

PARISH OFFICE

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Upper Mt Gravatt 4122
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www.umgwcatholic.org.au

Parish Priest

Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko
E: chackor@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor

Fr Francis Fernandes

Pastoral Associate

Pauline Thomas
E: pa.umg@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Manager & Local Safeguarding Rep.

Debbie James
E: umg@bne.catholic.net.au

Administrative Assistants

Rani Ponomarenko/Lorraine Neagle
E: sec.umg@bne.catholic.net.au

Emergencies & after hours:

Ph: 3849 7158

St Vincent de Paul

Welfare: 1800 846 643

MASS TIMES

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Monday | 9.15am St Catherine's |
| Tuesday | 9.15am St Bernard's |
| Wednesday | 7.00am St Catherine's |
| Thursday | 7.00am St Bernard's |
| Friday | 8.00am St Bernard's 9.30am St Martin's |
| Saturday | 5.00pm St Bernard's 6.15pm St Catherine's |
| Sunday | 6.30am St Bernard's 7.30am St Martin's 8.30am St Catherine's 9.30am St Bernard's 5.00pm St Bernard's |

RECONCILIATION

St Bernard's: Saturdays 4.00pm
St Catherine's: By appointment

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS

*by arrangement with the
Parish Office.*

Parish Office Hours

8.30am - 4.30pm Mon-Fri

**PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE
MIDDAY, WEDNESDAY 24
DECEMBER AND REOPEN
MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026.**

After hours emergencies please call
3849 7158, leave a short message
with your name & phone number. Your
call will be returned as soon as
possible.

Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Catholic Parish



St Bernard's, Upper Mt Gravatt
St Martin's, Eight Mile Plains
St Catherine's, Wishart

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we aim to be an evangelising, faith-filled parish
whose members care for one another and are welcoming and inclusive.*

*The Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Catholic Parish acknowledges the Jagera and Turrbal
people, the traditional custodians on whose lands we live, work and worship.*

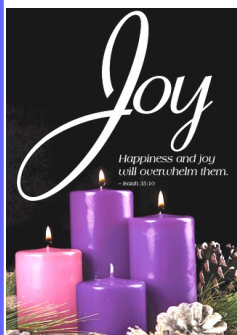
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 / 14 December 2025

READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 James 5:7-10

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE



Priest: Lord, our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ;
His coming is news of great joy for all
peoples.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord.
We light this candle in joy.
The joy found in our coming
saviour, Jesus.
Let us prepare then,
the way of the Lord.**

This Sunday, the third in Advent, is always designated as *Gaudete Sunday*, drawing on the entrance chant assigned to the day by the church "Gaudete in Domino semper..." or "Rejoice in the Lord always..."

In and amongst the sobriety of Advent fasts and waiting, it is a bright (literally, in pink), burst of joy and festivity to give us some reprieve on the road to Christmas celebrations.

A lot of that joy will also be captured in the week and a bit which will follow today in the "Divine Office". By this I mean, the Church's other great formal worship – the program of psalms, hymns and readings which punctuate the hours of each day for priests, religious and the laity the world over. From the 17th to the 23rd, the Church marks the run up to Christmas with offices celebrated for the "O antiphons" – verses essentially, calling upon Christ by various titles. In time, these antiphons were reworked into the hymn we now know as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". Note, that we will not host the offices on Saturday and Sunday.

Our parish has a robust tradition of doing vespers (the evening portion of the Office) during Advent and Lent. As I understand it, they have so far been prayed through recitation. This year we will be singing the office and invite you to come along and join in the sung prayer of the church.

The psalms, being poems were always meant to be sung and have been sung through the church's history, if predominately by monks. The tunes or "tones" are largely a repeating tune of 1-3 notes which will allow us to be swept into the rhythm of the worship. If you have not experienced sung vespers before, then come along. You will be welcome to listen and let it wash over you or, better still join in.

