



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. 51

**4th Sunday of Advent
The Nativity of the Lord**

**24 December 2023
25 December 2023**

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

4th Sunday of Advent Reflection by Greg Sunter

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?



In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life. Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

Christmas Reflection by Greg Sunter

If you were to give just a cursory glance at a collection of 'religious' Christmas cards, or even the local nativity scene, you would undoubtedly see a varied assortment of shepherds, wise men, livestock and angels gathered around the holy family in a timber structure of some sort. Even the most casual reading of Luke's account of the birth of Christ would reveal that most of the nativity figurines are missing! Our retelling of the birth of Christ tends to be an amalgamation of the Luke and Matthew versions with a bit of creative tradition thrown in for good measure.



The Luke account of the nativity carries a very specific theology that runs throughout the rest of that gospel. It is a theology that places the outcast and downtrodden at the centre of Jesus' mission. In this account, Jesus is born outside the town because there is no room for Joseph and Mary within the safety of the inn. Like those he will minister to later in life, Jesus is born 'on the edge' – even outside the boundaries. Rather than the impressive 'Wise Men' of the Matthew infancy account, the witnesses to Jesus' birth in the Luke account are lowly shepherds. Unlike the somewhat romantic notion we may have of shepherds, in Jesus' time they were regarded as little better than thieves and cut-throats. All they could be trusted to do was tend sheep outside of townships and away from 'civilised' society. They held one of the lowest positions in Jewish society. The gospel writer's choice of these witnesses to the birth of Jesus is a very deliberate one that clearly announces the purpose and direction of Jesus' mission.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday 27 December

- 8.45am Novena: OLPH – Church

Wednesday 3 January

- 8.45am Novena: OLPH – Church

Thursday 4 January

Parish Office Reopens at 8.30am

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick
Fr Antonio Rossemberg, Thomas Antony, Olivia Campbell, 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** *Robyn Mallon, Michael O'Mara, Bill Cummins, Paula Gregg, Nunzii Zappala, Bryan Carson, Jose Luis Arnaiz, Bert & Ena Worthington, Francisca Zamora, Lawrie McNamara, Vivian Tomkinson, Melissa Rosato, Barbara Reich* **and the recently deceased** *Et Tu, John McDermott, Venera Pol Bodetto, Bryan Kassulke, Judith De Groot, Br Brian Grenier, Rex Smith, Enrico Velasques.*

Parish Office News

The Parish Office is now closed for the Christmas period and will reopen 8.30am on Thursday 4 January.

In the case of an emergency or if a funeral is to be planned during the Christmas period, please please call the Parish Office number 3398 2977 and select option 2 to be directed to the Dominican Community. Messages left with the Parish Office (option 1), may not be attended to until Thursday 4 January.

Spread the Word will recommence on Sunday 7 January 2024.

Christmas Season Timetable

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 26 December to Friday 12 January
8.00am Mass only

New Year Day Mass Times (Monday 1 January)

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 & World Day of Peace*

8.00am [English] & 10.00am [Italian]

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.

St Vincent de Paul Conference THANK YOU

Our Lady of Graces Conference of St Vincent de Paul is very pleased to thank our Parish Community for the wonderful support of the Christmas Giving Tree.



At this special time of the year when we are making up Christmas hampers for the needy and disadvantaged in our local area, your efforts to provide festive food and general sustenance have made sure that the hampers our members took out were filled with provisions that would see families and singles well fed through Christmas and beyond.

Your goodwill and compassion surely would have made Christmas a happy time for many. May God bless you all.

Donating to our St Vincent de Paul Conference

To donate money via bank transfer, please use the following account details:

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

To donate non-perishable food, you are welcome to leave your donations in the baskets at the front door of the church. Thank you for your support.

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.

Et Tu – Rest in Peace

One of the former orphans from Holy Infant Orphanage in Mae Sot Thailand, Et Tu, died in a motorcycle accident this past week. He was only 18 years old and was studying at university in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Please keep Et Tu, the Dominican Sisters and the children at Holy Infant Orphanage in your prayers at this time.

Parish Shop

On the look out for religious items including cards & gifts. Look no further than our Parish Shop, which is open before & after most Masses each weekend.

