



St. Mary's Catholic Parish Beaudesert

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Parish Priest

Fr. Kevin Njoku

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Administration Assistants

Kaitlyn Erasmus
Emma Le Breton-Stott

Youth Co-ordinator

Awaiting decision

Sacramental Prep. Co-ordinator

Patricia Dunn

Finance Council

Chair—Susan Shay
Secretary—Melissa Cahill
pfc.stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair—Anthony Marshall
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Care & Concern

Contact the Parish Office
5541 1068

Safe Guarding / Workplace Health & Safety

Kaitlyn Erasmus
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Parish Postal Address

St Mary's Parish Centre
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Beaudesert Qld 4285

Parish Office—Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
& Friday: 9:00am - 2:00pm
07 5541 1068

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St Mary's Primary School

07 5541 2005
Principal: Mrs Renay Condon
pbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au

McAuley College

Phone: 07 5542 3000
Principal: Mr Jason Pacey
sbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au

Fourth Sunday of Lent (29th/30th March 2025)

Brothers and sisters,

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church encourages us to, "Rejoice and be joyful" because Christ is willing to reconcile us to His Father.

Once, a man became sick. He was told that the only condition to be healed was to forgive and reconcile with those who offended him. So, he wrote to his debtors and enemies, "My dear, having realised the power of forgiveness and reconciliation, I have cancelled all the debts you owe me. Please let us continue to be friends again, and always pray for me!"

This is Providence in action. This man's sickness was God's way of mediating grace to his friends. In the same way, through His death, Christ reassures us that our "debt of sin" has been cancelled. Also, His Sacraments mediate grace for us and reconcile us to God.

In today's second reading, Paul tells us that we are "products of Christ's reconciliation." Christ took the first initiative of reconciling us to God. In other words, owing to sin, we were cut off from God. However, through the sacrifice of Christ, we became God's adopted children. So, we are all children of the same Father through Christ's sacrifice.

It can be disastrous if we continue to dwell in the past. Where the future would lead us is more important than where the past has left us. The story of the prodigal son is one of the most read and reviewed of all the parables of Jesus Christ, and it fits into our humanity because it tells the story of a notorious past and a rebranded future.

In today's Gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32), the story of the prodigal son, reassures us of God's readiness to reconcile with us. It is the story of a loving father and a humble and repentant son. It is the story of reconciliation at its best. Most importantly, it reflects our own daily story and struggle.

A man had two sons, and the younger comes to him asking for his share of his father's inheritance. It is a strange request because his father is still living. However, the father did not argue with him but gives half of what he has. After some time, the young man gathers his properties and travels to a distant country, spending his money with friends and acquaintances. When he came to his senses, he decided to return home regardless of his circumstances. The distant country represents a severe disconnection from the father's house. At a distance, we lose our connection to God's hands and from his attentive ears (Isaiah 59:1-2).

It does not matter how far we have gone away from God or how terrible our past was. What matters is that Christ is willing to reconcile us to His Father and restore our lost glory. He beckons on us, "Come now, let us settle the matter," ... "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;" (Isaiah 1:18).

The Lenten season constantly encourages us to seek for reconciliation with God through Christ. Let us make effort to rediscover ourselves, and like the prodigal son, confess and reconcile with ourselves, others and God.

Through the church, Christ has made things easy for us. He has given us the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a means of constantly reconciling ourselves with God.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us in three ways; reconciliation with ourselves, our brothers and sisters, and reconciliation with God. One leads to the other. Our reconciliation with God is strongly dependent on our reconciliation with others and, of course, with ourselves.

May we take advantage of this sacrament instituted by Christ to return back to God. This sacrament enables us to, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)

God is Good, All the Time!

Rev. Fr. Kevin Njoku

Readings for this week

Fourth Sunday of Lent (30th March)

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

Responsorial Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

Readings for Mass next week

Fifth Sunday of Lent (6th April)

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,

for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Reading: John 8:1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Meetings Events

Morning tea will be served every Sunday after the 9:30am Mass at St Mary's

Morning tea will be served on the first Sunday of each month after the 7:30am Mass at St John the Baptist.