By its nature, the office and the psalms more broadly capture the full range of human feelings. Thus on some days the tones will be more joyful, while on other days more ominous. The vespers beginning at 6:30pm, will conclude the adoration of the blessed sacrament which begins at 5:30pm. As we prepare ourselves to receive Christ in a new way this advent, come along and let God's silences and God's word touch your heart in a new way.

See you in the week,
Fr. Francis



Christmas Masses



St Bernard's

Wednesday 24 December

4.00 pm Vigil Mass
6.00 pm Vigil Mass
12.00 am Mass of the Night

Thursday 25 December

9.30 am Mass of the Day

St Catherine's

Wednesday 24 December

5.00 pm Vigil Mass
7.00 pm Vigil Mass

Thursday 25 December

8.30 am Mass of the Day

St Martin's

Wednesday 24 December

9.00 pm Mass of the Night

Thursday 25 December

7.30 am Mass of the Day

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Especially Lyn Roehrig, Gordon Clarke who died recently. Also Tom Begg, Darrel Petersen, Harold Meechan, Min Cole, Marie Goulding, Margaret Fowke whom we remember.

UP COMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER

FUNERAL LITURGY

11.00am, Gordon Clarke, Mt Gravatt Cemetery Chapel.

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER

CRAFT GROUP ON HOLIDAY

Will recommence on Tuesday 20 January 2026.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

6.30pm, St Bernard's Community Centre.

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

AGED CARE MASS

9.30am, ElderlyCare, Somerfield St.

DECEMBER 17 - 19, 22 - 23 St Bernard's Church

ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

5.30pm - 6.30pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

6.30pm

JESSE TREE SYMBOLS

During Advent we will add two symbols each week to the Jesse Tree reminding us of the faithfulness of God and of the men and women God used to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus.

The **Burning Bush** reminds us of God's call to Moses (Exodus 3-4:17). It reminds us that God works through people, often the unexpected, and often those who would see themselves as unqualified (Moses didn't speak well). It also reminds us of God's self-description as "I am who I am." God is ever present and active.



The **Tambourine** reminds us of the praise and worship of God. Miriam leads the Israelites with dancing and rejoicing (Exodus 15). Deborah and Barak sing God's praises (Judges 5). The Psalmist regularly reminds listeners to sing songs of praise with many musical instruments to God. David dances before the Lord (1 Chronicles 15-16).

SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The SVDP Parish Christmas Appeal will be conducted on the weekend Nov 29/30, with all funds raised being used by the Parish Conferences to help brighten Christmas for needy families in our local area.

Appeal envelopes will be available in all churches or from the St Bernard's Piety Store. Envelopes can be placed in any of the collection baskets over the next few weekends or left at the Piety Store. Donations can also be made in any envelope marked "St Vincent de Paul".

Parishioners may also donate directly online into either local conference accounts as follows:

SVDP St Bernard's Conference Upper Mt Gravatt
BSB 064786 Acct 100026560; or

SVDP St Catherine's Conference Wishart
BSB 064786 Acct 100026611.

This year St Bernard's Conference and St Catherine's Conference will not be organising and distributing Christmas hampers. Instead, the Conferences will purchase and distribute Gift Vouchers to 50/60 needy families in our local area. Donated funds will go towards covering the cost of the Gift Vouchers.

SVDP PIETY STORE

The following items are available at the St Bernard's/St Martin's Piety Store

- * **Christmas Cards** (pkt 8 for \$5);
- * **2026 Sisters of St Joseph Calendars** (\$10);
- * **2026 Columban Calendars** (\$10)

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children aged between 8 and 16 are invited to be part of the children's choir for the

5.00pm Christmas Eve Mass
at St Catherine's Church, Wishart.

Please Note: Practice will be on
Tuesday 23 December from 9.00am - 10.30am
at St Catherine's Church.



If your child is interested
please contact the Parish Office at
umg@bne.catholic.net.au or
phone 3849 7158.



