



COOLANGATTA - TUGUN CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Community of St Augustine and St Monica



We recognise the traditional owners of this land - The Kombumberri people. 'Coolangatta' means place of 'Splendid Lookout'

Our Parish Teaches

Preparation for Baptism

A parish team prepares children seeking baptism. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated in two stages. Parents seeking to have their children baptised are prepared at a baptism preparation meeting on the first Wednesday evening of each month at 7.00pm in St Monica's Parish Centre, Tugun. First there is a simple welcoming ceremony and a blessing by the Parish Priest at a weekend Mass in the presence of the worshipping community. This is followed by the Baptismal ceremony on either the second or fourth Sundays of each month at 11.00am in St Monica's Church, Tugun.

Preparation for Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion

The Parish Sacramental Team consists of a small dedicated group who organise and co-ordinate the parish program under the guidance of the parish priest. The group meets on a regular basis to cater for children of sacramental age from the parish, whether attending Catholic or state schools.

Each year 8/9 year-olds are introduced to a simple reconciliation ceremony where the children gather as a group in the church, and then go up individually and speak to a priest who is seated at the altar. The 10/11 year-olds are later prepared for the First Rite of Reconciliation. Both of these ceremonies are celebrated during the season of Lent.

The 9/10 year-old children are prepared for Confirmation and first Holy Communion after Easter. This preparation begins with a parent information evening. The parents and children then form small home groups and meet each week to discuss the sacraments together. This four week period concludes with the Confirmation ceremony. For the following weekends the children attend the weekend Mass of their choice, and complete the Sacraments of Initiation into our Catholic community with the receiving of their first Holy Communion.

Weddings

If you wish to celebrate your wedding in our Parish, please read the wedding information booklet which is located under Forms & Downloads on the home page. Once you have read through the booklet please contact the parish office to make an appointment with the parish priest to discuss your wedding, date and booking. The booking costs and other fees are as set out in our information booklet.

Religious Education in State Schools

Our parish community is dedicated to providing a religious education to our children who attend Coolangatta, Currumbin and Currumbin Valley State Schools. Volunteer parishioners take a weekly class of primary school children for a half-hour religion lesson. The lesson plans for each week are clearly set out and provided for each religious education teacher. The children are also provided with their own workbooks.

This ministry endeavours to connect these children with God, with their faith, and with the parish. We have a dedicated band of religious education teachers who share their faith with the children in the state school system in our area. However, we are always ready to welcome new recruits; no previous teaching experience is necessary.

St Augustine's Primary School

The parish primary school was opened in October 1987, in Galleon Way, Currumbin Waters, following a move (due to lack of space) from the original school adjacent to St Augustine's church in Maclean Street, Coolangatta. Presently almost 500 children (from Prep to Year 7, Year 6 in 2014) attend St Augustine's, the staff of which have a close connection with the parish.

Outside Schools Hours Care runs separately from the school, though its location and philosophy is linked with the school. Morning care is available before school from 7.00 am, after school and during school holidays.

RCIA program is a simple look at the Catholic faith and may, or may not, lead to Baptism or reception into the church. Our program is organized around Scripture readings and we look at current teachings of the church which help us to know the truth, and dispel some of the myths and stories about what Catholics believe.

Various rituals are held in the church at important points along the journey to reception into the church.

Parish Journal *Augustine and Monica*

The A.M. journal (as it is known) began in 2004 with the support of Parish Priest Fr Kevin Smith and the journal's first editor John O'Reilly along with several volunteers. Topics are informative, educational and intended to further develop the sense of community among all groups and generations. Articles by individuals and parish groups include spiritual formation, history, personal stories and reports of parish activities and celebrations.

The journal is published by a parish volunteer group three times per year at Christmas, Easter and in Spring. It is distributed free of charge, thanks to the generosity of local businesses, primarily in the Catholic community of Coolangatta and Tugun, at St Augustine's and St Monica's churches, hospitals, schools, aged care homes, home visits and by post. Contributions are welcomed by hand, post, email or fax to the parish office.

Anointing of the Sick/Funerals

If you or a loved one would like to receive an anointing of the sick, please telephone the Parish office on 5598 2165 to arrange the parish priest to visit for this purpose. If you need to arrange a funeral in our parish you will first need to contact a funeral director who will then liaise with the parish office to arrange a mutually suitable date and time for the funeral to be held. You will then need to arrange an appointment with the parish priest who will work with you through the details of the ceremony and whether you require either a Requiem Mass or a funeral service.

Adult Education

In 2014, the Parish Adult Faith Education Co-ordinating group was formed, with the mission to provide opportunities for adults to be affirmed, challenged and enriched in their faith journey. The AFE group meets on a regular basis (usually monthly) to plan and review opportunities for parishioners and the wider community. Some examples of these include prayer, reflection and Lenten discussion groups, retreats, Lenten storytelling sessions and guest speakers. The group welcomes new members who could contact the AFE co-ordinator via the Parish office.