based activities
- sausage, bread and zooper dooper for lunch
- facilitated by registered teachers

Where? Our Lady of Graces, Carina, 100 Mayfield Rd

What to bring: morning tea, hat, drink bottle

To register, contact Shelly:

sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au or 3398 2977

**if your child is participating in the Christmas Eve Mass tableau, a later pickup time may be required for 18 Dec*

- **Wednesday 13 December Advent Adventures will commence at 9.30am.** This is due to Mass being celebrated in the Parish Library at 9.00am.
- There are only a couple of spaces left for each day of Advent Adventures. If you have not made a booking, please contact the Parish Office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Can you help or support

At our local State Primary Schools for 1-2 hours per week, to help students, consented by their parent / carer, learn about **JESUS**. New volunteers are placed with experienced Instructors. Training is free, with full support. An easy curriculum ensures Bible stories engage students and give an understanding of **God's love**.

Just in the Carina/Cannon Hill/Camp Hill area we estimate around 800 students miss out on RI because there are not enough volunteers to provide a Christian RI program in these schools. Our goal is to have a Christian RI program in every state school.

If you can help, please contact Sam Buckley on 0403 270 258 / sam.buckley@christainri.org.au

4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times

(23-24 December 2023)

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 7.00am, 9.00am & 10.30am [Italian]

No 5.30pm Mass

Christmas Mass Times

(24-25 December 2023)

Christmas Eve

6.00pm & 8.00pm

Christmas Day

7.00am, 9.00am & 10.30am [Italian]

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 26 December 2023

to

Friday 12 January 2024

8.00am Mass only

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Obligation

With the 4th Sunday of Advent falling on 24 December this year, there will be two obligations for attending Mass within 24 hours or so. Firstly there is your Sunday Mass Obligation for the 4th Sunday of Advent and then there is your Christmas Mass Obligation, since Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. **Please note that attending Mass on Christmas Eve does not count for both your Sunday Obligation and Christmas Obligation.**

Sixteen Days of Activism for Prevention of Violence against Women and Children

You may find yourself as a bystander in a variety of situations – at work, in a meeting or at an event, a family gathering. You might be a bystander to a friend or family member and witness behaviour that makes you concerned about the safety of someone you know. Speak up! Silence hides violence!

In this season of Advent where we wait on the coming of our God let us heed the words of John the Baptist, 'Prepare the way of the Lord! Make a straight path for our God!' as we pray ...

Prayer for an end to Domestic and Family Abuse

Gracious God,

You support and encourage the oppressed, the exploited and the vulnerable because all lives are precious and treasured in your sight.

We thank you for sending us your Son Jesus to model for us a better way to relate to one another, and to proclaim the hope of your kingdom where all may know your peace.

We are sorry for the times we have not valued and respected one another because of differences of gender, culture, or ability, and so have offended your holy love given equally to all.

By your Holy Spirit help us to celebrate the diversity of the gifts you have given, to live out your way of peace, and to faithfully follow Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

For further resources please go to Queensland Churches Together (QCT) website

<https://www.qct.org.au/resources-links/domestic-family-violence-resources>

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