Year A
1st Sunday of Advent
30th November 2025
Liturgical Colour: Purple

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES
OF GROVELY-SAMFORD AND MITCHELTON

PARISH TEAM

The Catholic Parishes of GROVELY-SAMFORD and MITCHELTON
Western Hills Communities from Gaythorne to Mt Glorious

Clergy:
Fr. Nigel Sequeira PP
Phone: 3355 3690

Rev. Peter McDade, Deacon

Secretary:
Christine Gomes (Tues-Fri)
grovely@bne.catholic.net.au

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grovely@bne.catholic.net.au

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Safeguarding Local Representatives:
St William's - Amelia Crawfoot
Our Lady of Dolours - Mary Murphy
Sacred Heart Church - Jeanette Chew

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Ph 3355 3690
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Website: www.gsmparishes.com.au
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CHURCHES
St William's Grovely/ Presbytery
67 Dawson Parade, Keperra
Ph 3355 3690

Sacred Heart Church
2-8 Camp Mountain Rd, Samford Village
Ph 3355 3690

Our Lady of Dolours/ Presbytery
11 Suez Street, Mitchelton 4053
Ph 3355 3690

SCHOOLS
St William's School
67 Dawson Parade, Keperra 4054
Ph 3355 5122 Fax 3354 3330

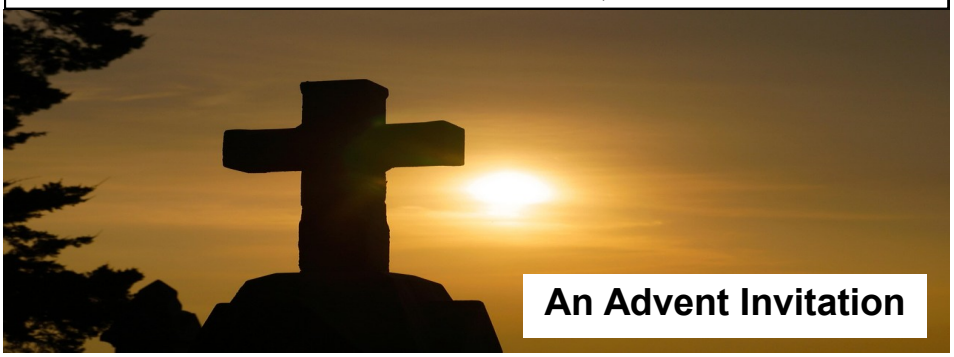
St Andrew's School
Cnr Hogarth & Upper Kedron Roads
Ferny Grove 4055
Ph 33516886 Fax 3851 1054

Our Lady of Dolours School
2 Willcocks Street, Mitchelton 4053
Ph 3355 7763 Fax 3855 2641

Mt. Maria College
54 Prospect Rd, Mitchelton 4053
Ph 3550 3400

Triple Y Grovely
Ph 0466 964 664

PLEASE TAKE YOUR NEWSLETTER WITH YOU, DON'T PUT IT BACK!



An Advent Invitation

Liturgically, we have arrived at the beginning of the Church's new year and the Season of Advent. This four-week season holds in tension the reality that Jesus the Christ was born into history and time, is present with us now, and will come again at the end of time. During Advent, we are invited to contemplate the Incarnation as an ongoing and present reality. We are called to be prepared and remain awake, ready for the coming of Christ, that can break through the ordinariness of our lives and into the world at any time.

The first reading of Advent (*Isaiah 2:1-5*) presents us with a poetic and uplifting vision of the last days. This reading resonates with the advent sense of the coming of Christ at the Parousia, the wonderful and liberating second coming. Isaiah sees a future where all people and nations embrace God's call to peace and justice. Weapons of war and destruction are transformed into ploughshares and pruning hooks, instruments that cultivate, sustain, and support the nourishment we need for life and growth. This is the vision of an age where the world is made new again, the light shines for all, and peace reigns. This is a vision of hope that we all yearn for especially in these times when we see nations assembling their war machines, beating their chests, in the pursuit of power and control that leads ultimately to oppression and destruction.

