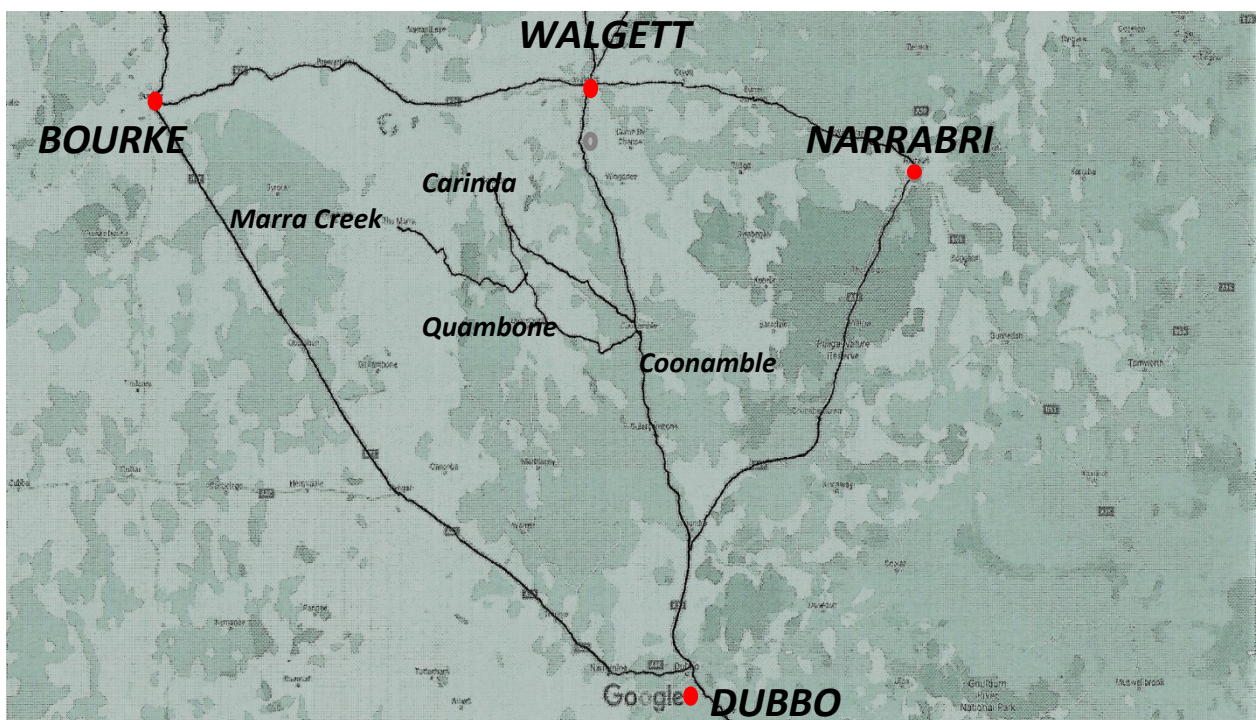


Parish Profile

Coonamble

Incorporating Anglican churches of Coonamble, Carinda, Marra Creek and Quambone.



Services

Coonamble - St Barnabas

- Services weekly at 9 am

Carinda – St John's the Evangelist - 109 Km northwest from Coonamble,

- Services Monthly by arrangement – often Saturdays.

Quambone – St Paul's - 60 Km from Coonamble

- Services Monthly at 11.30 am (with Marra Creek)

Marra Creek- St Mary's - 130 Km from Coonamble,

- Services Monthly at 3 pm (with Quambone)

About us:

The Parish of Coonamble sits within the Diocese of Bathurst to the northwest of the Central Plains. Predominantly farming country raising sheep, cattle and growing a wide variety of cereal and feed crops and cotton to the north.