BAPTISMS

We congratulate

Elijah Marshall, son of Nicolas & Angeline.
He will be baptised in the Parish this weekend.

ENTRANCE: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.
 Make us your own, your holy people,
 light for the world to see.

Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
 Longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your living voice. **R.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 145

Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Accl. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; **Accl.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
 Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
 he descended into hell;
 on the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right
 hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will
 come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION

Save us Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and
 Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION: CHRIST OUR PEACE

*Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that
 divide us;*

Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you.

Each time we eat this bread, each time we drink this
 cup,
 we share Christ's death and rising until the reign of...

R.

One is the bread we break, one is the cup we drink,
 one is the body gathered here at the feast of... **R.**

All you with hungry hearts, who seek God's gracious
 reign, all you who thirst for justice, come to the feast
 of... **R.**

And all are welcome here; here there is food for all,
 blessed meal of grace and mercy, gathered as one
 in... **R.**

As once he broke the bread and opened eyes and
 heart, may we now see his presence as we
 remember... **R.**

**SONG OF PRAISE: COME TO US, O
EMMANUEL**

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Let the wilderness sing praises:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Let the desert bloom in splendour:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

See the glory of our God. **R.**

Give new strength to all the feeble:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Give new courage to the fearful:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Say, "Be strong, for God is near." **R.**

Blind will see and deaf will hear then:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Springs will rise up in the desert:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

When the day of God shall come. **R.**

RECESSIONAL: JOYFUL IN HOPE

Joyful in hope, your people pray.

Joyful in hope, we're on our way.

Though the road may not be clear,
 we believe, Lord, you are near,
 in the smile and open heart of a friend.

Joyful in hope, your people pray.

Joyful in hope, we're on our way.

There's sunshine after rain;

there's laughter after pain;

and I am with you always, so rise again.

Mary, so open to the Lord,

when you answered, "Yes", our hope was restored.

Though you couldn't understand,

in trust you took his hand.

So, joyful in hope, we live again.

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MASS CENTRES

St Bernard's
4 Klumpp Rd
Upper Mt Gravatt



St Catherine's
388 Newnham Rd
Wishart



St Martin's
Cnr Logan & Chester Rds
Eight Mile Plains



Facebook:
Like us: <http://www.facebook.com/umgwp parish>

SCHOOLS

St Bernard's School
Principal: Daniel Hodge
1823 Logan Rd,
Upper Mt Gravatt
Phone: 3849 4800

St Catherine's School
Principal: Paul Mitchell
388 Newnham Rd, Wishart
Phone: 3349 7188

Clairvaux MacKillop College
Principal: Wayne Chapman
24 Klumpp Rd,
Upper Mt Gravatt
Phone: 3347 9200

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

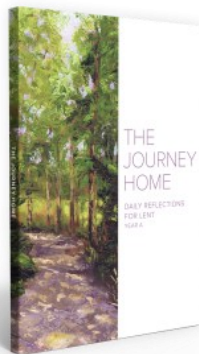
Our Newsletter is available via email. Please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know requires access to the newsletter.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?

We warmly welcome you and your family. If you have recently moved into this area we invite you to join our Parish.

Please contact the Parish Office on 3849 7158 or umg@bne.catholic.net.au

LENTEN RESOURCES



With an early start to Lent next year (Feb 18) we need to place our orders for Lenten books early. As Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge is writing the reflections, we have decided to purchase these for our Parish. We believe the books will be \$5 each. Please contact the Parish Office or email pa.umg@bne.catholic.net.au if you intend to buy a book when they become available. Please do not include money now.

Dear Parishioners you are warmly invited to join

Parish Christmas Carols 2025

On 21 December Sunday 6.30 pm
at St Bernard's Church

On this occasion, we will thank Fr Francis and wish him well as he becomes Parish Priest at Daisy Hill.

A sausage sizzle will begin at 6:00 PM, organized by our Social Justice Group as part of their fundraising efforts.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20 / 21 December 2025

READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

Romans: 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.