



# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH

CHILDERS | GIN GIN | BIGGENDEN | MT PERRY | WOODGATE | ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

## PARISH OFFICE

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9:30am ~ 3:30pm

1 Stewart Street, Childers QLD 4660

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[www.childerscatholic.net](http://www.childerscatholic.net) | [www.facebook.com/sacredheartchilders](https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartchilders)

## Parish Leadership Team

**Fr Jack Ho** Parish Priest  
**Christina Day** Principal, St Joseph's School  
**Joe Russo** | **Petra Galea** | **Marg Harm**

<b>Parish Operations Coordinator:</b>	Vacant	<b>Sacred Heart Church</b>	42 Churchill St, Childers
<b>Finance Council:</b>	Kevin Edwards	<b>St Michael's Church</b>	21 May St, Gin Gin
<b>Sacred Heart Men's Group:</b>	Ren Cini	<b>St Peter's Church</b>	17 Victoria St, Biggenden
<b>Catholic Womens League:</b>	Sonia Jones	<b>St Patrick's Church</b>	18 Pearson St, Mt Perry
<b>St Vincent de Paul Society:</b>	Trish Clutterbuck	<b>Community Hall</b>	The Esplanade, Woodgate

## PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

### Saturday 25 January – Conversion of St Paul

5:00pm Reconciliation - Gin Gin

5:30pm Vigil Mass - Gin Gin

### Sunday 26 January – Australia Day

8:00am Mass - Childers

*(Cuppa & Lamington after Mass)*

11:00am Mass - Biggenden

*(BBQ Lunch after Mass)*

5:00pm Mass - Woodgate

### Monday 27 January – St Sebastian

### Tuesday 28 January – St Thomas Aquinas

4:30pm Adoration - Childers

5:00pm Vespers & Benediction - Childers

### Wednesday 29 January

5:30pm Adoration & Rosary - Gin Gin

### Thursday 30 January

8:00am Mass - Childers

4:00pm Parish Leadership Team Meeting

4:30pm Prayer Group - Childers

### Friday 31 January – St John Bosco

8:30am Rosary & Reconciliation - Childers

9:00am Mass - Childers

### Saturday 1 February

9:00am Marian Mass - Childers

5:00pm Reconciliation - Gin Gin

5:30pm Vigil Mass - Gin Gin

*Supper after Mass*

### Sunday 2 February – Presentation of the Lord

8:00am Mass - Childers

*Blessing of the Backpacks*

*Morning Tea after Mass*

4:45pm Reconciliation - Woodgate

5:00pm Mass - Woodgate

*Dinner at Club after Mass*

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26 January 2025

Year C/1

**This Week's Readings:** Isaiah 32:15-18; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Matthew 5:1-12

**Next Week's Readings:** Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

## Introducing - The Parish Leadership Team

Dear Parishioners,

Last December, we introduced a new Parish Leadership Structure, inspired by SYNOD24's call to "make all things new" (Rev 21:5) and Pope Francis' vision of a synodal Church. We're now trialing this structure in early 2025.

The Parish Leadership Team acts as a key advisory body to the Parish Priest, ensuring decisions are collaborative, mission-focused, and meet the diverse needs of our community. Appointments last for three years with the possibility of renewal. After careful prayer, discernment, and discussions, we are excited to announce the members of the Parish Leadership Team:



**Petra Galea** – From the Gin Gin community, Petra is a devoted mother of two teenagers and has a deep passion for Family Ministry. She focuses on nurturing the faith and catechesis of our younger generations, emphasising active community involvement and enhancing personal prayer within family life. Petra has a professional background in business management accounting. She is also an avid long-distance runner and serves as Treasurer and Auditor for various sports clubs and school committees.

**Joe Russo** – A lifelong and well-respected resident of Childers and Woodgate, Joe has deep roots in the local farming community, having been involved in agriculture throughout his life. Joe has over 20 years of experience in agri-politics at both Local and State levels, and has also served on several boards within the rural sector.

**Marg Harm** – A member of the Childers community, Marg brings over 20 years of experience in HR management, industrial relations, and disability employment. As a foster carer for two decades, she has developed extensive advocacy skills, especially in areas of mental health, youth disability, and youth justice. Marg's insights and experiences are invaluable in guiding our parish's efforts towards inclusivity and fostering a professional work environment.

Joe, Marg, and Petra, along with **Christina Day**, the Principal of St Joseph's School, and myself, form the core of our Parish Leadership Team. Meeting monthly, these leaders leverage their professional skills and community insights to guide our parish's decisions in pastoral care, outreach, and evangelisation, aligning every action with the Church's mission. This collaborative effort enhances inclusivity and encourages active participation across our parish. We are grateful to Chrissie, Marg, Petra, and Joe for embracing and serving in these roles. Please pray for them as they begin their vital ministry in our parish.