We are country people, we know each other closely and that is an essential glue of our existence. It grows a strong, stoic and determined community which is necessary to thrive through long years of drought, floods, fires, pestilence, ageing population issues, income fluctuations and now adding Covid 19 and its impact, our community and congregation, though weakened and scarred, remains hopeful of some enabling opportunities to come our way and stand ready to welcome this and make it work.

A 'Newby' experience --- What's different about Coonamble?

*The first and foremost pleasant surprise for me as a newby to town and St Barnabas was the friendliness in the street. People smiled and said "Giddyay", even teenagers! That really struck me. The efforts that the community makes to look after itself, the generosity and involvement. The feeling of one on one that meeting people here gives - as a newby you are **important**. Mind you, you have to take the initiative to join in. If you do, the arms are open to you. And it's a new experience worth having.*

I think we want a minister who has this ability - to open arms and show God's inclusion into His Church in our towns. To grow and develop activities in our churches that will support and encourage participation in the love of God and the Joy of Life in Christ. The ability to blend the new with the old and still support the importance of the past with the openness to the future. To be who you are with us and us with you, come with the gift of the strength of your faith and receive our gifts as well.

For a newby minister it will be a beneficial experience in their personal journey with God - absolutely. For someone with previous experience, Coonamble has much more to offer than the building, the numbers, the past. It's ready for a future. Bring it on.

Our Spiritual and our Human needs – for this is who we are

We need a minister to share in our times of pleasure and to support us in our times of pain. We need to hear about the expectations of our Christian faith, our duties, our responsibilities *and* we also need to have support during our times of unfathomable grief and loss. As we endure the daily grind of debilitating drought conditions for years, the detrimental stress to our mental health, the impact on our family and on our relationships we need to have an empathetic minister, humbly accepting and understanding of rural issues, who will offer us hope, comfort, strength and support. We need to be reminded of the Grace of God and of his love for us. As mere humans we often forget, we feel lost and alone, and our services bring to us a reminder of what we have, what we need to appreciate and what we need to be thankful for. We need a minister that will continue to support us and the wider community, delivering ecumenical services at Christmas and supporting activities outside the church to help reconnect to the world outside the church door. Our whole community needs someone to listen to them, help them through grief, drought, floods, financial pressure, health issues, relationship problems, isolation and depression. Depression in rural areas is very high. Our community, in its entirety, needs to feel that they are not alone and they need to feel connected to our Lord and Saviour.

COONAMBLE

Our Rectory: Our Rectory was deemed unsuitable for a minister's accommodation and has been sold. The proceeds remain in the Parish to help provide accommodation for a new minister.

Coonamble:

St Barnabas Church celebrated its 150 years in 2008 with the burial of a Time Capsule. It was extensively renovated outside in 2018-19. Inside remains still in excellent condition.



We seek

- connection and hope for a minister who will connect us to The Word and how we can live that in our daily lives, connecting with those we meet.
- Variety in our services and definitely Bible based messages.
- Fostering a team approach – getting to know us, including and fostering individuals gifts
- Willingness to build your understanding, support and caring of country people, the old, the young and the new.
- Flexibility in communication to enable understanding.
- Supporting social activities to encourage relationship building within the church and wider community to develop opportunities to share Christ's love therefore providing a link to our church.
- That the minister grow our congregation in faith and in number to be financially viable and stable in order to be able to offer more ministry to the community.

Our activities include:

- Bible Studies, Lenten studies
- Primary School Scripture and High School Scripture Committee Support
- Combined services on Good Friday and Carols in the park
- Koonambil aged care services fortnightly on Fridays
- Ladies group
- For the past 12 years we have run an annual Strawberry Fair in conjunction with a monster raffle. We have drawn on the services of non regular church goers and involved many community people in this activity.

