



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

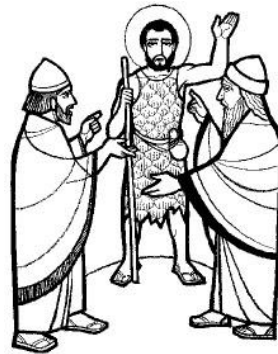
Spread the Word

Vol. 38 No. 50 3rd Sunday of Advent 17 December 2023

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

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.



Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Parish Shop

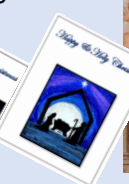
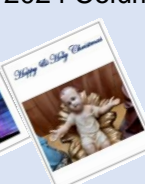
The following are available for purchase from the Parish Shop.

Advent & Christmas Daily Reflection Books: \$6

Parish Christmas Cards: \$5 for a pack of 5

Children's Activity Book: \$2

2024 Columban Calendars: \$10



PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 18 December

- 8.45am Advent Adventures – Hospitality Area & Library

- 6.30pm Legion of Mary – Library

Wednesday 20 December

9.45am Novena: OLPH – Church

11.00am Funeral: Venera Pol Bodetto – Church

Thursday 21 December

10.30am Funeral: Judith De Groot – Church

Friday 22 December

Parish Office Closes at 12.30pm for Christmas

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick

Fr Antonio Rosseberg, Thomas Antony, Olivia Campbell, LiPeter Cartwright, Michael Dalton, Jocelyn Bonney, Ciaron Ayres, Caroline Massa, Marie Atkinson, Elliott Jones-Perrin, Pamela O'Reilly, Noah Riley
those whose anniversaries occur around this time
Nunzii Zappala, Bryan Carson, Jose Luis Arnaiz, Bert & Ena Worthington, Francisca Zamora, Lawrie McNamara, Vivian Tomkinson, Melissa Rosato, Barbara Reich, Gerald & Teresa Simento, Renata Byrne
and the recently deceased *Venera Pol Bodetto, Bryan Kassulke, Judith De Groot, Br Brian Grenier, Rex Smith, Enrico Velasques, Loma McLennan, Peter Daley, Paul McKean, Fr David Halstead OP, Lynette Choe.*

Church Skylights

Thank you for everyone's patience during the installation of the Polycarbonate Sheeting in the Church Skylights over this last week and a half. As you will see, the installation of the sheeting has made a huge difference in reducing both the amount of light and heat coming into the Church through the skylights.

The painting of the yellow panels in the atrium of the skylights will be completed in the New Year.

Working Bee: Thank you to all the volunteers who came along to the working bee on Saturday morning 9 December. A lot was achieved in preparing the Church and the grounds for Christmas.

Transport – Sunday 9.00am Mass

We have a long time parishioner, living in Fursden Road Carina, who is looking for transport to and from Sunday 9.00am Mass each week. If you are able to assist or for further information, please contact the Parish Office.

Advent Evening Prayer of the Church

During the Season of Advent, Evening Prayer of the Church will be prayed at 7.00pm each evening in the Church. All are welcome!

Advent Adventures: We have reached capacity for Advent Adventures this Monday, 18 December. Therefore, we cannot take anymore bookings.

The Christmas Novena begins on 17 December. At this point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth
GNLYC 42

Parish Office News

The Parish Office closes for the Christmas period at 12.30pm this Friday, 22 December, and reopens 8.30am on Thursday 4 January.

If you require a priest in an emergency during the Christmas period, please call the parish office number and select option 2 to speak to a priest.

Any messages left with the Parish Office may not be attended to until Thursday 4 January.

Next weekend's Spread the Word will be a combined 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas edition. Spread the Word will then have an one week break and recommences on Sunday 7 January 2024. The first couple of editions for 2024 will be A4 size.

2024 Parish Diary

If your group regularly uses either the Church, Parish Library, Aquinas Room or Hospitality Area (even if you have done so for many years), could group leaders please confirm with the Parish Office your bookings/restart date for 2024. Thank you to those group leaders who have been proactive and already contacted the Parish Office.

Rosters for 2024

The rosters and contact lists for the below ministries will be prepared in the next couple of weeks for 2024.

- Ministers of the Word (Readers)
- Ministers of Holy Communion
- Mass Co-ordinators
- Data Projector Operators
- Altar Servers
- Music Ministry
- Washing of Purifiers & Altar Linen
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Cuppa and Chat (Hospitality After Mass)

If you are involved in any of the above ministries and wish to change your commitment in any way, please contact the parish office (3398 2977 or carina@bne.catholic.net.au). Otherwise, we will assume that you are happy to continue in your ministry with the same commitment as in 2023.

We also welcome anyone who would like to be part of any of the above ministries. Anyone interested may need to complete any necessary safeguarding requirements, depending on the ministry. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for employees and volunteers to maintain a safe and healthy environment. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children, young people and/or adults at risk.

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 – Wednesday 13 December

Last Wednesday we held the first of our two Advent Adventures mornings. The session was well-attended with 30 children in attendance. Everyone had an enjoyable morning, learning about the Season of Advent and participating in the craft activities. Thank you to the coordination team and parents who stayed to help.



St Vincent de Paul

Christmas Giving Tree: Near the main door of the Church there is a Christmas Giving Tree. You are invited to take a tag from the tree, purchase the item listed on the tag and place the item into the tubs near the main door of the Church.

St Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Graces Carina BSB: 064 786 Account Number: 100026584



SVdP Italian Community Christmas Fundraiser

A big thank you to all who donated to this very worthy and necessary cause. \$9,000 was raised for the SVdP Carina Conference and \$500 for Our Lady of Graces Parish. Thank you again with heartfelt gratitude. *Maria Coco & Graziella Cavallaro*

4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times (23-24 December 2023)

Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 7.00am, 9.00am & 10.30am [Italian]
No Sunday 5.30pm Mass on 24 December

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
Monday 1 January 2024
8.00am & 10.00am [Italian]

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.**



Christmas Masses: Our Lady of Graces is known to be a welcoming community. As we gather at the various Christmas Masses on 24-25 December, let us extend that welcoming spirit to visitors and friends. A couple of simple ways can be by extending a Christmas Greeting to those sitting near you and by being mindful of others in regards to seating.

Parish 500 Card Group will next meet at 7.00pm on Friday 12 January 2024, in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church). All are welcome.



Prayer for Peace

With Christmas just around the corner, Catholic Mission have asked us to share this "Prayer for Peace" with the community.

Loving God

We earnestly pray for peace and stability in Myanmar amidst the ongoing internal conflict. Our hearts grieve for the children and families enduring displacement, fighting with hunger and poverty.

Hear the prayer of these children and families and respond with the support they desperately need. May your love and warmth reach those who are most in need.

In your mercy, grant peace and perseverance to the internally displaced children and families, providing them with the necessary resources for survival.

We pray for the restoration of community and an end to conflict, allowing children and families to feel secure once again.

Grant families the strength and perseverance they need as they travel through these challenging times.

May your guiding light lead them towards hope and a brighter future. Amen.

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