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ROMAN
CATHOLIC JUBILEE
YEAR
PILGRIMS OF
HOPE

Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish E-Newsletter

Parish Office (new): (07) 5671 7388 (9 am – 2 pm Mon-Thurs; & 9 am -12 noon Fri)

Email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au | Website:

www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au

Emergencies: Priest contactable via office phone (after hours, follow the menu prompts)

50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, Queensland, 4226

Safeguarding officer -(Robyn Hunt) email= lsr.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

<https://tinyurl.com/SPCPSite>

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding>

This is Kombumerri Country, which is the traditional custodian of this region.
(see here)

Sunday, 7 September
2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C

Readings for Sunday, 7 September 2025 - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C

FIRST READING- Wisdom 9:13-18b

Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14+17. "In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge"

SECOND READING- Philemon 9-10, 12-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Psalm 119:135). Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant. And teach me your laws.

GOSPEL- Luke 14:25-33

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"
(Luke 14:28)

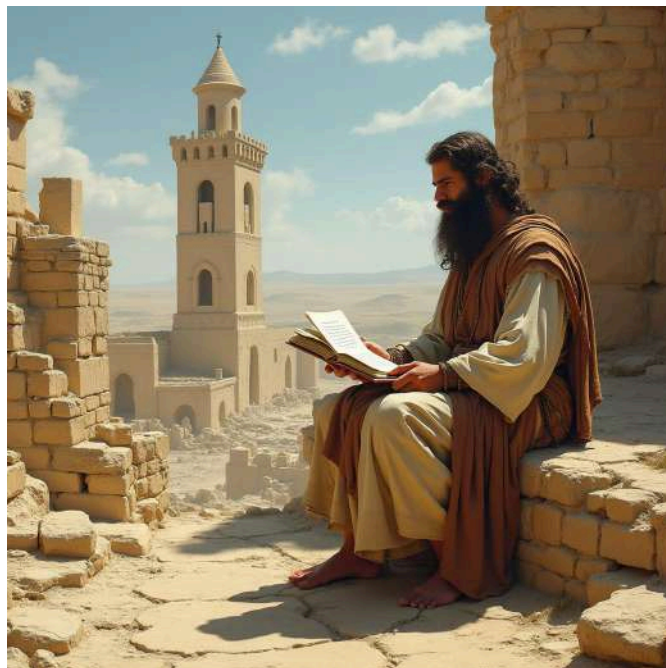


Image Credit- <https://creator.nightcafe.studio/creation/hp21VD7gAGX6GLQSZImf/first-century-palestine-suppose-one-of-you-wants-to-build-a-tower-wont-you-first-sit-down-and-estima?ru=Paul-Evangelion>

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We congratulate the McCann and Levick families whose children, Raya and Elijah will be baptised in our Parish this weekend. Please keep the Baptism families in your prayers as they will begin their faith journey.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

This weekend, the first Sunday of September, we give thanks to all Fathers for their love, care and generosity. We pray that God grants them joy, health, and strength with their family and friends.

Also, for all fathers who have passed into eternal life. May God give them a permanent place at the heavenly feast, the reward for all their goodness and kindness. Happy Father's Day to all our Dads in the community. May God bless you and grant you peace and joy.

God our Father, you made all things in your wisdom and love. We give thanks and ask you to bless all Fathers. Grant them the wisdom and love to always be good fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. We also give thanks for all fathers who have now gone to their eternal rest. May they be rewarded for their goodness and kindness. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR'S POST -

Thank God it's spring! That may be something many of you may have been thinking during the past week, especially if you love the warmer months of the year. As we begin the season of spring, we give thanks to God for the gift of creation, and give more attention in prayer to it. The first Friday of autumn and spring are known in the Church as "ember days." On these days, we remember that Fridays are days of penance, and in particular, we offer up our prayers and penances for creation – that we might be good stewards of it.

While the spring ember day was last Friday, we still have the opportunity over these coming weeks of spring to pray and ask for God's blessing, that we may have weather that suits the needs of everyone – that farmers may receive the rain they need for a fruitful harvest, that many may experience ease from flooding and bush fires, and be able to endure during difficult weather conditions. We may also offer prayers for creation by interceding for those experiencing war, famine and exploitation, and asking that the dignity of all human beings be upheld. You may also like to remember and pray for those whose quality of life is compromised due to anxiety and depression – that God may console them and give them the strength they need.

By observing days of penance (Fridays), we can offer our efforts up for those experiencing hardship, and remember that our deepest need as human beings is to rely not on our own efforts, but on the grace and blessings of God, the creator of all things. I pray that this season of growth and new life may plant and water the seeds of faith in your life, and produce an abundant harvest in ways you do not expect.

