NEWSLETTER

Catholic Parishes of Bulimba • Buranda • East Brisbane • Kangaroo Point

Third Sunday of Advent

14 December 2025 (Year A)

◆ FR PETER DILLON Administrator, Kangaroo Point East Brisbane and Buranda ◆ FR KEVIN SMITH Parish Priest, Bulimba

BULIMBA PARISH
P: 07 3399 2386
E: bulimba@bne.catholic.net.au
W: www.bulimbacatholic.com

St Peter and Paul's Church
25 Main Avenue
Bulimba QLD 4171

BURANDA PARISH
P: 0467 775 862
E: stlukes@bne.catholic.net.au
W: www.stlukesburanda.com

St Luke's Church
43 Taylor Street
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

KANGAROO POINT EAST BRISBANE PARISH
P: 0467 775 862
E: kpoint@bne.catholic.net.au
W: www.catholicparishebkpt.org.au

St Joseph's Church
26-36 Leopard Street
Kangaroo Point QLD 4169

St Benedict's Church
81 Mowbray Terrace
East Brisbane QLD 4169

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationships of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

THE NATIVITY

At this time of Christmas and the joy of decorations, here's a personal reflection of the feeling of Advent and Christmas from Helen Cole, *parish secretary*.

Blessings for the week ahead,
Fr Kevin

At the start of Advent, I put up my household Christmas decorations including the Nativity scene and it got me thinking about how important this is to me.

My mother holds our childhood crib set which is now over sixty years old and she still places it out every Christmas. This tradition has been handed down to me and my sisters. Each of us has added our own individual Nativity scene to our family history, helping us remember what is at the heart of Christmas.

In the Christian tradition, a nativity scene shows figures representing the infant Jesus, his mother Mary and her husband Joseph, and depicts the birth of Jesus from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Luke's narrative describes an angel announcing the birth of Jesus to shepherds who then visit the humble stable where Jesus is found lying in a manger. Matthew's narrative tells of 'wise men' who follow a star to the *house* where Jesus dwelt. Our crib sets include figures of both the shepherds and the wise visitors.

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, central Italy, in an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ rather than upon materialism and gift giving.

Do you own a Nativity scene? Perhaps this year you might like to start your own family tradition.

The Parish Christmas Crib (*per tradition*) will be set up at the front of the church. Bring the children to see it, tell them the Christmas story, and say a little prayer with them.

LORD JESUS, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, you become the brother of all human beings. As we contemplate this wondrous event, may we feel the gladness of the shepherds, share the awe and worship of the wise men, and always sing your praise and glory with the angels. May the star of peace lead us to your love and mercy. Amen

Liturgy and Prayers This Week 15 December to 21 December 2025

	Bulimba	Buranda	East Brisbane	Kangaroo Point
Wednesday	7pm (Reconciliation Mass)		8am (Mass)	
Friday	8am (Mass + Adoration + Benediction)	9am (Mass)		
Saturday	9am (Mass) 5.30pm (Mass)		5pm (Mass)	
Sunday	8am (Mass) 5.30pm (Mass)	8am (Mass)		9am (Mass)

AROUND OUR PARISHES

BULIMBA

Prayer Requests
Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Neil Trottier, John Parely Snr, Natalina Rossi, Edward Russell ***recently deceased and also for*** Leoncio Rodriguez, Eruthayamary Pillai, Margert Turpin, Paul Troja, Patricia Vieyra, Mary Hooper, Emma Moretto, Peggy Teache, Ann Toomey, Harold & Dulcie O'Connell, Robyn Illett, Bill Hanley, Patrick and Clare Dugger, Begley and Bourke families, Candelario Iquin, Ross Saffioti, Mal Thomson, Moira Dugera.
Please remember the sick in your prayers – Luigia D'Allura, Hazel Langthorne, Pete Waldron, Margaret McLaughlin, Anita Xavier, Lance Tutanoa, Roy Hogan, Catherine Kearney, Madonna Lapez, Rita Zoch, Patrick Larkin, Mimy Andree, Robyn Britnell.

ADVENT MASS OF RECONCILIATION will be held on Wednesday, 17th December at 7pm. All welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL! The gifting tree is up! This is our main appeal for the years so please consider donating grocery gift cards (*Coles and Woolworths only*) or deposit funds to our bank account—
ADF St Vincent de Paul, Bulimba
BSB 064-786
Account # 100026603
Your gift of a grocery card enables the families we are assisting to have a choice that is best suited to their needs. This approach is preferable to gifting food items and toys which may not be suitable for families needs in these challenging times. Please return your gift to the tree by **14 December**. Alternatively, you are welcome to drop your gift to the Parish Office. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

A sense of humour is a gift from God. Laughter unites us.
My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far I've finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already!

LITTLE STEPS SJ INITIATIVE
THIS WEEK'S ACTION

Some simple, faith-inspired steps for living sustainably and in harmony with creation, in the spirit of Laudato Si' and the Season of Creation.

