

St Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church Palmwoods

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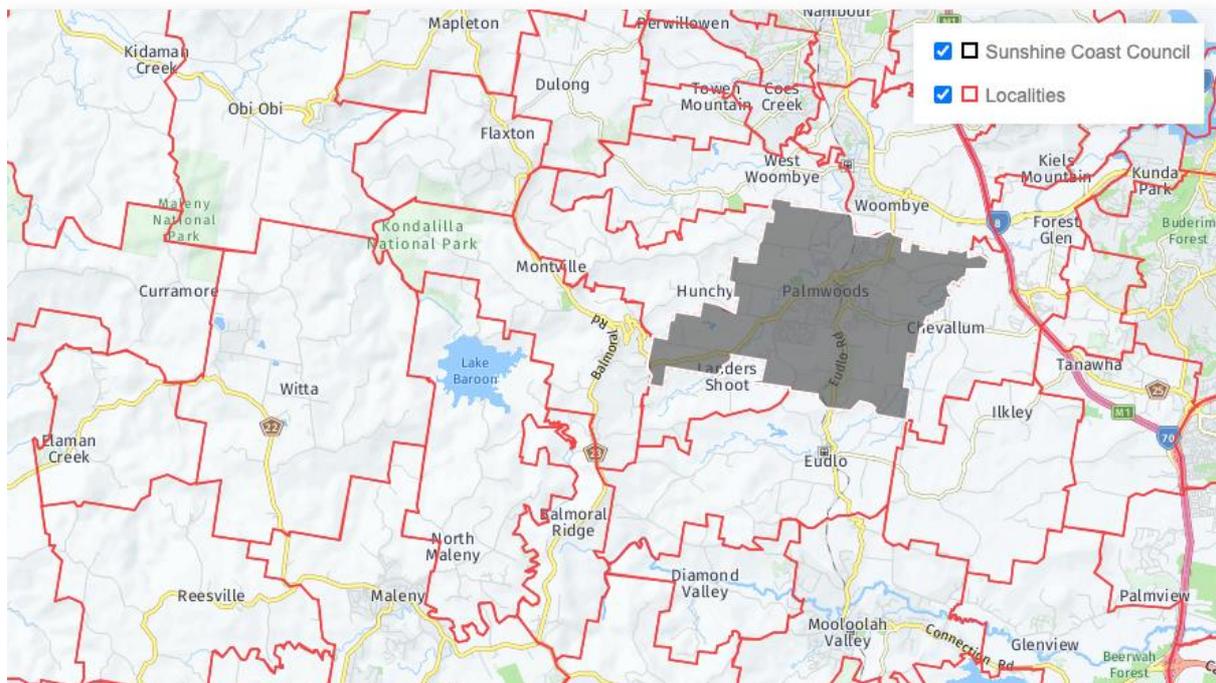
The Parish of Palmwoods is seeking a part-time (2 days/week) priest

Set in the heart of an arts and craft hub which typifies Queensland's Sunshine Coast hinterland, the rural town of Palmwoods is at the crossroads of the region's tourist network. Set in a mosaic of avocado, custard apples and pawpaw orchards, orange groves and banana plantations, Palmwoods is only a few kilometres south of Nambour. It's within comfortable driving distance of Buderim and the charming Blackall Range villages of Maleny, Montville and Mapleton and 15 minutes from Sunshine Coast beaches.

Palmwoods is approximately 80 minutes north of Brisbane via the Bruce Highway, 40 minutes south of Noosa and an hour south of Gympie.

Summary profile area

Sunshine Coast Council, 2021



Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

Palmwoods was originally known as Merriman's Flats, a name provided by the selector Peter Kuskoff, who settled in the district in 1881. Land selection had begun earlier in the 1870's, and by 1889 there were approximately 100 selectors primarily growing fruit. The arrival of the North Coast Railway in the district in 1891 provided an important economic boom. The population doubled and the district was renamed Palmwoods after the local Piccabeen palms. Development continued apace, until gradually dependence on the railway declined, the coastal centres grew in strategic and economic importance and Palmwoods became a charming country town settled quietly in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

However, the last few years have seen a major expansion in Palmwoods with many people moving to the area. Several new housing estates have been developed, an Over 50's Village of 200 odd villas is under construction, several new restaurants and cafes have opened, Woolworths is beginning construction of a supermarket and a new shopping development is slated for construction in the new year.

At the 2021 census Palmwoods had a population of 6,357, with

2381 people aged over 50.

1886 people aged 15 to 49

1129 school age children

These statistics indicate that there is a good balance of young and old in the community and significant population growth at both ends of the spectrum is set to continue.