Fr Bradley



* "May Christ bless this house"
Christus Mansionem Benedicat

Surfers Catholic Parish Youth Group - Gathering every Sunday Night 7pm at the Parish Hospitality Centre

EVERYONE IS WELCOME - INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU - A WONDERFUL WAY TO SHARE YOUR FAITH AND YOUR FRIENDSHIP

Our Youth Group has continued each week - breaking open the Gospel for the following two week Sunday Mass and sharing our reflections and life experiences based on the Word of Jesus in the Gospel.

IGNITE CONFERENCE 2025 BRISBANE

Our home city will see the biggest ever Ignite Conference this year

25 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2025 - ST LAURENCE'S COLLEGE

**Thursday afternoon to Sunday lunchtime
82 Stephens Rd, South Brisbane QLD 4101**

Get involved Join us in the mission to bring Jesus into the life of young people. Make the mission reality by attending Ignite Conference, sponsoring as an organisation, donating to the cause, volunteering, bringing a group, presenting a workshop or promoting the conference in your community.

- Contact us on the website: <https://igniteconference.com.au/brisbane>
- Contact us by coming along to the Youth Group on Sunday night

Full schedule coming soon to the website

**WE WILL BE TAKING A GROUP FROM THE PARISH YOUTH GROUP SO COME
ALONG
AND CHECK IT OUT**

PASSIONATE INNOVATIVE CATHOLIC



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Also **IGNITE KIDS** <https://igniteconference.com.au/brisbane>

THIS YEAR'S AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT NOW AVAILABLE:

https://acbcsecure.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ConferenceExternalSharing/ESqxRu-95o1OkoVjnHHRUMkBffjOKQ89k83P4baJNb_Y7A?e=nGxaVM

MARIAN VALLEY

Please come and join us at the Marian Valley Church for Our Lady of Fatima's gatherings on Saturday the 13th September 2025. The bus will be picking up sharp at 8.15 am on both days at the Sacred Heart Church No 50 Fairway Drive Clear Island Waters. The Cost of the bus fare per person \$25.00. You can secure your seat with contact name and contact phone number with Chris Raynal 0451 302 674, Madeleine 5529 1573.

ADULT FAITH - Why confirm?



As the name implies, the Sacrament of Confirmation confirms or strengthens the new life received at Baptism. Symbolically, the bishop or priest makes the cross on the forehead sign using an oil called chrism. As he does so, he says, '(Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.' Although the Holy Spirit is received at baptism, confirmation focuses on this gift by recalling the promise of Jesus to send the Spirit. In the case of youth, confirmation is often regarded as a sign of maturity in Christ. Having been baptised as a baby and raised in the Christian life, the youth is now called upon to make a more mature commitment to the Gospel. In particular, confirmation underlines our commission to be bold, apostolic witnesses to the gospel.

LEARN ITALIAN

Buon giorno. It is handy to have some basic Italian if you are planning an Italian holiday. The Gold Coast Dante Alighieri Society was established on the Gold Coast in June 1989. I am a foundation member and have been president for the last 30 years. The classrooms are in our language centre behind the Gold The Italo-Australian Club Gold Coast . Members can borrow from our library of books, CDs and DVDs . I know you are mostly Italians on here but can I ask if you could. Please share with anyone you think may be interested. Grazie e buon giorno.



Ready to say more than just 'pizza' and 'pasta'?"

Join our fun and friendly Italian classes designed for absolute beginners! No experience? No problem!

You'll learn the basics step by step- greetings, simple phrases, and everyday conversations, all in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Start your journey to speaking Italian today!

Starting:
October 2025
8 weeks course

Day class -10.00-12.00 noon **Wednesday**
 Evening class- 6.30-8.30pm **Wednesday**

Further details and to register
www.dantegoldcoast.com.au




Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast

Join our fun and friendly Italian classes designed for absolute beginners! No experience? No problem! You'll learn the basics step by step- greetings, simple phrases, and everyday conversations, all in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Start your journey to speaking Italian today!

Starting: October 2025 - 8 weeks course

- Day class -10.00-12.00 noon Wednesday
- Evening class- 6.30-8.30pm Wednesday

Further details and to register - www.dantegoldcoast.com.au

CLOW – Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sacred Heart - Clear Island Waters

Children's Liturgy of The Word

CLOW

CLOW – Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is held during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass in term time. All volunteers are trained and hold Blue Cards.

Follow the signs to the Parish Hospitality Centre to drop off your children, or you're welcome to stay and join in.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, from crawling babies to "tweenagers" (and parents too!).

Each week we focus on understanding the Gospel through fun activities, discussions, and building friendships.

At the end of each term (Week 9), we hold a Party after 9am Mass for all children and their families to enjoy together.

