

PARISH OFFICE

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Parish Priest

Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko
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Associate Pastor

Fr Francis Fernandes

Pastoral Associate

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Parish Manager & Local Safeguarding Rep.

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Administrative Assistants

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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
Monday - Friday

Closed Weekends and Public Holidays.

After hours emergencies please call 3849 7158 and 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 / 7 December 2025

READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE



Priest: Lord, our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ;
He is Prince of Peace, the hope of the
peoples.

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

Dear friends,

This Sunday's readings invite us to hope, unity, and renewal. Isaiah gives us the image of a shoot springing from the stump of Jesse – new life where all seemed lost. Even in barren places, God brings growth. His vision of peace, where the wolf dwells with the lamb and a child plays safely, shows us God's dream for the world.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, urges us to hold fast to hope and live in harmony. Scripture teaches endurance so that, like a choir of many voices blending into one, we may glorify God together and welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist calls us to repentance: *"Prepare the way of the Lord."* Advent is not only waiting – it is clearing space in our hearts. Imagine tidying a cluttered room before a guest arrives. John calls us to sweep away selfishness, pride, and fear, so that Christ may find a ready home within us.

Together, these readings invite us to trust in God's power to bring new life, to live in harmony, and to prepare our hearts with honesty and courage. Advent is our chance to begin again, to let hope take root, and to welcome Christ with joy.

RECEIVING BLOOD OF CHRIST: With joy we have reintroduced the sharing of the chalice at Mass, a profound sign of our communion in the Blood of Christ. Some have asked about dipping the host into the chalice, known as *intinction*. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (no. 245) allows this only when done by a minister of Holy Communion. **The faithful are not permitted to dip the host themselves.**

I kindly ask everyone to refrain from this practice and to receive either by consuming the host or drinking reverently from the chalice. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we rejoice together in Christ's presence.

Fr Rony

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Especially Gordon Clarke (husband of Doreen), Neil Trottier who died recently. Also George & Ivy Stokes, Wai Yee Wong, Mark Anthony Wong, Tom Begg, Darrel Petersen, Daniel Dwyer, John Dwyer, Ronald Noffke, Glen Noffke, Robert Parkes, Mitchell Collins, Freddie Brandon, Robert Tully, Pat Gordon, Gwen O'Shea, Christie Fellowes, Jackie & Ted O'Sullivan, whom we remember.

UP COMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER

CRAFT GROUP

10.00am to 2.00pm, St Bernard's Community Centre.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

6.30pm, St Bernard's Community Centre.

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

AGED CARE MASS

10.00am, ARCAR, Eight Mile Plains.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING

7.00pm, St Bernard's Community Centre.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8 is the feast day for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a major Marian feast in the Catholic Church that commemorates the belief that the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin. This feast declared as dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854. The Immaculate Conception reminds us that Mary was prepared by God to be a pure vessel for the Incarnation of His Son. For us, December 8 is not only about honouring Mary's holiness, but also about seeking her intercession to live with purity of heart, openness to God's will, and readiness to welcome Christ into our lives.

Please join us at St Catherine's Church to celebrate this feast day. Adoration and the Rosary will begin at 8:30am followed by Holy Mass at 9:15am.

VOLUNTEERS MORNING TEA

I warmly invite you to join us for a *Thanksgiving Morning Tea* in gratitude for your generous service to our parish community on Saturday 13th December at 10 am at the Aspinall Centre.

This gathering is a small way of saying thank you for the time, energy, and love you share in building up our parish family. For catering and preparations, I highly recommend you to **RSVP to the Parish Office by Monday, 8th December. Fr Rony**



BAPTISMS

We congratulate

Avery Fernandez, daughter of Errol & Angel;

Matheo Barrientos, son of Mario & Therese;

Kai Morgan, son of Simon & Malea..

They will be baptised in the Parish this weekend.