See the attached profile for further statistics

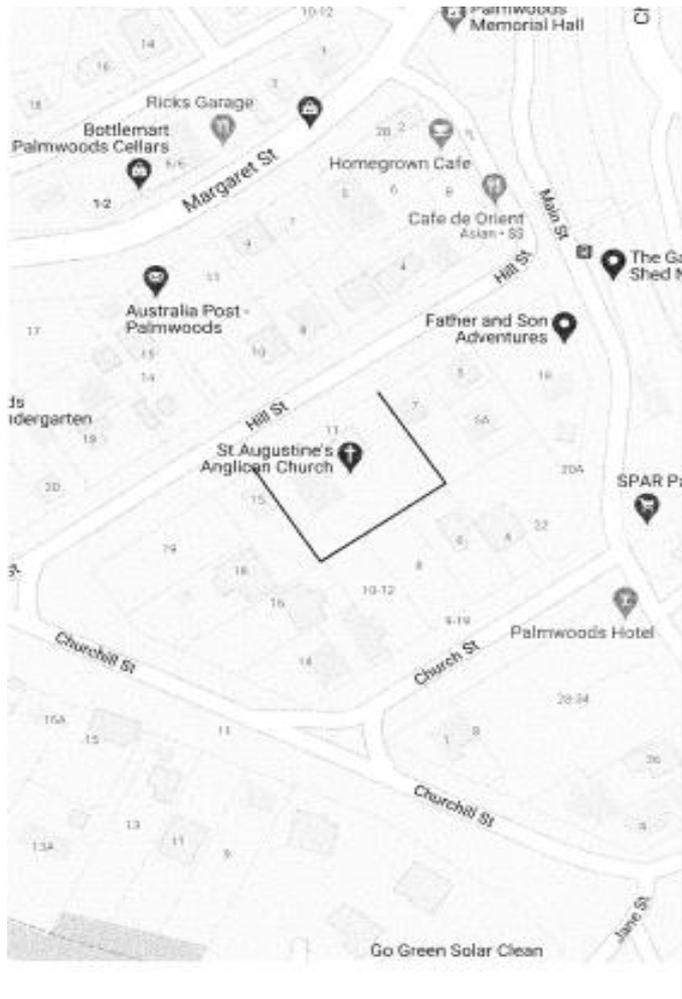
St Augustine's History

In 1890, in the first auction of land in the newly subdivided township, the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane bought 4 blocks of land in Hill Street. From about 1904 the congregation shared the Union Church on Montville Road with the Methodists and Presbyterians. St Augustine's was built and dedicated on May 23, 1925 by Dr Sharp, Archbishop of Brisbane. The rectory was built in 1929 and officially opened and blessed by Archdeacon Glover of Toowoomba. The hall was built in 1931 and again blessed by Archbishop Sharp.

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In 1929, Palmwoods separated from the then Maroochy parish and became a Parochial District which included Montville, Buderim, Mooloolah, Maroochydore, Flaxton, Eudlo, Forest Glen, Ilkley, Hunchey and Alexandra Headlands. In 1962, changes saw this District consist of Palmwoods, Montville, Buderim, Maroochydore, Mooloolaba and Eudlo. Then, in 1975 the Parochial District of Palmwoods was raised to the status of a parish with a vibrant and overflowing church.

Changes in society over the recent few decades have been reflected in the parish. Congregation numbers have fallen, there is no Sunday School or youth group, parishioners are aging and clergy have been only part time since 2009. The rectory is currently rented out and the spare block of land beside the church is ready for future development.



Worship

Worship is in the liberal catholic tradition. The very best of Anglican liturgy is presented each Sunday at 8.30am with dignity and respect for the sacramental nature of the Eucharist being paramount. Sermons are challenging, and music is provided by a dedicated team who research hymns and music on YouTube and then play them through a high quality sound system. There is one licenced Liturgical Assistant and parishioners take part in reading the lessons and leading the intercessions.

The Congregation

Currently, a regular worshipping congregation of around 25 attends the Sunday morning service. This is a very faithful group of people, many of whom have been longtime members of this church. It is an elderly group, but bolstered by people from around the Coast who have been attracted by the welcoming, inclusive and caring nature of the congregation. A strong spirit of harmony is clearly evident.

Much time is spent maintaining contact with those parishioners who are sick or suffering in any way, and special occasions are always remembered.

Morning tea after the service is a time of shared fellowship and good fun, not to mention the great food we have, lovingly prepared by those on the roster.

Parishioners met regularly on zoom during the covid lockdowns and the strong bonds that were formed during this time have continued. Regular email contact is maintained with those parishioners who are still connected to the parish but geographically unable to attend.

A regular prayer group meets weekly.