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JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

Children's Liturgy of The Word

CLOW
TERM 3 PARTY

SUN 14TH SEPTEMBER
AFTER 9AM MASS

PARISH HOSPITALITY CENTER
SACRED HEART CHURCH, CLEAR ISLAND WATERS

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FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day to all. Today, we pause with gratitude for the fathers who shape our lives—through love, care, and generosity—and we lift in prayer the joy of their families and friends, along with health and strength for them. We remember those fathers who have joined the eternal feast, asking God to grant them a place of everlasting peace and happiness.

In this moment, we also reflect on what it means to follow Christ. Discipleship costs something real: a value system that often stands in tension with the world's "normal." Following Jesus may invite ridicule, ostracism, or the loss of reputation, comfort, or position. Yet the gospel reverses worldly values, placing justice, compassion, inclusion, love, and peace at the centre.

Jesus does not call us to be fence-sitters. He invites wholehearted commitment, knowing the road will not be easy and not all who prosper in the status quo will welcome a new kingdom with open arms. The cost of discipleship is genuine, demanding loyalty that may require laying down what we hold most dear. Still, faithfulness to Christ and loyalty to family are not enemies but partners when lived in truth and love.

Our broader family expands beyond bloodlines to include all who live by Christ's values. Discipleship asks us to bring our whole selves—time, energy, and resources—into God's mission. This is costly, but the stakes are eternal. St. Paul and Ignatius remind us that in Christ, outsiders become family, and the humble are made strong for the work of justice and mercy.

So as we honour fathers, let us answer Christ's call with courage and love, building one family in the gospel—where all are welcomed, valued, and cherished. Happy Father's Day.

Fr Paul Kelly

Please pray for our newly appointed archbishop Shane McKinlay, installed as Archbishop of Brisbane this Friday in Brisbane.



Archbishop-elect Shane will assume his position on September 11th this year. Also, our prayers of gratitude and for health and

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blessings for the next chapter of our emeritus archbishop, Mark Coleridge, who is administering the archdiocese until bishop Shane begins his ministry here.



Caritas Australia invites us to pray for the people of Gaza.

If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

Caritas Australia invites us to light a candle and pray for the people of Gaza

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CARERS GATEWAY PROJECT

Carer Gateway, a national government-funded service that provides free support for unpaid carers. This includes anyone providing care for a family member or friend living with:

- Mental illness
- Disability
- A severe or chronic medical condition
- Age-related frailty

Through Carer Gateway, we are able to support carers via a structured intake and registration process. As part of this, we use an evidence-based tool called the Carers Star to assess the carer's current situation, challenges, and strengths in key areas of their caring role. From there, we work together to identify suitable supports.

The types of services available include:

Core Supports (Free):

- Counselling
- Coaching
- In-person peer support groups
- Online self-guided learning

Brokered & One-Off Services (based on need):

- Respite care
- Support workers
- Grocery and fuel vouchers
- Financial support
- Personalised or urgent support tailored to the carer's unique circumstances

Emergency Support Program:

- For carers in crisis or experiencing significant distress, we can help coordinate immediate and more substantial assistance.

These supports aim to reduce stress, increase resilience, and help carers feel more connected and empowered in their role.

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YouTube links for short 1 minute introductions:

[What is carer gateway?](#)

[What services does carer gateway offer?](#)

Thanks to Brady for this information.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on each First Friday,

5th September and 3rd of October 2025, at Sacred Heart Church from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All welcome. Enquiries: Helen 0421935678. "Could you not watch one hour with Me" - Mt 26:4

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AND BENEDICTION

First Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters.

9 am Saturday, **the 6th September and 4th October 2025**. Followed by adoration and Benediction. {This is a votive Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary}. Please come along.

Anointing Mass – Mass of Healing FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (February-November Inclusive)

10 am Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Tuesday, the 7th October 2025- Followed by morning tea. Please let others know who would love to attend.

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Saint Vincent de Paul Society Reflections



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

For more details on the conference's activities, please contact Conference President Wendy Webb at wendy.webb@svdpqld.org.au

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C - Sunday, 7 September 2025

THIS WEEK...

"He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2.8)

PRAYER

Lord, guide us to be humble in heart, words and actions. Amen

23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Wis 9:13-18

Phil 9-10, 12-17

Lk 14:25-33

A few years ago, I was in Armidale journeying with the Central Council

on a day of reflection. The weather was warm, and I struggled to sleep on one of the nights. So, I walked out of my room and was astonished in a sense of awe of the wonders of the night sky above me.

Moments like this remind me of, not just the vastness of the universes above, but also and possibly stronger is the reminder of the vastness and the wonders of the mystery of God as Creator.

I feel the author of the book of Wisdom in this week's readings is struggling with the same thoughts. To take these thoughts even a step further a question needs to be asked, "why does a Creator God who built the wonders of the heaven, of which I am but a grain of sand, loves me beyond any human imaginings?"

