

St Paul's, Roma

Parish Profile 2024



Our Vision...

Is to be and become a faithful, warm, and loving community that nurtures people in their relationship with Christ through worship and service. We seek to grow in faith, be Spirit led, and shine Christ's love in our community.

St Pauls Parish Website:

<http://romaanglican.org.au/>

Open Windows Project:

<https://www.mycase.com.au/charity/65442/RomaAnglicanChurchOpenWindowsProject>



<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsAnglicanChurchRoma>

The qualities, abilities and experience we hope for in a new priest:

We seek a priest who:

- Has a deep and genuine love for God and for God's people
- Will teach us, and help us understand the Gospel
- Will be a pastor, and will train others in pastoral ministry
- Has good interpersonal skills
- Has a deep and abiding faith in God's goodness and ability to provide
- Has a desire to help us grow as a Church by:
 - Developing ministry with young families
 - Working ecumenically to build strong relationships
 - Connecting with others through compassionate care
 - Prayerfully building on existing strengths and opportunities for growth
 - Encouraging and enabling parishioners to use their gifts & abilities

Perceived Parish Strengths

- An enthusiastic and dedicated lay ministry team.
- Active and ongoing involvement in the local community
- Generous hospitality
- A heart for children and youth Ministry
- Well established ecumenical cooperation
- A high standard of accountability and administration
- A sound financial position
- Support of outside missions
- Strong support from the smaller church congregations within the Parish
- A clear vision for growth

Perceived Parish Challenges

- Five centres within a large geographic footprint
- A shortage of musicians, or people with skills to support music ministry
- Few young people or families regularly attend Sunday Worship
- Some reluctance about possible change!
- We sometimes focus on small details at the expense of the big picture!



Parish History

The parish of St Paul's covers the Anglican Church congregations in Roma, Wallumbilla, Yuleba, Injune and the property services at Durham Downs.

St Paul's Anglican Church is located in Roma, situated 490km west of Brisbane on the Warrego Highway. St Paul's Church has considerable history. The present building was opened in November 1915, it is an iconic building

constructed from cement bricks made manually by parishioners on site. It replaced a small wooden church dating back to 1875. It boasts forty-six stained glass and eleven lead light windows which have helped make it a well known and admired destination for tourists. The church seats approximately 450, and is the most westerly Parish in the Diocese to have a pipe organ.

Places of Worship and Community Gathering

St Paul's church is complemented with an outdoor morning tea shed and playground which is used weekly, and the parish hall adjacent to the Church which is regularly used by different groups in the community. Plans are underway to renovate the hall and create a garden on the adjacent block. This is the Open Windows Project, through which we are seeking to create a community hub. This will facilitate groups connecting and learning through enabling programs such as a social enterprise in a commercial kitchen and a community garden.



Adjacent to the church are two office complexes which are rented by long term tenants, Anglicare Southern Queensland. These leases provide long term and steady income for the Parish. They also provide wonderful opportunities to develop relationship with Anglicare staff and clients.

Plans are underway to sell the current rectory and replace with a newer home. The current Rectory is a two-story brick and hardi-plank building about 35 years old. The home is air conditioned and there is a wood fire in the downstairs living area for heating in winter. It has 4 bedrooms, and rooms used for office and storage. It was extensively renovated downstairs in 2012, including the installation of a new kitchen, downstairs shower and toilet and an extended outdoor entertainment area. The upstairs bathroom and main bedroom ensuite were renovated soon after. This house is situated 1.5 km from the Church, in the northern residential area of Roma.



Yuleba is situated on the Warrego Highway 20km east of Wallumbilla, 60km east of Roma. It has a town population of around 280 and has a wooden church with a seating capacity of 75.

Wallumbilla is situated 40km east of Roma on the Warrego Highway and has a population of around 300. St John's Wallumbilla consists of a wooden church with a seating capacity of 100.



Injune is situated 90km north of Roma on the Carnarvon Highway. It has a town population of around 360 and the Anglican Church of St Peter's. This Church, operating as Injune Churches Together, is utilised by the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting faiths for their services.

