



PARISH OF ST JOSEPH OFFICES

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MASS THIS WEEKEND

(Lyra Sat – 16:30)
St Joseph's: Sat – 18:30
St Joseph's: Sun – 08:30

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Mon 6 Oct — No Liturgy
Tue 7 Oct — No Mass
Wed 8 Oct — 5:30pm Mass
Thu 9 Oct — 7:30 Mass
Fri 10 Oct — 7:30 Mass

MASSES NEXT WEEK

(Wallangarra Sat – 16:30)
St Joseph's: Sat – 18:30
St Joseph's: Sun – 08:30
(Texas – 17:30)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thu 4:00pm – Midnight
Fri 8:00am – 9:00am

VINNIES CONFERENCE

3rd Wednesday of the month
1:30pm – Mary Agnes Centre

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

First Tuesday of the month
7pm – Mary Agnes Centre

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Friday 17:30 in the church.



SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 27

4–5 Sep 2025

MIDWIVES OF GOD

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather of power and love and self-control.” (2 Tm 1:7)

Why is there disorder everywhere? The meanness of discourse. The destruction of life. The sly celebration of evil. The collapse of mercy. The breaking of promises. The pathologies of culture.

With Habakkuk we plead for help, but God seems not to listen. “I cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not intervene.” There is ruin in our cities, misery for the voiceless old, and skepticism for the hungry young.

Wounds abound: Alzheimer’s and liver disease, congenital handicaps and ancient vengeance. Even the earth groans with ominous quakes and atmospheric disturbance. Hurricanes follow drought.

What is more, we witness within ourselves awesome malevolence. Wars are waged; women are degraded; children are disposed of. We destroy the earth and its species. We uproot and wipe away its peoples. “Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife and discord.”

Sometimes it is too much to bear. The scale of the iniquity crushes us. The scope of the iniquity, even in one’s heart, dwarfs virtue. The good die young. Deceivers prevail.

Streets of Manhattan, Hanoi, Johannesburg, and London are lined with empty stares. Automatons move dexterously. There is no eye contact. Politics is posture. The media medicate us. Where is hope?

What reasons can be offered to loving spouses that they should bring children into this world? Increase my faith, I say. Give me some reason to believe. Show a sign. Make a promise.

“If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this sycamore, ‘Be uprooted and transplanted into the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

Faith. Hope. Love. I have often asked what these paltry human acts might mean to the sweep of history, to the portentous powers of culture, to the lost. How can they give birth to goodness in a world that so often seems to gestate death?

A story I cling to—now recalled from so long ago that I have to ask myself whether memory is true—returns.

There was a religious sister who was a midwife. She taught in a university and she practiced her profession in a city hospital. Into the hospital walked a young lost teenager, many months pregnant, not even aware of the fact, but sick.

“I’ve got news for you,” the midwife said. “You’re pregnant.” There was no boy or man who might claim the name of father, no family, no support group, no promise. As I recall, the young girl did not even know how or when she became pregnant, so meager was her knowledge of “reproductive rights.”

The sister-servant promised the young mother-to-be that she would be there for her. Each week a visit could be made and lessons taught: how to eat properly and take care of a pregnant body, how to prepare for delivery, how to live. And each week, visits were made. After the novena of months passed, birth came. One new mother’s child, with the midwife’s guidance, was fed rightly, nursed and cleaned, cared and worked for.

Then the young mother disappeared. She was gobbled up by this heartless world, lost in the maelstrom of this culture, the American dream, which for her and her child was a nightmare. She went defenseless before the pimps of pleasure and power. She vanished into the dangerous night.

She was not heard from again until, I think, six years later, when in her early twenties she wrote a note to her midwife-mother. It was an invitation, the message now blurred in my mind. “I am sorry I waited so long to thank you, but I wanted to surprise you. I wanted to be like you, since you were someone so good and loving.”

The invitation was to a graduation for Licensed Practical Nurses. Somehow, stronger than all the threat of violence and abuse, more appealing than any seduction of the moment, was the gift and promise of a person’s witness.

The good is like a frail fire. It expends itself once it is lit, bringing light to those around. Even though slight, it can illuminate a big dark room, helping you make it to the other side. Like love and wisdom, it lives in being communicated, being given.

My midwife-sister-friend did that for a young girl. She did that for me. You just do not know how faith bears fruit. You just do not know how love lives anew.

I remind you, to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. (Second Reading)

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First Reading **Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4**
1. Can you relate to this reading from the Book of Habakkuk? The writer could no longer endure violence, abuse and oppression in the world. What about you? Where do the challenges of discipleship arise for you?
2. Habakkuk speaks of misery and violence. What helps you survive misery in your life? In a tough situation can faith sustain you? Do you need to exercise your faith in lesser matters in order to be ready?