Multicultural Day—Sunday 25th May

Parish Jubilee Celebration—Sunday 27th July

Join our small team of Catechists making a difference

Join our small team of Catechists as a temporary volunteer in a classroom guided lesson. Your gift of time would be a valuable contribution to the future of the Catholic community.

If interested please contact the Parish Office on 5441 1068.

All volunteers must be willing to obtain a blue card and keep Archdiocesan mandated safeguarding training up-to-date

Choir Practice

Choir Practice for Easter Masses is every Tuesday at 7:00pm in St Mary's Church, until Easter. All welcome!

Lenten Program— Start Anew in Christ

Our Lenten program is on **Tuesdays** at 2:00pm, in the Parish Office, continuing each week until Easter. Please join us.

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent



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Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters

Margaret Fechner, Tony Torre, Maria Malcotti, Terry Geraghty, Margaret Ford, D Wilde, Baby Jaime, Janet Young, Rosie, Paul Cameron, Margaret Salisbury, Lauraine Ward, Katrina Foster, Moya Mitchell, Michael Gough, Andrew Gough, Liz Murray, Josie Buffalino, Sebastian Randall, and Julie Fraser

We remember and pray for those who have recently died

Colin James Woodhead (10/12/1930—17/3/2025)

Funeral to be held at St Mary's, Saturday 5th April, 11:30am.

and those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Anthony (Tone) Ward (29th March)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Holy Baptism

We welcome to our Parish Matilda Heit, who will be Baptised into the Catholic Faith on Sunday. Please pray for her and her family!

Easter Liturgy Volunteers Roster

The roster for the Easter Triduum will be at the back of St Mary's Church for anyone to volunteer. Please write your name and contact number on the ministry you wish to help with this year. *Thank you in advance.*

Stations of the Cross

Beauesert—Fridays 6:00pm

Tamborine Mountain—Wednesdays 8:30am

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the annual
CHRISM MASS
Thursday 10th April 2025 @ 7:00pm
Cathedral of St Stephen
249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane 4000
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Calling all Local Businesses!

Would you like to advertise your business to all corners of the Scenic Rim at a very competitive rate?

From the 1st April, we will have 2 spaces for advertising open in our Parish Newsletter. Your sponsorship helps our Parish with printing costs, while also giving your business access to our very large demographic, from the young to the young at heart. Our Newsletters are printed weekly, and distributed to each church service and online. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.



Money Counting

31st March—Trish
14th April—Colleen

7th April—Peter
22nd April—Trish

Bible Reflection—29th March 2025

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:1-3

Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the Father's abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too.

If you struggle with being like the scribes and Pharisees, reject that temptation. Instead, see yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven. Reflection taken from AOB Clergy and Parish Bulletin Vol 23 #5

No School Mass Friday 4th April

Mass on Friday the 4th April will be at 7:00am, NOT 9:15am.

Dear Lord,

Thank You for Your constant care and mercy.

Help us to seek new beginnings in You and to forgive others as You forgive us.

Guide us to live in peace and love.

Amen.

Plot and columbarium pricing update.

Due to multiple factors, including heightened costs, the parish finance council have decided that going forward the price of a cemetery plot at any of the parish cemeteries will be \$2000 and \$1500 for planned givers.

The price of a columbarium niche will also change to \$1800.

Thank you for your understanding.



The Catholic Leadership Intensive exists to provide leadership formation that equips parish leaders, both clergy and laity, as they seek to grow flourishing parishes of missionary disciples.

Time: 7-9pm Monday evenings

Date: 12 May - 28 July 2025 (excl. school holidays)

Location: Parish to arrange online classes

This intensive is designed for; Pastoral Associates, Members of Pastoral Councils and Parish/Community Leadership Teams, Ministry team leaders (e.g. Youth Coordinator, Sacramental Coordinator), Emerging leaders/future leaders, Anyone else who has a leadership role within a parish or community. Please contact the Parish Office to register your expression of interest before Friday 4th April.

