

## PARISH OFFICE

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[www.umgwecatholic.org.au](http://www.umgwecatholic.org.au)

### Parish Priest

Fr Rony Kalapurackal Chacko  
E: [chackor@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:chackor@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Pastoral Associate

Pauline Thomas  
E: [pa.umg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pa.umg@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Parish Manager & Local Safeguarding Rep.

Debbie James  
E: [umg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:umg@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Administrative Assistants

Rani Ponomarenko/Lorraine Neagle  
E: [sec.umg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sec.umg@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Emergencies & after hours:

Ph: 3849 7158

### St Vincent de Paul

Welfare: 1800 846 643

## MASS TIMES

<b>Monday</b>	9.15am St Catherine's
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15am St Bernard's
<b>Wednesday</b>	7.00am St Catherine's
<b>Thursday</b>	7.00am St Bernard's
<b>Friday</b>	8.00am St Bernard's 9.30am St Martin's
<b>Saturday</b>	5.00pm St Bernard's 6.15pm St Catherine's
<b>Sunday</b>	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.*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year A

**21 / 22 February 2026**

**READINGS: Genesis: 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Romans: 5:12-19**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

Mr McCarthy, a farmer, had lived for many years with only his dog for company. One sad day, the dog died of old age. Wanting to honour his faithful companion, Mr McCarthy went to his local Catholic parish and asked the priest if a service could be held for his dog.

The priest replied kindly, "Oh no, we can't have a service for a dog here. But there's a new church down the road - they might be willing to help."

Mr McCarthy paused and said, "Father, do you think a donation of \$5,000 would be enough for the service?"

The priest's eyes widened. "Well now," he said, "why didn't you tell me your dog was a Catholic?"

Temptations make us compromise our ultimate values.

On the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel leads us into the desert with Jesus. After forty days of fasting, He faces three temptations that touch every human heart: the desire for **comfort**, the desire for **recognition**, and the desire for **power**. The devil invites Jesus to turn stones into bread, to perform a dramatic miracle, and to take control of all the kingdoms of the world. Each temptation promises an easier path, a shortcut, a way to avoid the hard work of trust and obedience.

But Jesus shows us another way. He does not argue, panic, or compromise. He simply stands on the Word of God. "We do not live by bread alone." "Do not put the Lord to the test." "Worship the Lord your God." Jesus reminds us that true strength comes not from what we possess, what others think of us, or the power we hold, but from our relationship with God.

Lent invites us to follow Jesus' example. It is a time to slow down, to recognise the temptations that quietly shape our choices, and to return to God with a sincere heart. When we choose prayer, simplicity, and trust, God leads us out of the desert and into new life.

Lent invites us to take a small but important step: to look honestly at our hearts and to walk a little closer with God. Lent is about making space for God in the small, everyday moments of life. It's about slowing down, listening more deeply, and letting God gently guide us.

So, this week, let us begin simply: choose kindness over anger, prayer over noise, and generosity over self-interest.

*Fr Rony*

### WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Especially Ian Ross, Ted Leeson, Gordon Griffiths, Ross Tapsall, Gregory Burns, Michael Newman who died recently. Also Simon Tinh, Miles Vass, Tom Begg, Darrel Petersen, Dominic Dinh Vuong Thach whom we remember.

### UP COMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

#### TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

##### CRAFT GROUP

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

##### FUNERAL MASS

11.00am, Gordon Griffiths, St Bernard's Church.

#### WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

##### AGED CARE MASS

10.00am, Elderlycare Agay Street.

##### BOOK CLUB

10.00am, St Bernard's Community Centre.

6.30pmm, St Bernard's Community Centre.

#### THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

##### AGED CARE MASS

10.00am, ARCARE, Eight Mile Plains.

#### FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

##### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

9.00am, St Martin's Church.

##### FUNERAL MASS

10.00am, Ross Tapsall, St Bernard's Church.

##### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7.00pm, St Bernard's Church.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

Our Parish Sacramental Program for the year 2026 is now open. Families who wish for themselves or their children to receive any of the Sacraments (**Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation**) are warmly invited to register.

For further information and enrolment details, please contact the Parish Office. We look forward to journeying with you in faith during the coming year.

### ST CATHERINE'S SENIORS COACH TRIP

Wednesday 25 February

Departs St Catherine's Bus Stop 8am.



St Catherine's Seniors Coach Trip will visit Albert River Wines near Tamborine.

Morning Tea will be at the Winery on arrival, followed by a 1 ½ hour Farm Tour.

There is a wine tasting opportunity for those interested, a separate cost of \$10 per person applies if you join this opportunity.

Later we will all be enjoying lunch at the Winery and our usual Raffles before leaving for home.

Cost for the outing will be about \$65 per person, depending on numbers coming.

Lunch selections and bookings are with Ros on Ph. 3349 9218.



### BAPTISMS

We congratulate

**Jasper Gillespie** son of Wayde & Meghan.

He will be baptised in the Parish this weekend.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### ST BERNARD'S

**SUNDAY 1 MARCH, 9.30am Mass**

Children in Prep to Year 5 invited.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday morning at 9am in St Martin's Church (before the 9:30am Mass) and at 7pm in St Bernard's Church.

At St Bernard's 7pm the prayer chosen will be different each week, different themes and foci reflecting the needs of our Church and our world.

Next Friday (27 February) we will use *Praying the Stations of Mercy with Pope Francis* - retelling the story of Jesus' self-giving love in order to open our hearts to what is already given to us: mercy.

Keep an eye on the newsletter each week for a preview of the prayer for the coming Friday.



**Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT**  
**COMPASSION**

This Lent, our parish community is called to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Each year, Project Compassion invites us to encounter stories of courage and hope from people around the world who are striving for a brighter future. In 2026, Project Compassion will share of resilience and strength.



Sisilia, Tanzania Sisilia, a 13-year-old from remote northern Tanzania, faced immense challenges including poverty, unsafe water and poor sanitation. After her father passed away, she supported her mother by fetching water three times a day,

often through unsafe and exhausting conditions that left little time for study. With support from the A+ Successor Project, clean water taps have been installed at her school and her village, easing her burden and improving health across the community. Through SWASH (School Water Sanitation and Hygiene) Club, Sisilia has become a leader, teaching her peers and parents about hygiene and sanitation. With the time saved from collecting water, Sisilia hopes to fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.

**ENTRANCE: FROM ASHES TO THE LIVING FONT**

From ashes to the living font  
your Church must journey, Lord,  
baptised in grace, in grace renewed  
by your most holy word.

Through fasting, prayer, and charity  
your voice speaks deep within,  
returning us to ways of truth  
and turning us from sin.

From desert to the mountaintop  
in Christ our way we see,  
so, tempered by temptations might  
we might transfigured be.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 50**

*Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Accl. Praise and honour to you, Lord  
Jesus Christ! Praise and honour to  
you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

No one lives on bread alone but on ev'ry word  
that comes from the mouth of God. No one lives  
on bread alone but on ev'ry word that comes  
from God. **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.

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**EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION**

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

**COMMUNION: TAKE AND EAT**

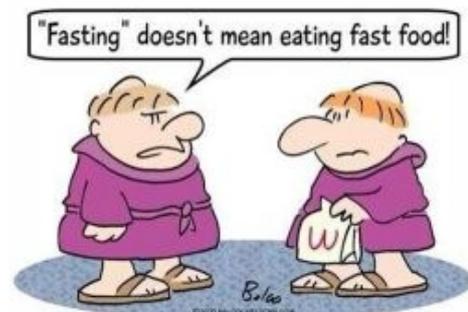
*Take and eat; take and eat:  
this is my body given up for you.  
Take and drink; take and drink:  
this I my blood given up for you.*

I am the Word that spoke and light was made;  
I am the seed that died to be reborn;  
I am the bread that comes from heav'n above;  
I am the vine the fills your cup with joy. **R.**  
I am the way that leads the exile home;  
I am the truth that sets the captive free;  
I am the life that raises up the dead;  
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you. **R.**  
I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;  
I am the gate that guards you night and day;  
you are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice;  
you are my own: your ransom is my blood. **R.**  
I am the light that came into the world;  
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;  
I am the morning star that never sets;  
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. **R.**

**RECESSIONAL: BLEST BE THE LORD**

*Blest be the Lord, blest be the Lord,  
the God of mercy, the God who saves.  
I shall not fear, the dark of night  
nor the arrow that flies by day.*

I need not shrink before the terrors of the night,  
nor stand alone before the light of day.  
No harm shall come to me  
no arrow strike me down,  
no evil settle in my soul. **Ant.**



## 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](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@catholic.net.au](mailto:umg@catholic.net.au)

## RITE OF ELECTION

On the First Sunday of Lent each year, baptised faithful from parishes across our Archdiocese gather at St Stephen's Cathedral with the Archbishop and clergy to support the adult catechumens and candidates as they enter the final stage of their preparation for full reception into the Catholic Church. This Rite formally recognises God's call and validates the readiness of catechumens, who are now known as "the Elect". The Elect add their names to the Book of the Elect in recognition of this call and as a sign of their fidelity to continue journeying in the Catholic faith.

This year our Parish are taking 2 Catechumens (preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) and 3 Candidates (already Baptised, preparing for full reception into the Catholic Church) to the Rite of Election.

Over the Lenten period, the Elect will participate in three Scrutinies, which are prayers within the Mass to purify, heal, strengthen and protect them as they finish their preparations for Baptism. These Scrutinies are linked with the Gospels on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, all of which describe an encounter with Jesus by someone whose life is then dramatically changed. These Scrutinies and the linked Gospels encourage the Elect, and the whole Church, to examine our way of life and ask ourselves whether we are truly living as Christ's disciples, as people of the Gospels. Please keep our candidates in your prayers as they begin their journey of worship and faith among us.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year A 28 FEBRUARY / 1 MARCH 2026

### READINGS

**Genesis: 12:1-4**  
**2 Timothy 1:8-10**

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.  
God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 17:1-9**

*His face shone like the sun.*



Be the first to see our New Early Year's Building!

Join us for a Principal Tour at St Bernard's

Friday 13th February 9am

Wednesday 4th March 4pm



## Enrol now!

Where greatness and kindness connect!



<https://www.stbernards.qld.edu.au>



## Join a Principal Tour at St Catherine's!

Register Now for a February Principal Tour!

Thursday 12 February, 9:30am  
Thursday 26 February, 9:30am



Come see our:

- Prep classrooms in action
- explore our fantastic facilities

Learn about our:

- Extra-curricular activities
- Instrumental program
- Technology Program!



## Enrol online now for Prep 2027!

If your child is born 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022 they are eligible for Prep in 2027  
\*Children must be 5 years old by 30 June in the year they start Prep.

Your child's learning journey begins here...  
Join our St Catherine's family and thrive in a supportive and welcoming community.

[www.stcatherinescps.qld.edu.au/enrolment](http://www.stcatherinescps.qld.edu.au/enrolment)



Enrol NOW!