In the second reading (*Romans 13:11-14*) Paul strongly admonishes the Roman community to reflect upon their behaviours and reluctance to leave behind pagan social norms. The recently formed Christian community had lost some of its character and drifted into complacency. Paul urged them to *"wake up",* to practise self-control, proper conduct towards their neighbours, and engage in right relationships. Do Paul's words find resonance in us? Are we sleepwalking through our life, less able to recognise Jesus when he comes to us in our present situations, less willing to embrace the implications of our faith, and less able to embrace Christ's future return. The Advent season urges us to walk in the light and throw off the works of darkness that keep us hidden and small.

Matthew's Gospel (*24:37-44*) also warns us of the dangers of complacency and how easily we can be lulled into a spiritual sleep, entrenched in a comfortable life that dulls our sensitivity to the Spirit of God at work in and around us. Like Paul, he stresses the importance of being alert, staying awake, lest we risk being left behind when Christ returns.

Recently I had the opportunity to listen to Dean Boxall, the very energetic and alert coach of the Australian Olympic Swimming Team that brought home four gold medals at the Paris Olympics. He shared his coaching philosophy with the audience, and a take-home for me was how he prepared his athletes to develop physical, emotional, and mental resilience. He trained them to be aware and alert and open to hearing the truth. Talent is one thing, but it is the diligence and the willingness to go the distance that makes gold happen.

His talk led me to reflect upon what builds spiritual muscle and resilience - qualities that enable us to stay awake, and not miss the opportunity of Jesus breaking into our lives in a very transformative and liberating way. That is the goal and the gold.

As Catholics we have access to many spiritual practices that open us to the possibilities of Advent. Engaging in Christian prayer and reflection, contemplative waiting, noticing and embracing paradox, and sacraments all contribute to our spiritual muscle and fitness. What we do will either hasten or slow, sharpen or dim our own commitment to do our part to bring to birth Jesus, the Christ, in our own hearts and soul, and ultimately in the world. Are you ready?

Blessing of hope, peace, joy and love this Advent

Maria Wagner

We, the parishioners of the Catholic Parishes of Grovely-Samford and Mitchelton, acknowledge the Turrbal People who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People present.

LITURGY TIMES

1st December—7th December

Grovely	**St William's**
Monday:	9:00am Mass ***Cancelled***
Tuesday:	9:00am St Andrew's End of Year Mass - OEC
	5:30pm St William's School Graduation
Wednesday:	7:30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday:	9:00am Mass *St John Damascene*
Friday:	9:00am St William's School End of Year Mass

Next Weekend Masses:

Saturday:	5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday:	7:00am Mass
	9:00am Mass
	5:00pm Mass

Mitchelton	**Our Lady of Dolours**
Monday:	6:00pm Our Lady of Dolours School Graduation
Tuesday:	8:30am Mass
Wednesday:	8:30am Mass *St Francis Xavier*
Friday:	8:30am Mass ***Cancelled***
	11.00am Our Lady of Dolours School End of Year Mass

Next Weekend Masses:

Saturday:	9:30am Reconciliation
	4:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday:	10:00am Mass

Samford	**Sacred Heart**
Thursday:	6:00pm Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion

Next Weekend:

Sunday:	8:00am Mass

This Week's Readings:
1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Next Week's Readings:
2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

GROVELY

Monday Mass Change

Please note that the 9.00am Monday Mass at St Willam's is **cancelled** until further notice.

Faith Circle

Faith Circle meets every Monday at 9.30am in the Daley Centre. We meet to share friendship over a cup of coffee and discussion of Sunday's Gospel.

Anointing and Communion Service

This service will take place on Monday, 1st December at 3.00pm at the Moonah Park Aged Care Centre, Blaker Road, Mitchelton.

Christian Meditation Group

Please that there will be **no meeting on Tuesday, 2nd December**, due to St William's School Graduation. All are welcome to join us on 9th December.