ADVENT VESPERS

You are warmly invited to join for the spiritual preparations to welcome Jesus. Please save the dates and come along from 17 to 23 December (excluding Saturday 20 and Sunday 21) at St Bernard's Church.

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30pm
- Sacrament of Reconciliation available during Adoration
- Vespers (Evening Prayer) & Benediction at 6:30pm

This is a beautiful opportunity to pause amidst the busyness of the season, to open our hearts to God's mercy, and to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ.

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 **Jar** reminds us of God's miracles. God regularly uses ordinary objects to show us extraordinary things. Gideon brings broth in a jar to the Angel of the Lord, only to see the Angel turn the offering into fire (Judges 6-8) and Elijah tells the widow the jar won't empty until after the end of the drought and it doesn't (1 Kings 17).



Joseph's coat reminds us of how God uses Joseph to rescue the Israelites from famine and shows God's faithfulness to the covenant made with Abraham and renewed with Jacob/Israel (Genesis 37-48).

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)

ENTRANCE: *PREPARE THE WAY*

There was a man of God whose name was John.
He came to speak for the Light,
the voice of one in the wilderness:

*Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord.*

He is the Lamb of God and you must follow him
who takes the sin of the world,
for he has come to give you life. **R.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 71

Justice shall flourish in his time and fullness of
peace for ever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Acci. *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his
paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Prepare the way of the Lord. **Acci.**

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.

EUCARISTIC ACCLAMATION

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

COMMUNION: *TABLE OF PLENTY*

*Come to the feast of heaven and earth!
Come to the table of plenty!
God will provide for all that we need,
here at the table of plenty.*

O, come and sit at my table
where saints and sinners are friends.

I wait to welcome the lost and lonely
to share the cup of my love. **R.**

O, come and eat without money;
come to drink without price.

My feast of gladness will feed your spirit
with faith and fullness of life. **R.**

My bread will ever sustain you
through days of sorrow and woe,
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness
to flood the depths of your soul. **R.**

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

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come, O holy shoot of Jesse:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come, and grow within your people:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come, of Spirit of our God. **R.**

You are wisdom, you are insight:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

You are knowledge, you are power:

Come to us, O Emmanuel.

You will lead our hearts to God. **R.**

RECESSONAL: *A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS*

*A voice in the wilderness calls to prepare,
for we are standing on the edge of changes.
Across the desert sand and the mountain high
the Lord is coming. Make your way!*

I will hear what the Lord will say;
a voice of peace for all his people.
His voice is never far for those who know
his glory dwelling in our land. **R.**

The Lord, our God, will make us grow
and earth will bring its fruit in all its splendor.
Justice marches on before; he comes
and peace will follow in his way. **R.**

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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

MASS CENTRES

St Bernard's
4 Klumpp Rd,
Upper Mt Gravatt

St Martin's
Cnr Logan & Chester Rds,
Eight Mile Plains
St Catherine's
388 Newnham Rd, Wishart

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

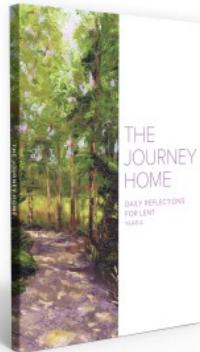
NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

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.

CHRISTMAS WITH SHALOM WORLD

This Christmas, share moments of true joy with your family. Heartwarming Christmas shows, inspiring talks, joyful music, and stories of hope — for every age.

Shalom World strives to utilize the latest digital technologies, world-class storytelling, and elevated visual aesthetics to present the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Gospel. Through engaging and accessible content, we aim to provide our audience, faith-filled accompaniment on their journey in the modern world, guiding them toward the eternal Truth. We are a dedicated global community of prayerful Christian faithful giving our time, talents, and resources to the will of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our name "Shalom" defines our mission to share the Peace of Christ through personal encounters with the Faith through our always-free programming, prayer support, online and in-person social experiences, and evangelization efforts." Please scan the QR code to know more about Shalom World TV.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 / 14 December 2025

READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?