Durham Downs is an area about 65km north-east of Roma on the Taroom Rd. Quarterly services are held in a community hall there or on a property.

Parish Organisation

We are currently seeking a new minister and we are grateful to have a locum minister. The priest/minister is supported by five Liturgical Assistants of various ages, and a roster of people covering welcoming, reading, intercessions, Power Point, music, Children's Church, and small group Ministry. The Parish employs a Parish Support officer for twenty hours per week who plays a vital role in the Parish by

carrying out administrative and bookkeeping duties as well as liaising with our parishioners. The parish accounts are managed on Xero by our Parish Treasurer, a local business owner, qualified CPA and Financial Planner.

Parish Council meets on the third Sunday following the Sunday service. It consists of Parish Wardens from Roma, centre wardens from each church, and six Parish Councillors.

Active Ministries

Church services:

Services at St Paul's are Sunday morning at 9.00am, with Sunday school held every 2nd Sunday and a range of activities available at the children's corner in church. Worship music is a mixture of traditional hymns and contemporary recorded music, with occasional live organ music. The average attendance at the Sunday Eucharist service ranges from 15-30.

The Friday Eucharist service at 10.00am has an attendance of 5-15.

St John's Wallumbilla hosts an ecumenical Eucharist service at 11am on the fourth Sunday, with a regular congregation of 10 adults and 1 child. The congregation at Wallumbilla are involved in ecumenical services conducted also by the Catholic and Uniting churches from Roma.

There is a Eucharist service at **St Andrew's Yuleba** on the second Saturday of each month at 10.00am, with a regular congregation of 8 adults and 2 children.

Service times in these centres are different in Summer and Winter.

St Peter's Injune (Injune Churches Together) has a Monthly afternoon Anglican service, with Uniting and Catholic ministers from Roma also conducting monthly services.

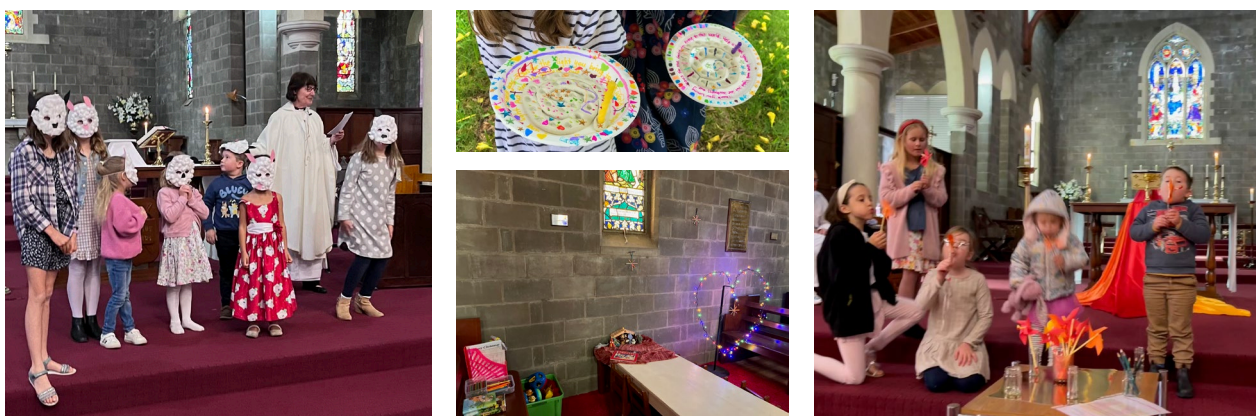
Roma has an active Combined Churches group, comprised of members from all the Christian Churches, meeting monthly. This group collaborates to share in ecumenical activities in the region, including the Good Friday service held at St Pauls which is a vibrant service featuring live worship music and a shared morning tea with hot cross buns. Many opportunities exist to continue ecumenical ministry.

Data on pastoral services held in 2023 includes:

Weddings	3
Funerals	12
Baptisms	15
Confirmations	1
Admission to communion	0

Youth and Children's Ministry

We have had a vibrant children's ministry in the past and despite the small number of children attending Sunday services, there is a heart for welcoming and ministering to young people in our parish. Once a month Sunday school is offered, and engaging, hands on activities are available at the children's corner of St Paul's. Activities are made available at outlying centres when needed.