Mothers Prayers

We invite you to delight in the vocation of motherhood as we pray in surrender to the Lord. We have you, your children, and grandchildren covered in prayer.

When: Wednesday at 9.30am
Where: Daley Centre

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday
7.30-8.30pm, St William's

Grovely Liturgical Ministers needed! (especially 5.00pm Saturday)

Are you interested in becoming a commentator, reader, or eucharistic minister? Volunteers for these liturgical ministries are always welcome.

Please contact Sue Graham at jgraham5@bigpond.net.au or 0407 043 256.

MITCHELTON

Reconciliation

Reconciliation will recommence next **Saturday,** at Our Lady of Dolours. **from 6th December from 9:30 - 10:30am**

All Welcome!

Scam Alert

Please disregard any requests for funds or gift cards from Fr. Nigel. Scammers often use the names of priests around Christmas time to ask for funds. Stay vigilant.

Family Rosary

This week: Zeny Alcorn
Next week: Nenette Cabrera

End of Year School Mass

Please note that 8.30am Mass on Friday, 4th December, is **cancelled**. All are welcome to the School Mass at 11.00am.

SAMFORD

Samford Rosary Circle

The Samford Rosary Circle meets weekly

When: Wednesday at 10.00am
Where: Sacred Heart Church
Come and pray with us.

First Friday Coffee and Chat

Ladies, let's meet for First Friday Coffee and Chat, Friday 5th December on the verandah of Samford Church from 9:30am. *Please bring a small plate of goodies to share as we chat.*
Contact - Cathy 0409 871 209.

COMBINED COMMUNITIES

Reminder: Christmas Hampers are due back **NEXT weekend, 6th & 7th December**

Please deliver to your Hamper to the Daley Centre during the times listed in the information sheet provided in your hamper envelopes.

Thank you for your generous support of this year's Hamper Appeal. For further queries, please contact the Hamper Team on the contact details listed below.

The Hamper Team: Brendan & Maree Carlin, Shirley Jones, Marianne Lucas, & Mary Murphy

Contacts

Grovely:	**Brendan**	0431 919 400	bmcarlin@tpg.com.au
Samford:	**Marianne**	0414 891 019	mlucas@bne.catholic.edu.au
Mitchelton:	**Mary**	0401 283 571	mmurp@bigpond.com

COMBINED COMMUNITIES' NEWS

Faithful Departed

Recently Departed: Ailsa (Jean) Byrnes, Bryan Carlin, Ryan Kerwin

We pray for the Sick

We pray for: Jane Fraser, Kathy Malcolm, Bob Malcolm, Gloria Roughan, Richard Lee, Mark Ballam, and Lachlan Fitzsimmon

Please note All requests to have a Mass offered for someone, or newsletter requests for the name of recently deceased family members, prayers for the sick and anniversaries, need to be given to the Parish Office in writing. Forms and Mass request envelopes are available from the sacristy at all three churches, or from the Parish Office. Completed forms/envelopes can be given to the priest or handed in at the office.

EVERGREENS

Christmas Lunch Thursday 11th December. Payment must be made this Sunday, 30th November at our monthly cuppa in the Daley Centre, to secure your booking.
John & Joan Broderick 0455 503 713
email jobrod@bigpond.net.au

Sacramental News

Sincere gratitude to all who have prayed for the Sacramental families and the program this year. The 2026 Program will be released via our website in December.

With a heart of thanks and love - *Laura*

"The Sacraments are the manifestation of the Father's tenderness and love towards each of us"

- Pope Francis

https://tripleygrovely.au

Follow us on FB and Insta!

Saturday Morning Masses

The Church has honoured Mary, The Mother of God on Saturdays for centuries, dating back to the early Middle Ages.

The North West Deanery Masses on Saturdays are as follows:

6th December
- Holy Cross Church, Wooloowin at 9.00am
13th December
- Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, Stafford at 7.00am

FAITH MATTERS - GSM

www.faith-matters-gsm.com.au

Advent begins today! 24 days of waiting, expectancy, and preparation - all with Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love.