*Blessings, Fr Jack*



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO LIKE AND FOLLOW OUR [PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE](#) WHERE YOU WILL FIND REGULAR PARISH UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS.

The Beatitudes we just heard are at the beginning of the 'Sermon on the Mount'. This sermon provides a picture of a society where the usual expectations of how people relate to each other are overturned.

Our Lord wants to create a new society where the old rules of engagement are superseded, especially in relation to enmity and violence. In fact, in the Sermon on the Mount all forms of resolving disputes, starting with families (spouses, brothers) are turned upside down.

And we are a 'Land Down Under'.

Australia is a place to which people have been attracted over the millennia to forge a new future. First, the original inhabitants coming down through Asia, and then the settlers, migrants and refugees of the last 236 years. (Of course, the convicts were a less voluntary part of the movement of peoples!)

Most were attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in Europe, and more recently in the Middle East or Africa or Asia or Central or South America. People were and are prepared to take the risk of being dis-located, of re-locating because of that vision of a different future, particularly a future not determined by the violence of feudal warfare which had characterised their homelands for generations, centuries, and even millennia.



They come because they aspire to be someone different, to do something different, in ways not predetermined by centuries of custom and tradition in their home society.

Is this movement of people to Australia a 'chance event'? Is it just another phase of world history? No.

I recall walking down a corridor in the Vatican, the wall of which was painted with a map of the world. Where Australia is, there was just ocean blue. It was painted before European explorers began to map our coastline!

Those mapping expeditions gave us our name 'Australia'. De Quiros, the great Portuguese explorer of the 16th Century, set out on a quest for '*Terra Australia del Espiritu Santo*', South Land of the Holy Spirit. Right from the start, the full title of our land was bound up with the Holy Spirit.

I am confident that 'Australia' is a work of the Holy Spirit, no chance event in world history but a gathering of peoples for a Divine purpose.

One of the most distinctive works of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic, tribal and language barriers between people. That is why Christianity spread like wild fire across the Roman Empire.

Australia is a place where that Pentecostal impulse is felt very strongly. People from every nation, tribe, ethnic and religious group on the face of the earth have relocated here and are creating a new sort of society.

Human beings can relate to each other free from past structures of oppression and division in their old homeland societies. They have come, in their millions, to escape the histories of societies where everyone 'knew their place', to a land where we relate to each other for our inherent worth. Hence the great Australian characteristic: 'egalitarianism'. This is simply the social recognition of the truth of the Genesis creation story: we all share a common humanness and a common humanity.

Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly? No. Our treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful, to say the least. In Tasmania, the use of armed force against the aboriginal people was authorised at the highest levels. Tasmanian historian, Nick Brodie, has written on this under the title *The Vandemonian War*. This nicely plays on the original name of Tasmania, i.e. *Van Diemen's Land*, and the sense of a demonic force utterly contrary to the Spirit of the Sermon on the Mount.

Our treatment of those genuinely fleeing persecution in their homelands on occasion falls short of what the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

But on the whole, we are creating a version of the Kingdom of God under the Southern Cross of which we can be proud.

So, Australians All, let us rejoice –

For our land abounding in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare,  
For our freedom to share life in our 'Common-Wealth',  
For the divine Spirit of Pentecost attracting us to follow Jesus in this  
*Australia del Espiritu Santo*, South Land of the Holy Spirit.

© Fr Michael Tate

*Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.*

## DON'T FORGET

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** – Every Tuesday from 4:30pm in Sacred Heart Church, Childers. Vespers and Benediction will be celebrated at 5:30pm.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (Vinnies)** – Please contact (07) 5459 5230 or for welfare needs please call 0457 183 360.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)** – For enquiries, please contact Sonia Jones on 4126 1447.

**SICK OR IN HOSPITAL?** – Please contact the Parish Office so we could organise either the priest or a care & concern minister to visit you. Remember, we can only visit if we know!

**PLANNED GIVING** – Thank you for your generosity and support. Details for electronic banking are as follows: BSB: 064 786; A/C No: 100012991. ReferenceP: PG/Surname.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

For the Sick: **Alfio Bonanno, Irene Reilly, Allan Jones, Pat Higgins, Kevin Murphy, Terry McDonnell, Elaine Carpenter, Petrina Coomer, Elena McDonnell, Meg O'Malley, Peter O'Malley, Fred Magee, Maria Wright, Terry Creagh and Michael Blinco.**

*(Names will remain for one month – contact Parish Office to extend)*

For the recently deceased and for our brothers and sisters whose anniversaries occur at this time, **Joy Warmington, Joseph Pitchay, Mary Di Francesco, Nellie Kelly, Clara Leavey, Christopher Schultz and Anthony Mammino.**

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

# BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**SUNDAY  
2 FEBRUARY 2025**

To celebrate the beginning of the school year, Fr Jack will be blessing all the school bags and lunch boxes at Mass on this day. School teachers and staff are welcome to bring their bags too!