Small Group Ministry

Bible study occurs weekly, providing parishioners with an additional opportunity to learn and grow in their walk with God. This is a ministry we would like to strengthen further. Lenten studies are also well supported.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Pastoral care is an active ministry at the two aged care facilities in Roma, "Pinaroo" and "Westhaven", with monthly services being held at each.

Anglicare has a strong presence in Roma and at St Paul's. It commenced in Roma in 1997 with the TRACC programme for foster children. This programme has grown and covers an area with a radius of about 200km from Roma.

Anglicare programs include Aged Care Nursing, Mental Health, Family and Youth Support. A service is held each year to celebrate the work done by Anglicare.

Annual events

St Paul's hosts a range of events throughout the year. At Easter the church hosts the Ecumenical Good Friday service, stalls & coffee on Saturday morning and an organ recital on Sunday afternoon, as well as Easter services – these are a wonderful way to open our church to the community over the 'Easter in the Country' festival. In September the annual Bazaar is held which incorporates stalls, food and entertainment. On alternate years we host the Debutante Ball in May/June. These events have become ministries where we engage with and reach out to the community. All bring generations of people together for a fun event, seeking to appeal to a range of age groups and be inclusive.



Ways of doing, characteristics, and traditions

St Paul's combines the traditional and modern with a really good audio-visual system, and a magnificent pipe organ. Our music is a combination of organ music and contemporary recorded music.

Hospitality is an integral part of our worship and ministry. We have a great morning tea area and morning tea is served by a roster of parishioners, providing valuable

fellowship after our worship services. We use our expertise in catering and hosting for events such as the Festival of Small Halls, and Opera Qld.



Roma hosts an annual "Easter in the Country" festival, which is run by the community and attracts thousands of visitors each year for four days of varied activities. It is an exciting and diverse event that has something for everyone. In recent years St Pauls has opened its doors on Saturday to visitors and tourists, providing morning tea, a range of stalls and windows tours. We host an organ recital at Easter and other times throughout the year, serving wine and canapés.



The Anzac Day Services in Roma are well attended and clergy from different denominations are invited to be involved.

Operation Christmas Child - St Paul's assists each year with the local fundraising and putting together of shoeboxes for operation Christmas Child.

Financial Information

St Paul's is in an excellent financial position with several income streams supporting the Parish financially including rent from Anglicare, hall hire, & weekly direct giving. We hope to build on income streams with the completion of the Open Windows Project, through venue hire.

Some funds from the St Paul's Debutante Ball are distributed to local and overseas charities. Some that have been supported in the past are, She Rescue Home, Roma Flood appeal, Daniel Morecombe foundation, ABM clean water project, St Jude's school, Tanzania, and White Ribbon Australia.



We make a monthly Parish contribution to the Diocese of \$900 and \$250 monthly contribution to the Anglican Board of Mission ABM.

The incumbent priest will be paid the recommended stipend set by the Diocese, and supplied with a vehicle, fuel, a house or housing allowance, and the costs of electricity, gas and mobile phone.

Civic Demographic of Parish

Roma is a regional hub in the South-West Queensland, approximately 500km west of Brisbane. The original custodians of the land were the Mandandanji people. The population is approximately 7,000 people and is growing annually. The town services the surrounding district which grows grain and other crops, sheep and cattle. Roma has a sound base as it is a centre for government services, a vibrant tourist industry as well as servicing the coal seam gas industry. Roma is the central hub for the smaller townships in the Parish for shopping, entertainment, health and medical needs, accounting and legal services and boasts a Country University Centre.

Roma is a small town with a big country heart – for all the details of what it is like to live and work here, visit the Love Local Life website, an initiative of Roma Commerce and Tourism, for a great range of up to date information, photos and the vibe of our town and region <https://romaqueensland.com.au/> .





If you have a sense that God may be calling you to serve in Roma as their next Parish Priest, or if you have any questions, please contact our regional Bishop Cam Venables via:

Email:

cvenables@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Mobile:

0419 784 456

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Cam Venables