28th-30th March— Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy



During Lent of this Holy Year, I intend to send out Missionaries of Mercy. They will be a sign of the Church's maternal solicitude for the People of God, enabling them to enter the profound richness of this mystery so fundamental to the faith. There will be priests to whom I will grant the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See, so that the breadth of their mandate as confessors will be even clearer. They will be, above all, living signs of the Father's readiness to welcome those in search of his pardon. They will be missionaries of

mercy because they will be facilitators of a truly human encounter, a source of liberation, rich with responsibility for overcoming obstacles and taking up the new life of Baptism again. They will be led in their mission by the words of the Apostle: "For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all" (Rom 11:32).

May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy. I direct this invitation to conversion even more fervently to those whose behaviour distances them from the grace of God. This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched! When faced with evil deeds, even in the face of serious crimes, it is the time to listen to the cry of innocent people who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings, and even their very lives. To stick to the way of evil will only leave one deluded and sad. True life is something entirely different. God never tires of reaching out to us. He is always ready to listen, as I am too, along with my brother bishops and priests. All one needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion and submit oneself to justice during this special time of mercy offered by the Church.

Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe. If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is not enough. Experience shows that an appeal to justice alone will result in its destruction. This is why God goes beyond justice with his mercy and forgiveness. Yet this does not mean that justice should be devalued or rendered superfluous. On the contrary: anyone who makes a mistake must pay the price. However, this is just the beginning of conversion, not its end, because one begins to feel the tenderness and mercy of God. God does not deny justice. He rather envelops it and surpasses it with an even greater event in which we experience love as the foundation of true justice.

In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old" (Ps 25:6).

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html

Father in heaven, as we prepare for the Jubilee of 2025, we humbly ask for your blessings upon all those who dedicate themselves to being missionaries of mercy.

Renew their faith, strengthen their hope, and ignite their hearts with a burning love for your Son, Jesus Christ, and for all people.

Grant them the grace to be tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel, transforming the world through acts of compassion, forgiveness, and service.

May they be beacons of hope, bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to the oppressed, and restoring sight to the blind.

Help them to be instruments of your healing and reconciliation, reaching out to those who are hurting, lost, and in need of your loving embrace.

May their lives be a testament to the power of your mercy, drawing others closer to you and to the transformative love of Jesus.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, we ask for your guidance and protection on their journey of service.

We pray this through Christ our Lord, Amen

Upcoming Parish Jubilee Events

***subject to change*.** Please keep an eye out in the newsletter for further information on these events.

- **27th April;** Jubilee of Teenagers/Canonisation of Carlos Acutis – Youth Group Event

Jubilee Masses at Country Churches

***representatives, please keep an eye for more information*;**

Rathdowney- 18th May	Christmas Creek- 1st June
Tamborine Mtn- 29th June	Palen Creek- 20th July
Canungra- 12th October	Kerry- 14th December

Are you, or someone you know, wanting to know more about the

Catholic Church or join our faith community?

Would you just like to talk about it without having to commit?

RCIA is a group of believers in the parish who meet regularly, and are ready to talk about any questions you may have! To begin a conversation, call the Parish Office 07 5541 1068, or e-mail: stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Are you thinking of becoming Catholic?



Mass Times: 31st March—6th April

Divine Mercy Devotion: Every Sunday 3.00pm - 3.15pm, St. Mary's Church, Beaudesert. All Welcome.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday – Beaudesert 4:30pm

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Beaudesert 7.00am	No Mass	Tamborine Mtn 9.00am Beaudesert 5.30pm	No Mass	Beaudesert 7am	Christmas Creek 4.30pm Beaudesert 6.30pm	Tamborine Mtn 7.30am Beaudesert 9.30am

Our Mission

'Guided by the Holy Spirit, we aim to be an evangelising, listening and faith-filled parish; underpinned by the values of compassion, inclusivity and love of neighbour.'

Our mission is: evangelisation of our parish and wider communities; liturgy and prayer opportunities that form, inform and transform our faith; pastoral support through initiatives that invite people to share their gifts and talents; and leadership that supports life-long faith formation and promotes responsible stewardship of our resources.

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