This is probably one of the busiest times of the year for most of us - people to visit, family coming to stay, presents to choose, special food to purchase and prepare. But stay calm! In all these festive preparations, all the comings and goings, the busyness - enjoyable or stressful - let's keep the real calming point of the celebration in mind: God so loved us - that's you and me - and him and her - that He gave His Son to us to show us His way in this imperfect world. We can do this if we keep our hearts and minds open to God in our lives every day. How can we do this, one might ask?

There is a note of penance, an invitation, in the Church's Advent, and it is a positive one - one to help us with this. The invitation is for us to look again at how our lives are shaping. Do we feel we're coming to know Our Lord better? Are we aware of God in our everyday lives?

Advent gives us a chance to consider our relationships, especially the one with God. What can we do to include God in everything? Our busy days seem to be becoming busier with pressures often from everywhere - family, financial, relationships, you name it. These pressures are sometimes exacerbated around end of year. What can we do to include God in all of this? Because **that's where God wants to be. Close!** ALL the time.

A thought, a snatch of our favourite hymn, a quick silent prayer is all it takes to reset our hearts and minds on God through each day. It doesn't matter if the prayer is another request. God wants to be in it with us, wants our trust that He's there, right there alongside us, sharing it all, bringing His wisdom and love into the situation. That's all it takes.

That's the invitation of Advent, finding God in our everyday life. It's part of the journey of Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

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Talking about beginnings - it's also a new Church Year. Matthew is the main Gospel storyteller in this Church year A.

Rosaleen Prowse

PARISH VOLUNTEER ROLES 2026

Our volunteers are the cornerstone of our parish community, and we are grateful for their dedication and service. If it is on your heart to be more involved in your parish, please see the opportunities below to serve as the living hands of Christ Jesus.

- Communion Minister for the Sick. Please contact Allen Harvey on 0418 781 164
- Sacristan. Please contact the Parish office on 3324 3333
- Sacramental Program volunteer. Please contact the Parish office on 3324 3333
- Children's Liturgy volunteer. Please contact the Parish Office on 3324 3333

Please note no experience is required as you will be provided with training.
All volunteers must complete safeguarding training, which will be provided.
Please call the above contacts or use our parish website to join us as you put your faith in action.

https://gsmparishes.com.au/volunteering/

Children's Mass and Nativity Tableaux
24th December 2025
St William's Grovely
5.00pm Mass

Rehearsals for the tableaux and children's choir and band will take place from **10.15am (after 9.00am Mass) Sunday, 21st December.**

Please email sarahonline80@gmail.com if you would like to be involved.

Merry Little Christmas Lunch

We are looking for a person or group of people to coordinate this year's Merry Little Christmas lunch - a much loved event that brings people together to share great food, company and festive Cheer.

For more information
Please contact the Parish Office on ph:3355 3690
grovely@bne.catholic.net.au

COMBINED COMMUNITIES' NEWS

GSM Parishes 1st December—7th December

Monday	9:30am	Daley Centre	Fath Circle
	3:00pm	Moonah Park Aged Care	Communion and Anointing Service
	7:00pm	Daley Centre	SVDP - Grovely
Tuesday	9:00am	St Andrew's School	End of Year Mass
	9:30am	Daley Centre	Playgroup
	12:30pm	Gathering Space	Treble M
Wednesday	9:30am	Mothers Prayers	Daley Centre
	10:00am	Sacred Heart Church	Samford Rosary Circle
	11:00am	Daley Centre	Evergreens Exercise
Friday	9:00am	St William's	End of Year Mass
	11:00am	Our Lady of Dolours	End of Year Mass

Bible Quiz

Last week: Where did the Pharisees claim Jesus got his power from?

Answer: Beelzebub
See: Matthew 12:24

Mass of Anointing

Thursday, 11 December
10:00 am
St. William's Church
Followed by a morning tea
Please bring a plate to share
Parishioners of Mitchelton, Samford and Grovely all welcome

The Sacrament of Anointing will be celebrated during Mass.