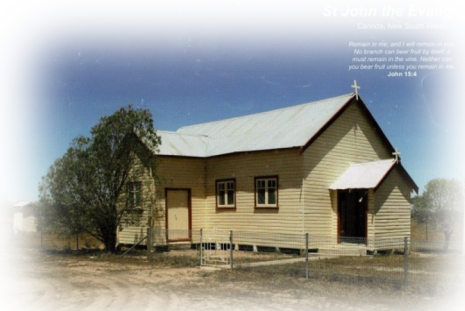
We are a welcoming faithful group of people who enjoy a morning tea fellowship after church

You might like to know that Coonamble is 160 Km north of Dubbo Pop.2900 and has:

- Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist and Anglican Churches.
- 2 Daycare centres, 2 Preschools, 2 Primary Schools. 1 High School and a Tafe.
- A well equipped hospital, 2 medical centres, dental clinic, pharmacy and vet.
- Koonambil Aged Care Facility and Retirement Village.
- A range of rural, industrial, mechanical, electrical and trades businesses and Hardware.
- 2 supermarkets, clothing store, IT businesses, Post Office, Council Chambers, Library and Castlereagh Industries - a supportive workshop; and numerous Welfare organisations.
- Active Art and craft industry, gallery and courses, Women's and Men's Sheds.
- Sporting facilities – Golf, Bowls, Football, and state of the art netball courts, Swimming Pool Complex, and more...
- Volunteer groups - Community radio station, Rotary, Lions, Quota, Royal Far West, CWA, Community transport...

CARINDA St John's the Evangelist Church

Established by the Bush Brothers in 1929 and built in 1933.
In good condition, recently painted with new projects pending
Performed by the congregation made up of nine families.
The younger generation come to church in the school holidays
when they are home from school.



The congregation would like the Parish of Coonamble to keep operating so we can continue to have our services, especially the Easter and Christmas services. To encourage the young to have faith in their church.

You might like to know that Carinda has

- The Macquarie Marshes are 50km from Carinda and we have the David Bowie Festival on the October long weekend end and Annual Race meeting in July.
- We have a 20meter swimming pool – The Far West Store has the Post Office – Service station – Police Station Carinda Public School – health centre once a week and Hotel.



QUAMBONE St Paul's Anglican Church was completed in 1889.

It was then situated behind the present school site, but this site was found to be too boggy after rain so it was moved to the position it occupies today on the corner of Buckimbe and Mungi Streets. Mrs Bob Garnsey donated the land and three tractors from 'Sandy Camp' and 'Quambone Station' moved the building.

In good condition, solid throughout, externally clad with a well painted interior. The community rallies to maintain the church and its surroundings and there are future upgrades and repair projects planned also.

Quambone wants to be included and hopes strongly to have a new minister who will embrace the realities of the need for worship in our town. To guide, encourage, support and embrace all aspects of ministry throughout our parish.



To rejoice in the Lord in voice and open to a variety of worshipping activities.

A Village of 100 years 1984 – 1994

57Km from Coonamble on sealed road, Population 197



You might like to know Quambone has

- two quaint bush churches, a general store, a hotel, a well presented primary school, tennis courts, swimming pool, self-serve fuel site and the smallest operational library in NSW.
- main attractions -- Macquarie Marshes, the Marthaguy Picnic Races held on the 2nd Saturday of May and the Quambone Polocrosse Carnival held in June/July.

MARRA CREEK St Mary the Virgin Church Built in 1912 and Consecrated 1913.

Marra Creek is unique in our Parish and is situated in a rural setting amidst surrounding farmlands. The congregation are farming families and services bring us together to worship. The descendants of the first people who raised funds for the church still attend our monthly service and who, to this day, maintain the church and its grounds.

It's a quaint church of simple interior and reflects the humility of country life. An honour board is located inside dedicated to those who fought in both world wars.

The church plays a very important roll in the lives of our small community, being isolated 130 km Coonamble, 120 km Warren and 100 km from Nyngan.



The need for a place of worship is most important.



The grounds include a cemetery with approximately 50 plus grave sites.

*Our prayer for our Parish is
to be a growing faith
community*