I was in a conversation with one of our bishops recently on the depth of the love of God and as I mentioned this moment to him, he simply mused "could it be possible that all the beauty of the universes above us in the night sky are only placed there not for other life forms but for our wonder and amazement as that is the depth of God's love for us?"

Well, I am not sure if this thought would convince an astrophysicist, but it is certainly a metaphysical considered admiration.

Finally, Jesus' words in Luke's Gospel this week are far-reaching. It counts the cost of true discipleship as far more than just an

emotional response to a great speech or moment. It is a response, which lets go of all that we may hold dear to us, even life itself. Humility is one of the five missionary virtues of St Vincent de Paul. This is what Jesus asks of us as disciples in this Gospel and always. Humility to risk it all in radical love. Is this a discipleship that we can embrace especially when the going gets tough?

What does the virtue of humility mean to you?

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MASS TIMES: SURFERS PARADISE MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart
50 Fairway
Drive
Clear Island
Waters, 4226

Saturday Night - 5 pm (Note: Reconciliations from 4-4.30 pm at Sacred Heart)
+ **(Maronite Mass, 6:30 pm, Saturday Night).**
***Note: First Saturday of the month, morning Mass, Adoration and Benediction: 9 am 4th October**
And also the usual 9 am and 6 pm (at Sacred Heart - Clear Island Waters)
+ **(Polish Mass 12:30 pm Sunday)**
+ **(Italian Mass 4 pm Sunday at Sacred Heart Church)**
Weekday Masses - Monday - Friday weekday Mass - 9 a.m. (all at Sacred Heart) (Healing mass - the First Tuesday Tuesday 7th October 2025)
{First Friday Night of the Month - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart Church - First Fridays of the Month, from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All welcome. Enquiries: Helen 0421935678. "Could you not watch with Me for one hour?" Mt 26:40}.

St Vincent's
36 Hamilton
Avenue.
Surfers
Paradise
4217

Sunday - 8 am & 10 am
(Hispanic Mass – 5.30 pm every Sunday)

Extra parking is available only metres from St Vincent's Church, King's Car Park, entry via Beach Road. Also Remembrance Drive opposite the church, next to the new Essentia Building.

Stella Maris **Saturday - 5 pm**
254 Hedges
Avenue, **Sunday - 7 am**
Broadbeach,
4218

Hispanic (Latino American) Mass: Fr. Luis Antonio Diaz Lamus 5:30 pm Mass - **Every Sunday** -

St Vincent's Catholic Church, Surfers Paradise. Gold Coast Contact: Juan Arrieta. For more information, please email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Polish Mass: Fr Jerzy Prucnal (Bowen Hills 3252 2200). 12:30 pm Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters. Gold Coast Contact: George Syrek 0411 302 802 -

Italian Mass: Sunday, Sacred Heart Church at 4 p.m. For further information about the Italian Mass on the Gold Coast, please contact Fr Luis Antonio Diaz Lamus (Scalabrinian Missionary) at ladl71@hotmail.com or Giovanna at gianna52@hotmail.com -

Maronite Mass: Fr Fadi Salame 0421 790 996. The 6.30 pm Maronite Saturday Vigil is at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters.

GO CASHLESS DONATIONS -



AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES OF THREE CHURCHES - tap once to donate \$10, tap and other higher denominations now available on the new devices.

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10 am Sacred Heart Catholic Church. **Tuesday, the 7th October** 2025-
Followed by morning tea. Please let others know who would love to attend.

HOSPITAL CALLS - AROUND THE DEANERY -

HELP THE PRIESTS OF THE DEANERY RESPOND TO URGENT CALLS EFFECTIVELY BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING PARISHES' FIRST RESPONDERS TO NEEDS WITHIN THE HOSPITALS LISTED.

To efficiently and speedily deal with the pastoral needs around the Catholic parishes of the Gold Coast, the parishes within this Deanery have the practice of having the first call for emergencies go to the priests of the parish where the hospital is located. Here is a helpful guide to the hospitals and their attendant priests. A nursing home call also follows this procedure, where the first priest to call is a priest from the parish within which the Nursing Home is located. Please help us service the region effectively and help prevent delays in response by calling the nearest parish.

- Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish. 5558 0120
- Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish. 56717388
- John Flynn Hospital - Coolangatta-Tugun Parish. 5598 2165
- University & Gold Coast Private Hosp.- Southport Parish. 5510 2222

CHILDHOOD SACRAMENTS 2025

Please use the tables on the following pages to guide you, as you plan your child/ren's Sacramental Journey in Surfers Paradise Parish.

Please remember that your child and your family are often included in our prayers at mass and in the personal prayers of many parishioners. We all look forward to supporting you in this sacred work.