Second Reading **2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14**
1. What did Paul say God gave us instead of the “spirit of cowardice?” How can we “stir into flames” the power of love and self-control? Can love overcome cowardice and be a weapon for Christians?
2. Discuss authoritarianism, empathy and openness. Which are signs of strength? And which of weakness? What about love or cowardice?

Gospel **Luke 17:5-10**
1. Is quantity an issue when it comes to faith? Would an infinitely small amount of faith (a mustard seed’s worth) fulfill what Jesus promised to the apostles?
2. Do you know people who, with “incredibly strong faith,” have moved mountains? Or as this Gospel asserts, have uprooted mulberry trees? Who are they? What have they accomplished? Can your faith help you do the kinds of things they did? Can it help you overcome obstacles?

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‘KUTZ 4 KAZ’ Proudly sponsored by St Joseph’s
8am Saturday 11 October, Outside the Country Club. Street Stall, raffles & more; Fiona Patti’s hair cutting (donated for Cancer Council wigs); live broadcasting from Ten FM. A fundraising event for the Leukemia Foundation in memory of Karen Anderson (10 years).

PUBLIC ROSARY 11 OCTOBER 9AM
This year’s annual public Rosary will be held on Saturday 11 October at 9am. The gathering will be held at Rotary Park, Leslie Parade. All are welcome.

DATE CLAIMER: ST JOSEPH’S PARISH PRAYER WALK
Sunday 12 October after 8:30am Mass at St Joseph’s, Stanthorpe. Parishioners and friends are invited to walk to Mt Marley via Alice St and back to church. Refreshments at the top. We will seek parishioners’ input for future walks.

SANCTITY OF LIFE DAY – SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER
The purpose of this day is to have a special focus on God’s gift of Life itself; to acknowledge each of us as made by God in His image, and to reflect on the consequences that has for each of us and for the society we live in where that gift is denied or prematurely ended through such actions as elective terminations and euthanasia (also called “voluntary assisted dying”).
We are told in Jeremiah1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you.”

ADORATION SUGGESTED TIME CHANGE
As Eucharistic Adoration settles into the life of the parish, some ideas have been thrown. So, this is a simple note to ask if there are any objections to the following framework:

- A regular Mass on Thursday at 3:30pm
- Then a Holy Hour with Adoration through to midnight

FILM FOR FREE
As part of *BUSHkids* 90th anniversary celebrations, join local families and services for a FREE community screening in Stanthorpe of the transformative parenting documentary *SEEN – The Film*. Link to book tickets through the parish QR code.

IN OUR PRAYERS
RECENT DEATHS: **Robin Henderson** (28.09.2025 formerly Sr Mary Ester Henderson, a Pastorelle Sister who ministered in Stanthorpe 1970-1973)
Sr Mary Nivard Smith (Mary Catherine) RSM [22.09.2025 Emmaus, Nudgee, Former Principal of St Joseph’s Secondary School 1972-1974], **Noel Wright**
TO REMEMBER: Sophie Gasparin, Karen Anderson, Fr Thomas Murphy
FOR THE SICK: **Robert (Bob) Cosmo**, Michael Pratt, Robert Ebenestelli, John Morrison, Greg Fletcher, Lucy Targato, Nick Brac, Nancy Hickey, Renee Simpson, Con Torrisi, Paul Russell, Tina Ryan, Iva Baxter, Grace Marini, Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika, Terry Hopgood, Jack Lawson, Margaret Doro, Hayden Smith, Nalda Sciuto, Graham (Gossie) Vale, Liz Billings, Sr Cecelia OCD, Alan Colyer, Amanda Boardman, Bron Larner, Sr Therese Margaret OCD, Russell Fahey, Norma Bertinazzi, Lesley Robbins, Wayne Jackson, Angela Gannon, Glen Slater, Cassie May, Sam Leonardi, Josie Torrisi, Barry Driscoll, Steven Campbell, Paul Voss, Des Fossey, Kate Sturgeon, Anne Black, and all the sick of the Parish & families.
FOR VOCATIONS: For all the young in our parish; Rev. Fr. BJ Perrett, Sister Teresa Gasparin, and Sister Marie Tania as they continue their vocation journeys. For an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life from our own communities.

