

**St Michael's Catholic Parish
& War Memorial Church – Dorrington Qld
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Rev. Dr Peter Devenish-Meares
Pastoral Director



*Please have a look....
St Michael's Parish page*



4th Sunday of Advent: 21st & 22nd December 2024

*“Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will
for me done, Alleluia”*

Advent: Watching and facing the future with Lamps Alight

We keep our lights lit and pray: Gracious God, who sees how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing ever mindful of caring for our brothers and sisters in need. Amen.

Important update and again asking for your feedback and for your support

I explained six weeks ago that we were embarking on necessary change. I also asked for ideas and comments. I have set out the reasons for changes to Mass numbers and times before. They include:

- the reduced number of priests in the Archdiocese – please pray for vocations
- Fr Tony is appointed here as the Sacramental minister, Being a very busy full-time Prison Chaplain can only say four (4) Masses here per week
- many needs across the Archdiocese. At the beginning of 2024 Maroochydore went from 3 priests to 2. At the beginning of 2025 Gympie parish will go from 2 priests to one, Caloundra is three to two, and there will be other parishes having reduced access to priests. All the above has and will necessitate changes in mass times within their communities. It is happening across the Archdiocese (and Australia). For example, Clayfield/Hendra parish significantly reduced Mass times over the four (4) churches within its community having only *one* priest.
- the Archdiocese developed “*Guidelines for Pastoral and Financial Sustainability of a Parish*”. We must and are following these guidelines

Many have offered ideas and feedback – thank you. These, not to mention working what we have been given has resulted in a planned way forward. I apologise that I could not meet all suggestions and I understand that not everyone agrees. We are setting out on a two stage (2) stage process.

Stage 1: I am announcing in general terms, the **necessary Mass changes from 18 January 2025.**

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Mon. | 5.30 pm | |
| Wed or Thursday | possibly to be 7 am – this is <u>to be confirmed</u> – please let me know your ideas | |
| Friday | 9.00 am | |
| Saturday | 9.00 am – this Mass will no longer be offered after 11 Jan 2025 | |

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---|
| Sat. (vigil) | 5.00 pm | ➔ all these Masses continue until 31 March 2025 |
| Sun. | 8.30 am | |
| Sun. | 5.00 pm | |

Stage 2: All three Sunday (obligation Masses) continue until 31 March 2025 when we will move to two (2) weekend Masses. **I invite everyone in parish to provide comments & feedback** esp. whether Wed or Thursday Mass is best and which Sunday Mass will be preferred when we come to that change on 1 April. Please let me know **by 31 Jan:** dorrington@bne.catholic.net.au.

Change is not easy and to be fair, some people have not agreed with what is happening. I understand that and I **take full responsibility for the changes**, although with your input, a few are yet to be discerned. Thank you for your support, understanding and for your prayers. We will work in a kindly way together, in faith, to make the future work, knowing that God is in charge. Thank you. *Deacon Peter.*

In other news:

- We are forming a **new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**. Some are still deciding if they will join and fair enough. If you have other nominations, please let me know by 10 January. I hope we have our first formal meeting by 27 Jan 2025.
- **Thank you to the Steering Committee** for their focussed, unifying and hard work over 12 months. This committee's work has concluded. They now hand over to the new PPC who will advise and help me as we go through the changes together.
- Tho' very important, this is *not* just about the committees past and present and future. I need constant parish-wide ideas and help to make our wonderful parish work. Ideas are always welcome: please call or preferably email dorrington@bne.catholic.net.au
- **New Finance Committee:** it is wonderful to share that the group has met twice this month so far and are providing much need ideas and advice to me.



Thank you from Society of St Vincent de Paul to everyone for donations to the Christmas Tree. This was faith & practical compassion in action.



Mass times 'til 18 Jan 2025

| Day | Date | Time | Day | Date | Time | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------|----------------|------|
| Monday | 23-Dec | 5.30 | Sunday | 5-Jan | 8.30 | |
| Tuesday | 24-Dec | 5.30 | Sunday | 5-Jan | 5.00 | |
| Wednesday | 25-Dec | 8.30 | Monday | 6-Jan | No Mass | |
| Thursday | 26-Dec | No Mass | Wednesday | 8-Jan | 9.00 | |
| Friday | 27-Dec | 9.00 | Thursday | 9-Jan | 9.00 | |
| Saturday | 28-Dec | 9.00 | Friday | 10-Jan | 9.00 | |
| | vigil | 5.00 | Saturday | 11-Jan | 9.00 | |
| Sunday | 29-Dec | 8.30 | | vigil | 11-Jan | 5.00 |
| Sunday | 30-Dec | 5.00 | Sunday | 12-Jan | 8.30 | |
| Monday | 30-Dec | 5.30 | | 12-Jan | 5.00 | |
| Wednesday | 1-Jan | 9.00 | Monday | 13-Jan | 5.30 | |
| Thursday | 2-Jan | 9.00 | Wednesday | 15-Jan | 9.00 | |
| Friday | 3-Jan | 9.00 | Thursday | 16-Jan | Liturgy | |
| Saturday | 4-Jan | 9.00 | Friday | 17-Jan | TBC | |
| | vigil | 5.00 | Saturday vigil | 18-Jan | 5.00 | |

We pray for: David Carr, Delma Schmidt, Don Morrison, Keiren Calder, Susie and Tom, Fr Ron Mollison, Fr Aidan Carvill SM, Trevour Pettersen, Jan Lidstone, Sharon Bell, Ian Tyson, Peter Shafton, Yvonne Auer, Luke Barden, Tracy Kelly We pray for all recently deceased and remember those whose anniversaries occur about this time. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen*

Thank you Fr John: On behalf of Deacon Peter and the parish, the Pastoral Council would like to thank Fr John for his commitment to St Michael's this six years. Father's generous support has allowed us to continue to celebrate the Mass and he has provided spiritual guidance in difficult times this year. Please join in thanking him for his support and in wishing him a joyful 2025.

Message from Fr Ray who we thank as he heads to Sydney. "Dear Peter and St Michael's parish. I've just received a new appointment which necessitates my relocation to Sydney next month. I've been asked to be the community leader of our senior Marists' community at Hunters Hill. Before I leave, I want to express my most heartfelt thanks to each of you. It has been a wonderful pleasure to be among you during the course of 2024, to experience your friendship and warmth. I have felt very much a part of your parish community. Your support and your encouragement have inspired me. Please keep me in your prayers. You can be assured of mine! I hope our paths cross again! God bless, Ray."

A merry and blessed CHRISTMAS...

**On behalf of the entire parish, I would like to wish you and yours a joyous and very blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year. Be assured of my prayers for you and yours.
Blessings, Deacon Peter**