<i>Sacrament Name & Important Dates</i>	<i>Eligibility and Admin Costs</i>	<i>How to enrol; check a child's enrolment or request information for Sacramental Preparation Groups in SPP</i>
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Baptism Celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism occur most Sundays of the Year at 10:30am in Sacred Heart Church. Bookings are linked to online enrolment form (see info far right). **Baptism spaces are booked out a couple of months in advance.	*From birth *Administration Fee for Sacrament of Baptism \$130	Birth to 7 years old: Go to parish website www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au Use the top menu bar and hover over Sacraments. Click on Baptism. Please read the baptism information and then use the blue-filled boxes with the links to the enrolment forms that you need. Click on the link that says STEP 1- REGISTER and next click on the STEP 2 - BAPTISM ENQUIRY link. You should receive an automated response letting you know that the form has been received. To request information for Birth to 7 year old Baptisms: Email the Parish Secretary, Merla Nario, at surfers@bne.catholic.net.au For Children 8 years and older: Prior to Baptism, we provide a program of preparation over a few meetings. In order to coordinate a mutually suitable date and time to begin these meetings, please email your interest to our Children's Sacramental Coordinator, Cathy Anderson at andersoncm@bne.catholic.net.au
Confirmation 2025 (Preparation for the 2025 Group is in progress. Further registrations completed after the July 18 cut-off will be included in the 2026 Confirmation Group) Final Meeting & Practice 5:30pm, in Sacred Heart Church Either 26.08.25 Or 27.08.25 Celebration of Confirmation:	*For Baptised Children in Year 3 or greater *Total Administration Fee for Confirmation and Eucharist Preparation, one payment of \$150	Go to parish website www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au Use the top menu bar and hover over Sacraments. Click on Confirmation. Please read the information about Confirmation and then scroll to the blue-filled boxes with the links (STEP 1 - REGISTER, STEP 2 - ENROL) to apply to be part of the next available Sacramental Preparation Program. You should receive an automated response letting you know that the form has been received by the Parish Sacramental Team. To request further information: Email the Sacramental Team at sacramental.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Evening of Friday 12.09.25		
Eucharist (First Holy Communion) The 2025 Program was completed in June. Further registrations received will be included in the 2026 First Communion Preparation Group	* For children in Year 4 or greater who have been Baptised and Confirmed * Administration Cost (Excludes Sacrament of Confirmation) Preparation \$120	A. If your child received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Surfers Paradise Parish in 2025, they will automatically be included in the group to be contacted for Preparation for First Communion in 2026. In Term 1, 2026, contact will be made via email, by the Children's Sacramental Coordinator, Cathy Anderson. (There will be no further Administration Fee, if the full Administration Fee was paid in 2025.) B. If your child was confirmed in Surfers Paradise Parish prior to 2025, please express your interest in joining the 2026 First Communion Group by emailing the Sacramental Team at sacramental.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au Once you have made contact, you will be included in all emails etc. C. If your child was confirmed in another parish, please follow the information in the cell above that explains enrolling for Confirmation. The process is very similar except that you should choose First Holy Communion under Sacraments Then complete the online steps via the blue-filled boxes with the links (STEP 1 - REGISTER, STEP 2 - ENROL) to apply to be part of the First Communion Group.

Penance (Also known as Reconciliation or Confession) The closing date for parents to email their interest in children being part of the Preparation Group: Friday, September 19. (The program will be emailed to parents the week following September 19) Reconciliation Preparation Activities due: October 23 Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: November 6, 6pm in Sacred Heart Church.	* For children in Year 4 or greater who have been Baptised and Confirmed, and have made their First Holy Communion . There are no meetings for Preparation for Reconciliation.	A. If your child made their First Holy Communion in SPP in 2025, they will automatically be invited (via email) to be part of the group to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance later in 2025. Contact will be made late in Term 3, by the Children's Sacramental Coordinator, Cathy Anderson. B. If your child made their First Holy Communion in SPP prior to 2025, please express your interest in joining the 2025 Sacrament of Penance Group by emailing Cathy Anderson (Prior to September 19) at sacramental surfers@bne.catholic.net.au Once you have made contact, you will be included in all emails etc. C. If your child made their First Holy Communion in another parish, please follow the information provided above (2 cells above) that explains enrolling for Confirmation. The process is very similar except that you should choose Reconciliation under Sacraments and then complete the online steps via the blue-filled boxes with the links (STEP 1 - REGISTER, STEP 2 - ENROL) to apply to be part of the 2025 Reconciliation (Penance Preparation) Group.
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IN OUR PRAYERS *(Please let us know when to remove a name from the list).*

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Please also pray for the following who are ill. (Alphabetical)