- The Catholic Leader [Christmas Edition]: \$4.00
- Christmas Children's Activity Book: \$2.00
- 2024 Columban Calendars: \$10.00

Advent Adventures - Monday 20 December

Photos from the second of our two Advent Adventures mornings held last Monday.



Christmas Blessings

Fr Maurice, Fr David, Fr Alex, Fr Pan, Fr Joseph, Fr Anthony, Br Kolbe, Br Joseph, Shelly and Chris wish you all a Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for celebrating with us this Christmas.
We look forward to seeing you all throughout the New Year.

Our weekend Mass times are
Saturday 6pm & Sunday 7am, 9am,
10.30am [Italian] & 5.30pm



Baptisms are usually celebrated in our parish at:

- 9.00am Mass on the 1st Sunday of the Month
 - 12 noon Liturgy on the 5th Sunday of the Month
- Parents are asked to call into parish office during office hours to collect paperwork. Parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation Session, which is held on the 4th Sunday of the Month at 8am.

Sacramental Program 2024

Confirmation

In the year when children turn eight, baptised children can be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Enrolment forms are available from the Parish Office. Enrolments close on Monday 12 February 2024. The Confirmation Parent Meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 February 2024, 7.00pm, in the Church.

First Holy Communion

In the year when children turn nine, they are welcomed to the Lord's Table and receive Holy Communion for the first time. A First Holy Communion Parent Information Night (for parents of Confirmed children) will be held on Tuesday 18 June 2024, 7.00pm, in the Church.

Any further enquiries can be made to Shelly Stone, Pastoral Associate, at the Parish Office, 3398 2977 or at sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au

Children's Liturgy of the Word is held on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month at the 9am Mass during School Term. Children aged from Prep to Year 6 gather to break open God's Word together, in an appropriate way for their age. All children welcome.

Kids' Mass is held on the 3rd Sunday of the Month during School Term at the 5.30pm Mass. At this Mass, children take a very active role by reading, taking up the collection and bringing up the offertory.

500 Card Group usually meets on the 1st Friday of the Month, 7.00pm, in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church). New members are more than welcome. The group will next meet on Friday 12 January 2024.

OLOG Diners usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6.00pm, at the Camp Hill Hotel. New faces are more than welcome to come together with parishioners for a meal. For further information, contact the Parish Office.

Annual Catholic Campaign THANK YOU

Thank you! Through your generosity, you have been the face of Christ for those in need in your local community.



At the end of 2023, nine priests will retire from active ministry.

Your support will provide them a home and basic healthcare in their retirement.

Holy Spirit Seminary welcomed three young men to the transitional diaconate in 2023.

Through your gift, you ensure priests for the future of our faith.

Six Mary MacKillop Bursary recipients graduated Year 12 in 2023.

Your support makes it possible to award bursaries to eleven new children in 2024.

With your gift, you have given women and children fleeing domestic violence a safe space this Christmas.

Because of you, they look forward to a brighter 2024.

Agnus Day – The Lectionary Comic Strip

I JUST LOVE HOW SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS ARE PART OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT'S THE CITY OF DAVID, THE SHEPHERD KING!



* 1 SAM 17 W/THK 2 W.V.

AND IT'S LIKELY THAT DAVID WAS SHEPHERDING IN THE SAME FIELDS WHEN HE SET OFF TO CONFRONT GOLIATH CENTURIES BEFORE.



LUKE 2:1-14

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, "LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!"



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Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

Prayer for People Affected by Tropical Cyclone Jasper

God of mercy and compassion,
we ask for your blessing upon those
whose lives have been affected by
Tropical Cyclone Jasper in North
Queensland.
Give strength to those who work with them
to recover and rebuild their families and
communities.
Lord hear us.
Amen.

Missionaries of Charity Sisters will be celebrating their Silver Jubilee, commemorating 25 years since establishing their service to the poor and needy in Brisbane, on Saturday 6 January, 9.30am Mass at Holy Spirit Church, New Farm. Light refreshments after Mass. RSVP: 3252 4441. All are welcome.

Stay Connected with Our Lady of Graces Parish

To keep in touch with us, send us an email with your name, email address, and phone number. We will add you to our parish database, and keep in touch with you through emailing Spread the Word each week and other parish communication.

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