MINISTRIES	SATURDAY 11 OCT 2025	SUNDAY 12 OCT 2025
READERS	Norm Steele Bernice Steele	Fern Ausland Tony Hynes
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	John Patti Joyce Pozzebon	Shirlee Russell Pat McCosker Mary Zanatta
COUNTERS		Anna Brisotto Danielle Hannigan

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK
Mon 6 Oct – St Bruno, priest
Tues 7 Oct – Our Lady Of The Rosary
Thurs 9 Oct -St John Leonardi, priest
St Denis, bishop, martyr & Companions, martyrs
Sat 11 Oct– St John XXIII, Pope



On Wednesday 1 October, Sr Mary Annunciata O.P. (Elyse Burns) made her perpetual profession at the parish Church in Ganmain (Diocese of Wagga Wagga, NSW). The Mass was led by the local ordinary, The Most Rev Mark Edwards O.M.I. Many Priests, religious, and faithful from near and far (even as far as Stanthorpe!) gathered for the occasion. Bill and Beth Burns, Sr Annunciata’s parents, were in attendance with her siblings; a testament to their own commitment in and to marriage. Pictured here are some of the Webbs, family friends for some time.

BUNYA TEEN CAMP: "TRUE FRIENDSHIP IN CHRIST"

In late October, under the guidance of Fr Nathan Webb, over 30 teenagers from Southern Queensland gathered at the Bunya Mountains for 3 days of faith, fellowship, and fun. In a camp atmosphere they enjoyed each other's company with the common purpose of explaining "True Friendship in Christ" while making new friends in the process.

Under the organisation of "Storm King Youth Camp" the teenagers participated in group activities, bushwalks and enjoyed the mountain air. Camp organiser Mr Gerry Purcell said that he was pleased with an energetic and easy manner in which these bright young people participated. Mr Purcell was joined by other young adult leaders from the Toowoomba area demonstrated the depth and enthusiasm in youth discipleship.



The camp included the opportunity for the teens to interact with mentors throughout the day and at facilitated discussions in the evenings. They also spent time together in prayer and guided small groups. From discussions among the young people, both the structured and unstructured elements were fruitful. A feature of visiting the Bunyas is the proximity of the Bell biblical garden and church, which the group attended for Mass as a part of the program.



This camp was part of a regular series that has developed in recent years. Storm King Youth Camp will shortly hold a men's retreat at Marian Valley, Canungra, and then their cornerstone event of the year the Summer Family Camp at Stanthorpe over the Christmas/New Year Period. For those that are interested in attending or supporting these camps, please visit: <https://www.stormkingyouthcamp.org/>. And please pray both for the young people of the parish and those who generously provide for them in such initiatives.



The Bunya mountains provided a beautiful spring setting for outdoor talks, activities, and recreation. Beautiful weather prevailed, allowing sports, bushwalks, sunset hikes, and star-lit sing-along circles after dinner. Home-style meals nourished bodies while organic interactions nurtured souls. Spirits were high, and the hills rang with laughter and song.



BRISBANE IGNITE CONFERENCE 25: "THE LIGHT"

Over four days last week five St Joseph's Year 10 and Year 11 students (Layne, Lillian, Lily, Ally, and Henry), together with School Principal Mr Andrew Kendall OAM and Campus Minister Gianna Blaxland, attended the Ignite Conference 25 with Father Nathan Webb. The conference was held in South Brisbane, drawing together youth and young adults from throughout the state and even over the border in the Lismore.

The Ignite Conference 25 is Catholic youth and leadership conference designed to inspire faith, foster community, and promote mission among high schoolers, young adults, and leaders. It was an inspirational, fun, and music-filled conference, that lived up to its name in igniting the young people to the faith. All the students came away inspired and uplifted by the experience. Building on the success of this conference for the students, later this year the school is sending some Year 11s to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne which will bring together students from all around Australia. The parish will also support this and facilitate sponsorship for those who wish to participate.



The Stanthorpe school contingent was the only Toowoomba Catholic School represented and the only coordinated group from the Toowoomba Diocese this year. But we found some friends from our region and connected in with friends and family from the Darling Down and Granite Belt.



The group had the opportunity to meet with newly-commenced Toowoomba Diocese Project Officer for Youth and Young Adults: Rachel Pingle. The Ignite Conference hosts a lunch for youth leaders as a part of their program, so Rachel was on-site to network and meet the wonderful group from Stanthorpe and see the hundreds of attendees at Conference.



Rallies – including praise and worship with the Emmanuel Worship band, keynote speakers, and creative performances – were the hinge points of the days. Between them, age-specific workshops, a festival area, food vans, and even a half-pipe performance were on offer. At the end of each day, the group would spend some time in reflection, debriefing the day and ruminating on and consolidating the experiences.



A part of the experience was to witness and be witnesses among the other groups there. The St Joseph's group boasted tee shirts designed by one of the young adults for the occasion, standing out as "pilgrims of hope" among the crowds of worshippers.