Lindsay Allan, Robert Andreas, Joseph Antony, Milroy Antony, Tricia Baumann, Phil Bawden, Gregory Bechly, Nellie Bellinger, Mary and Leon Brosnan, Tim Brown, Margaret and Tony Buckingham, Vicky and Andrew Campora, Gerard Carroll, Danielle Cavielli, Nadia Ceh, Tina Conidi, Helen Cooper, Diane Coorey, Jamie Creed, Shirley Croft, Christopher Cunningham, Mary Curmi, Bernie Delaney, Christopher Eid, **Gloria Evered**, Judi Farrow, John Fox, Lorraine Gallagher, Maralyn Gow, Jenny Haines, Betty Hannon, **Isaac Jassim**, Jenny Johnson, Kevin & Francis June, Leona Kelly, Marjorie Kennedy, Kath

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Kiely, Gregory Kittelty, Jan Kristenson, Robert Lahey, Dallas Laine, Dannielle Therese Larney, Thi Le, Alvin Lee, Nathan Lepp, Jim Lindsay, **Gary Linegar**, Maureen Lloyd, Veronica Lubomski, Sharyn Lucas, Victoria MacDonald, I. McGuigan, Phil and Anne McGuigan, Leonie McMahon, Anthea McMullin, Carmel Mooney, Joanne Mooney, Maryann Moore, Frances Much, Michael & Leslie Murtagh, Eileen O'Mara, Margaret Orme, Tommy Osborne, Kevin Owen, Colin Paterson, Sarah Pawley, Clare Perera, Lesley Petroni, Rachel Raines, Gus Reeves, Melba Rentoul, Alan Robinson, Bob Rogers, Neil Rogers, **Joan Cecilia Rudd**, Jens Ryan-Raison, Marnia Ryan-Raison, Angela Sannen, Miranda Santi, Alf Schembri, Maureen Scott, Betty Taylor, Gary Thompson, Krystal & Winter Tongue, **Leonie and Leonardo Torcaso**, Denise Tracey, Paul Trad, Marcus Ware, **John Zappa**.

RECENTLY DECEASED: (Chronological - Most recent first):

Fr John Chalmers, Diosdado Pacifico, Sheilagh Behmber, Antonietta Arena, Josephine di Giorgio, Garth Tuckett, Thomas Toomey, John Robert Setchell, Cecilia Tan, Frits Pannekoek, Jessie Lelo, Martin McEnerey, Steve Land, Gene Ferdinand, Peter Miller, Mary Patricia Kerr, Conor Keane, Richard Holborow, Paul Loonam, Graham Leslie Clarke, Barry Humphrey, Marth O'Boyle, Robert Parry, Leah Mackay, John Newton, Brian Joseph Birmingham, Maria Lucarelli, Colin Leslie Wythe, Serina Castellaro, Roslyn Mathews, Christine Mulligan, Mary Costello, Michael Kent, June O'Donnell, Lucyanna Markovic.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH: (Alphabetical)

Graham Brian Irwin, Pedro and Florencia Pacifico, Del Enid Anderson, World Trade Centre Attack Anniy, Frank Anthony Armanasco, Vincent Attard, Carina Faith Barrington, Liliane Claude Francoise Bellony, Fr Dudley Boland, Franciska Bukowski, Stanton Geoffrey Curtis, Fr Terence Ganzer, Gordon Peter Gillespie, Josephine Di Giorgio, Fr Thomas Guy, Gerada Hendriksen, Thomas Edward Holt, Briggita Kelleris, Harry Kelleris, Stefan Kirkmayer, Fanny Macky, Maria di Martino, Dr Des McGarry, Janina Momont, Patrick Mulcahy, Fr Sean Nugent, Mario Pase, Fr Joseph Pender, Fr James Power, Boženna Rayson, Antonia Johanna Maria "Tony" de Ruyter, Kaye Maria Sheppard, Daniel Simpson, Jenifer Margaret Slattery, Iole Svir, Dean Tamer, Carol Rose Williamson, Louise Marie Young.

And Also: (Alphabetical):

Frederick Jerome (Fred) Anderson, Colin Francis Bingham, John Bottos, Molly Brennan, Max Butler, Fr Denis Byrne, Joe Dominiak, Wladyslawa Dominiak, Bp Edward Doody, Clement Durkin, Fr Vincent Dwyer, Luciano Fioravanti, Joan Margaret Gibbon, Edna Hamilton, Robert George Hanley, **Denis Hart**, Gerardus Hendriksen, Patricia Mary "Tricia" Keevers, Fr Christopher Lynch, Fr Francis Masterson, Kichizo Matsumoto, Bernard William McKay, Helen McMeniman, Linda G Mirasol, Damian Gerard Mullins, Maureen Joy Murphy, Sr Mary Josephine O'Brien, Topie Paagalua, Carmela Parente, Michael Perta, Gina Fortini Sanguigno, Algernon (Algie) Scharenguivel, Fr Kevin Skehan, Timothy Sullivan, Soledad Viva and Inocencia Taleon, Fr Brian Taylor, Joseph Francis Wherby, Fr Albert Wright, Odilla Zuppicchiatti.