Bring your bags along and begin the year with this special blessing!



**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY** – On Sunday, 9 February, we will celebrate this vocation of commitment and love. A Nuptial Blessing will be offered to couples attending Mass and we will be showing a brief video of wedding photos of parishioners at the commencement of Mass. If you wish to have your wedding photo included in this presentation, please email your photo to the Parish Office ([childers@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:childers@bne.catholic.net.au)) by Monday, 27 January.

## LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAM BOOKLETS 2025

– Lent is not until March, but some popular resources sell out fast! Similar to our recent expanded Advent Program, we will once again be offering the upcoming Lenten Program in Childers, Gin Gin and Biggenden. The cost to the program will be \$15 per person – which covers two different Lenten Reflection Books as well as light refreshments at the session each week. Volunteers will be available at the end of Mass or you may contact the Parish Office by 10 February if you wish to register for the program.



## ADULT FAITH 'WINE & CHEESE' EVENING

**Thursday 13 February 2025 – 6:00pm  
Parish Office Meeting Room**

This year, we're excited to launch our Adult Faith Evenings, designed to enrich our spiritual journey through discussions and explorations of Scripture and faith practices, all complemented by wine and cheese! We invite all parishioners to join us for these sessions. Moira Thompson will lead our first gathering on **13 February** and focus on the nature of prayer, exploring when, where, and how to pray, including different styles and methods. Join us as we practice and deepen our understanding of prayer together.



**BURNING OF THE BLESSED PALMS** – With Ash Wednesday just over a month away, we observe the tradition of burning last year's blessed palm branches to create the ashes. Please bring your palms to the church on the following days for the burning ritual as we prepare for this day:

**Sun 9 Feb – 11:00am – Mass & Burning of Palms (Biggenden)**  
**Fri 28 Feb – 9:00am – Mass & Burning of Palms (Childers)**  
**Sat 1 Mar – 5:30pm – Mass & Burning of Palms (Gin Gin)**  
**Sun 2 Mar – 5:00pm – Mass & Burning of Palms (Woodgate)**

**WE ARE  
HIRING**

We are excited to announce an opportunity for a passionate and skilled individual to join our team as **PARISH OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**. This permanent part-time role (approx. 20 hours per week) is perfect for someone with exceptional administrative and secretarial skills, who can work independently and also thrives in a team environment and take initiatives. As our parish continues to grow in mission and engagement, this role offers a chance to make a meaningful impact. Some flexible working arrangements are available. For a Position Description and more details, please contact the Parish Office.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS/TEENAGERS (RCIA) –

Are you interested in becoming a full and active member of the Catholic Church? RCIA is the journey that helps people grow in their relationship with God while learning about Catholic faith and practices. Join a small group of individuals, just like yourself, seeking to deepen their faith and connect with our faith community. Our journey begins in February and culminates at the Easter Vigil with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. We invite you to embark on this meaningful journey with us! If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office or Fr Jack. "Come and See!" (John 1:39)



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**SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS & PARISH RELATIONSHIPS** – As we continue to reach out into the local community as a parish, we are looking at how we can help to support local businesses and in turn how they can help support our mission. Do you know of any local businesses and services that might be interested in advertising in our newsletter for a small financial contribution? Please let the Parish Office know!

## The Lord will make you happy and strong

U H H A F T D L Y L D S D T B G W  
I P A U L Y H V K E N J P R F Z W  
O U R I M S U H A E E L J U F Z T  
X G U Q K R E E U A S I L E W H E  
O B B K O J X L L T O X N E Z U V  
V X A N F G G V I Z H S E S O M W  
Z T I R N G E V O T C B A P Z W E  
B E O W R O X G T H N C U I W U O  
L O F W U J S Z T T L E U V M N I  
P O R A B H R A Z C M Z G F Z B S  
J X E L Z N B A U N S T K E L O A  
W I E K E B Y G J S U F F E R S I  
K F K V A Z T U I D T Q K G D D A  
C K V S Y J V X H B L B T D W N H  
A K O D O T I P M K U Y A C B U D  
C Q O O B V A W Z K T C W F H T U  
M B P A Z J J M A X D H Q G L V F

Try to find these words:

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| body     | Law     |
| built    | Moses   |
| chosen   | poor    |
| free     | Sabbath |
| Gentiles | suffers |
| Isaiah   | true    |