The garden team is dedicated to ensuring the gardens and lawns are always beautiful and well maintained

Clergy and Office Bearers

The current Priest in Charge, Archdeacon Richard Gowty, has been working 2 days a week since 2013 and will retire at the end of January 2023. There is no official parish secretary, but administrative responsibilities are shared by the Liturgical Assistant, the Treasurer and the Op Shop Manager. There are two churchwardens and a small parish council. The Pastoral Care Coordinator plays a significant role. The Op Shop Manager works in a voluntary capacity 3 days a week and has a group of 10 volunteers to staff the shop.

Parish Facilities

St Augustine's has 3 blocks of land at 13,11 and 9 Hill Street Palmwoods respectively.



The hall is available for rent and is currently used by the local physiotherapist for Pilates classes, but further rentals are clearly a possibility.

The Rectory at 11 Hill Street is rented out and the current tenants have been there for several years. The property is managed by a local real estate agency and significant repairs have been carried out over the last few years to ensure the property is in good condition.



The church is well maintained and lovingly cared for by a dedicated team of parishioners. The local Catholic parish of St Joseph's holds a monthly Mass at 5.30 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

The spare block of land at 9 Hill Street is in an excellent location and is available for future development.

St Augustine's Op Shop

Address 22 Main Street Palmwoods
Manager Margie Gowty
Phone 0479 085 555



The OP shop has been operating for over 10 years and is a significant part of the parish ministry both in the community and overseas. The shop was originally located in the church hall, but moved to vacant premises in town in 2013. The income from the shop has meant that the parish was able to meet all its financial obligations and fund a part time priest.

There are several challenges facing the shop at present. The building will be demolished in the new year, and even though the developer had made a verbal promise to relocate another building to the spare block of land beside The Rectory, he has not been prepared as yet to make this a formal and legal arrangement. Staffing is becoming increasingly difficult and there is no suitable parishioner able to take on the role of voluntary manager in 2023.

There are several options available

1. The Op Shop could cease to function and the parish exist on a reduced income.
2. A suitable building could be erected at 9 Hill Street and rented out to an organisation such as the Salvation Army to use as an Op Shop.
3. A house could be erected at 9 Hill Street and used as another rental property.

Outreach

The parish supports a medical clinic in the Philippines, Triple B, and funds from the Op Shop are regularly transferred to this clinic. Support is also given to the chaplain at the local Palmwoods School, and local groups such as The Shack in Nambour and the STEMM group at Burnside High School. Op Shop customers facing financial difficulties are helped with free goods from the shop.

Conclusion

The parish is a strong and cohesive group, hoping to maintain its regular pattern of worship and fellowship. It would be happy to consider any arrangement that would facilitate this.

Palmwoods (Qld) summary profile, 2021

Place of usual residence	Number	%	Sunshine Coast %
Population Summary			
Total population	6,357	100.0	100.0
Males	3,015	47.4	48.1
Females	3,337	52.5	51.9
Total dwellings	2,446	100.0	100.0
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	162	2.5	2.4
Australian citizens	5,755	90.5	86.8
Eligible voters (citizens 18+)	4,388	69.0	67.7
Australian-born	4,981	78.4	74.3
Speaks language other than English at home	244	3.8	6.1
Overseas-born	1,100	17.3	20.7
Needs assistance due to age or disability	417	6.6	6.2
Age Structure			
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	325	5.1	4.9
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	598	9.4	8.5
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	531	8.4	7.6
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	434	6.8	7.2
Young workforce (25 to 34)	666	10.5	11.0
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	1,220	19.2	19.1
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	924	14.5	13.3
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	750	11.8	12.7
Seniors (70 to 84)	733	11.5	12.9
Frail aged (85 and over)	174	2.7	2.6
Household Types			

Couples with children	750	32.3	27.0
Couples without children	689	29.6	30.2
One parent families	258	11.1	10.5
Lone person households	465	20.0	22.2
Group households	67	2.9	3.7
Education			
Attending pre-school or primary school	657	10.3	9.5
Attending secondary school	491	7.7	6.7
Attending university or TAFE institution	333	5.2	5.7
Dwelling Summary			
Separate houses	2,196	89.9	69.4
Medium and high density	241	9.9	28.6
Other dwellings (inc. Caravans, houseboats)	0		1.6
Occupied private dwellings	2,329	95.2	90.9
Unoccupied dwellings	113	4.6	8.8
Non private dwellings	4	0.2	0.2
Housing Tenure			
Owned	736	31.7	33.0
Purchasing	944	40.6	32.8
Renting	475	20.4	26.4
Household Income			
Less than \$800 (low)	478	21.1	22.1
\$800 to \$1,749 (lower middle)	566	25.0	27.6
\$1,750 to \$2,999 (upper middle)	603	26.6	24.2
\$3,000 or more (high)	435	19.2	18.2
Incomes not stated	182	8.0	7.9
Long Term Health Conditions			
Has a long term health condition	2,208	34.7	34.3
No long term health condition	3,669	57.7	57.5
Not stated	478	7.5	8.2

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing 2021](#)