The Café - "Sacred Grounds" - is Located at the Former Atrium Building near the Sacred Heart Church.

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The café near the Sacred Heart Church is a wonderful gathering place for parishioners, school parents, staff, and the wider public. The feedback has been that the café is a great idea, but its old location in the front of the church was not ideal. The café has now reopened in the old Atrium building. This allows community building whilst giving the church the space it needs for its Masses, Weddings, Baptisms and solemn Funerals. Please support this excellent continuation of the parish vision. Chris and his staff are delighted to welcome you.

NOTICES AND MESSAGES - Our new parish number is 5671 7388

SACRED HEART CHURCH PARKING

A special notice - when parking, please leave the emergency and taxi pickup "yellow painted area" clear for ambulance or brief taxi drop off and pickup and the disabled parking areas are only for disability permit persons - thanks for your assistance in ensuring this important compliance]

RELIGIOUS GOODS SHOPS - SACRED HEART AND ST VINCENT'S CHURCHES

Many last minute gift ideas still available in our shops for Confirmation.

For sale at the Sacred Heart Piety Shop we have available a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Sorrows.

A reminder of the 7 Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary are :

The First Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon and Anna

The Second Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt.

The Third Sorrow: The Loss, for three days, of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

The Fourth Sorrow: The Condemnation of Jesus.

The Fifth Sorrow: The Crucifixion of Jesus.

The Sixth Sorrow: The Retrieval of Jesus' Body.

The Seventh Sorrow: The Burial of Jesus

WCCM - WORLD COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

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This meditation group meets each Tuesday in the Morris Prayer Room located at 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters at 10am to 11am. This is followed by a Scripture Study of the following Sunday's Mass readings from 11 am to 12 pm. You are welcome to attend both or either one. If you are new to meditation, we will assist you in learning about WCCM and the practice of Christian Meditation. The meditation group invites you to prepare for Easter by attending a Lenten program to be held in the Morris Prayer room as well. For more information, please contact Pam Egberts 0493 742 670.

SACRED HEART ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us to pray The Stations of the Cross, The Divine Mercy and The Rosary each day at 8:00a.m. at the Sacred Heart Church before 9 a.m. Mass, Monday through Friday, including First Saturdays.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on each First Friday, **5th of September 2025**, at Sacred Heart Church from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. Enquiries: Helen 0421935678. "Could you not watch one hour with Me" Mt 26:4

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AND BENEDICTION

First Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters. 9 am Saturday the **6th of September 2025**. Followed by adoration and Benediction. {This is a votive Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary}

Anointing Mass – Mass of Healing FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (February-November Inclusive)

10 am Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Tuesday the 2nd of September - Followed by morning tea. Please let others know who would love to come along.

ART AND CRAFT GROUP

The Group meets in the Parish Hospitality Centre on Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 noon. Activities include

- Art (watercolour, oils, acrylics, pen and ink drawing, etc.)
- Various kinds of Craftwork (Knitting, Embroidery, Crocheting, Card making, Sewing, etc.)
- Making Rosary Beads (later sent to the missions)
- And any other activities that individuals may have an interest in, or you can bring in your ideas

A very relaxing and social environment - meet new friends! You are most welcome to join. For further information, phone the Parish Office.

THE SACRED HEART BRIDGE CLUB-

Sacred Heart Bridge Club - Join Our Bridge Club! - Meet, Play, and Enjoy the Game of

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Bridge. Looking for a fun, social, and stimulating activity? Whether you're a returning player or a Beginner wanting to learn, our Bridge Club welcomes players of all levels!

Where: Hospitality Room

When: Monday and Wednesday from 1.00pm

Contact: Cheryl on 0417 772 701

✓ Friendly Atmosphere ✓ Lessons for Beginners ✓ Weekly Games ✓ Tea, Coffee & Good Company! Come for the cards, stay for the camaraderie!

YOGA AT THE PARISH HOSPITALITY CENTRE -

Join us for our social class in the Parish Hospitality Centre next to the Parish Office.

Classes run every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. Learn to relax yet gain greater flexibility, inner strength, body awareness and concentration while increasing your breath support and general well-being. Ruth is an IYTA-accredited instructor with wide experience and runs a caring, carefully monitored one-hour session costing \$10 (new attendees, please arrive by 10:30 a.m. to prepare adequately for class). For more information, please email surfers@bne.catholic.net.au.