Some ask, "How sick have you to be to qualify?" This is a Sacrament of healing for all who yearn for fullness of health, whether that be in body, mind or spirit.

Please note this Mass will take place during the school holidays so there will be plenty of parking available.

A Vocation View

In our materialistic society, our hearts can be hardened with the desires of the flesh. Stay awake and pray for the strength to stand with confidence before Jesus, by following His authentic call for your life.

Follow us on

Reconciliation Service

As part of our Advent preparation we invite you to come together and be a part of our Reconciliation Liturgy.

Where: St. William's Church
Date: Thursday 11th December
Time: 7:00pm

There will be multiple priests available for Reconciliation.

All are welcome.

Adoration & Taize Prayer Service

As we prepare for Advent please join us for prayer, music, silence and adoration in the way of Taize.
This meditative prayer form creates space to hear God speaking to our hearts. The healing prayer of forgiveness will also be prayed.

St William's Grovely, 6:30pm, Sunday, December 21st

Taizé

Hope in the Lord's Coming

The First Sunday of Advent Year A is a time of waiting and hope. We look forward to Jesus coming again, and we remember His birth in Bethlehem. Advent reminds us to be ready, not just for Christmas, but for the day when Christ will return. It is a season to pray, watch, and live in the light of the Lord.

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent Year A speak about peace, joy, and staying awake. Isaiah gives a picture of all nations coming to God's mountain to learn His ways. The psalm is a prayer for peace in Jerusalem. Paul tells us to wake up and live as people of the light. Jesus warns us to be ready because His coming will be sudden.

This first week of Advent calls us to turn to God with open hearts. We are invited to walk in His light and live with hope. Each day is a chance to love God and others as we wait for His coming. Advent is a gift to help us slow down, pray, and prepare for Jesus with joy.

LAUDATO SI'

Matthew says, "They suspected nothing" (Matt 24:37-44), and St Paul says, "you must wake up now" (Rom 13:11-14). Lorna Gold, Executive Director of Laudato Si' Movement (LSM) at the end of COP30 last week (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSC88qIKiM4) reinforced Pope Leo's emphasis on hope and conversion of heart. LSM symbolised this by bringing a "river of joyful group contributions" in a blue fabric 'wave' from Rome to Belem. Lorna says now is a positive, ethical-tipping-point time for non-state actors like NGOs, faith groups, and businesses to lead via "Peoples' Determined Contributions" to solutions. *Care About Climate* group will analyse and track the NDCs with new **people**, rather than **nationally-determined** criteria – like equitable access. People's, rather than governments', aims were again articulated at the Global Ethical Stocktake dialogue from North America (https://centerforearthethics.org/blog/toward-a-spiritual-awakening-the-north-america-global-ethical-stocktake/). And, in a new report called *The Parliamentarians' Guide to Climate Change and Climate Solutions,* youth are foregrounded, "The International Court of Justice is on our side. As young people, we often look to our elders for guidance. Do they know that they can look to us, too?" (https://greenfutures.exeter.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025EEG100-Parliamentarians-Guide-st5.pdf)

https://laudatosibrisbanechapter.weebly.com/

Verse for Vinnies

Verse for Vinnies' next show
sees a bloke you don't know,
as he hasn't performed here before.
Tony Casewell's his name,
loves the poetry game,
his recitals will hold you in awe.
Before coming to verse
Tony's been a psych nurse,
and has mastered the gift of the gab.
He's a down-to-earth bloke
and can tell a good joke,
and you'll find his performance is fab.
And this time Noel's relying
on old Father O'Brien,
to support Tony up on the stage.
There'll be laughs, there'll be fun,
and we'd love you to come,
as this show's sure to be all the rage.
And the dough, from this show,
will all go, as you know,
so that battlers get Christmas. Ho-Ho.

Sunday, 30th November 1.30pm
Cost $15 @ Mary MacKillop Centre
Book using noel@noelstallard.com

Cost: $15, pay cash only at the door. Your ticket includes