Reflect on purchases – "Do I really need this?"

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS are now at the church doors. Please consider how you can assist across the Masses to make them a joyous occasion. THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ALL PARISHES
available on the flyer at church doors

KANGAROO POINT/EAST BRISBANE
St Joseph's — Christmas Eve 5pm (Nativity at 4.30pm)
St Benedict's — Christmas Day 9am

BURANDA
St Luke's — Christmas Eve 5pm
Christmas Day 8am

BULIMBA
Sts Peter and Paul's — Christmas Eve 5pm and 8pm
Christmas Day 8.30am

KANGAROO POINT/EAST BRISBANE . BURANDA

Prayer Requests
We ask you to pray for the recently deceased *Philip Cahill* ***and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time*** *Ruby and Les Richards, Francis Xavier* ***Please remember the sick in your prayers*** *- Anne Bardwell, Michael Mulligan, Leo Rawlings, Tony Cotter, Mary Leahy, Angelina Lee*

PARISH LUCKY NUMBER (KPEB)
Last week's winner: **LYN HORNER**
Any parishioners interested in being part of the Lucky Number Draw see with Isobel at the foyer of St Benedict's Church on Saturday evening. Proceeds of the lucky number draw go to support St Vincent de Paul and other social needs in the Parish. ***GOOD LUCK!!!***

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY @ ST JOSEPH'S—will take place at 4.30pm before the 5pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. Children are warmly invited to take part in roles such as narrators, Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Kings, Innkeepers and the Drummer Boy. To register your child's interest, please text Nick Tyler on 0422 961 927. Rehearsals will be held in the Church on **Saturday 20 December** at 8.30am and **Tuesday 23 December** at 4.30pm.

RECTIFICATION WORKS at St Luke's—just a reminder works are continuing. Access to the front of the church will be impacted with scaffolding, so please use side entrance. We ask for your patience during this process. **THANK YOU**

LOOKING AHEAD
20 December **Nativity Rehearsal**—St Joseph's Church 8.30am
23 December **Nativity Rehearsal**—St Joseph's Church 4.30pm
24 December **NO** 8am Mass at East Brisbane
25 December Fr Peter Wieneke, joins for 8am Mass at St Luke's

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEWS - We invite parishioners to assist in the collection of food items for the Christmas hampers. The giving Christmas trees have numerous cards with details of a food item you can purchase and return to drop at the foot of the tree. The Christmas hampers will be distributed on **Saturday December 20** to those people in our local area who seek the assistance of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Any offers of assistance from parishioners in this regard will be most welcome. The families of students attending St Joseph's school are again supporting our Christmas hamper appeal and are already collecting items for the hampers. Some parishioners may prefer to make donations of cash instead of donating food items.
If you wish to donate cash there are envelopes available or via direct bank transfer using the following details -

BSB: 064 786
A/C number: 100026599
A/C name : SVDP East Brisbane/Kangaroo Point conference

We look forward to your continued prayers and support during Advent to help bring the joy and peace of Christmas to those in need within our immediate local communities.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER—as we look ahead to 2026, you are invited to purchase a 2026 print subscription. Stay connected to the stories and voices that inspire our community. A $70 annual subscription, delivered to your loved one's door, also makes a meaningful Christmas gift. Subscribe at catholicleader.com.au/subscribe or call us on (07) 3324 3555.

STAMP OUT POVERTY WITH YOUR USED STAMPS—please send your used stamps to the parish office for charity. THANK YOU.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISHES

As a Catholic community, we are deeply grateful for the goodwill and generosity that sustain our mission and service to others.
Your continued support is vital to our work, helping us to live out Christ's love in Bulimba, Buranda, and Kangaroo Point/East Brisbane.
To arrange planned giving for your parish, we invite you to reach out to the parish office for more information.
Thank you for being a cherished part of our faith journey.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

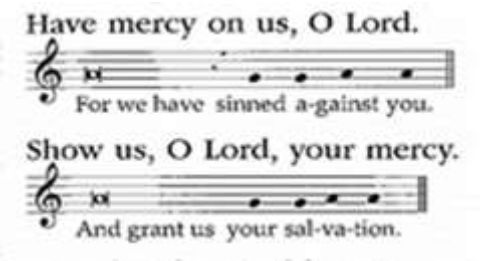
A VOCATION VIEW: 'As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.' (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God. Scan the QR code to find out more or contact the vocation office on 1300 133 544 or www.vocationbrisbane.com Follow us on @vocationbrisbane

TWO MINUTE HOMILY by priests from across the Archdiocese of Brisbane. You are able to watch this week's homily here.

THE ORDER OF THE MASS

◆ FIRST Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 ◆ SECOND Reading: James 5:7-10 ◆ GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

PENITENTIAL ACT



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

APOSTLES 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 life everlasting,

Amen.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

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

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

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

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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nick@morrisprovesolicitors.au

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