OUR LADY'S STATUE -

Praying the Rosary - Our Lady's Statue in the Parish - Details of the Statue of Our Lady are going around the Parish. If you want her in your home and say the Rosary, please contact Maxine or Pat. For more information, please email: psela@bigpond.com or surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Our Lady's Statue details for the next several weeks are:

9/9/25: Luciana Leong & Family, Varsity Lakes

15/9/25: Susan Joseph, Robina

22/9/25: Susan Joseph, Robina

EXERCISE CLASS - LOW IMPACT - FOR HEART HEALTH -

Join Rochelle for a fun, functional exercise class at Casey Hall. Low-impact cardiovascular exercises for heart health, improve strength and balance- an all-around fitness class for over 65's. Stretch and strengthen the whole body, make new friends and feel great. Tuesday mornings @9.30 Beginners welcome. Contact Rochelle. For more information, please email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au or call 07 5671 7388.

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP - ST VINCENT'S CHURCH, SURFERS PARADISE.

The Bible Study Prayer Group meets every Friday from 5pm-6pm at St Vincent's Church (40 Hamilton Ave, Surfers Paradise).

Come along and read/study Break Open the Word weekly from 5 pm to 6 pm. For further enquiries, please contact the Parish Office. surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

PRAYER GROUP - SPANISH SPEAKER

Jesus de la Misericordia. Invites you to participate every 2nd Saturday of the month from 11 am to 2 pm. Place: Hospitality Room. Sacred Heart Church. "We praise, We praise, We grow spiritually from the Word of the Lord." For more information, please contact Grace. For more information, please email: grace.flowers.art@hotmail.com or

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ALTAR SERVING in SURFERS PARADISE PARISH

Would you like to become an Altar Server in Surfers Paradise Parish?

Our church family has many ministries or roles available for people who wish to help the celebration of the mass to be as reverent and joyful as possible. For children, one of the best ways to contribute to the mass is to train to be an altar server.

There are lots of things to learn about the job of altar serving so if you are interested in finding out about this special ministry please read on.

Who can become an altar server:



Any person who is a fully initiated Catholic can be an altar server. That is, someone who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and has celebrated their First Holy Communion.

Children who wish to become altar servers will be taught by Fr Bradley and the Sacramental Team. When you feel confident,



you will be asked to serve on the altar with other experienced servers.

How to find out more about Altar Serving Ministry: Ask one of your parents to ring the Parish Office (5671 7388) and leave your full name and contact details. **Please direct all enquiries and volunteering through the Parish Office.** Then Fr Bradley and the Sacramental Team will contact your family and invite you to a training workshop.

Fr Bradley meeting some future altar servers at St Vincent's

To tune in to **Our parish Podcast of the Mass for Sundays and Solemnities**, please visit regularly the following link: To listen to the Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, please visit this link: Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) - <https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks>

Also found at - <https://tinyurl.com/FHLpwk>



{<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/pellegrinaggio/calendario-giubileo.html>}

Elijah: Prophet of Hope in a Troubled World

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Back on the 20th July this year, less than a week after celebrating the Solemn Patronal Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Carmelite family were in celebration mode again to commemorate the Solemnity of Elijah, the Prophet of Carmel. There is no coincidence that these two significant figures that all Carmelites try to aspire to, are celebrated so closely together. Mary and Elijah offer us a model for living the Carmelite way of life with hope and fidelity.

Growing up, I attended a church that was dedicated to Our Lady, Star of the Sea, and I am sure one of the first formal prayers that I learnt was the Hail Mary. Our Lady had been a major part of my life and spirituality up to and joining the Carmelites twenty years ago. My relationship with Elijah took a different course. I can vaguely remember studying Elijah in Religious Education, with regards to the concept of injustice and the story of Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-18), but I can honestly say Elijah was not a big part of my spirituality.

This all changed when I entered the Carmelite Novitiate, I was taught that, 'From Elijah, Carmelites learn to be people of the desert, with heart undivided, standing before God and entirely dedicated to his service... Like Elijah, they believe in God and allow themselves to be led by the Spirit and by the Word that has taken root in their hearts, in order to bear witness to the divine presence in the world, allowing God to be truly God in their lives... In Elijah, Carmelites learn to be channels God's tender love for the poor and the humble.' Whilst discerning my vocation, these words from our Constitutions 1995 (§26) offered me great hope and inspiration and enabled me to relate to this Old Testament Prophet that I had begun to try and model my life upon.

I would say that as well as being a Marian Order, the Carmelites is an Elijah Order, our motto "Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum" comes from the lips of Elijah "With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts." Zeal and zealous are not words that we use very much but they convey a great enthusiasm, energy and hope for the God being the focus of one's life and Elijah can teach us how to make God and particularly the person of Jesus Christ the centre of our lives.

What I love about Elijah is his raw humanness, in the first and second book of Kings we see an array of human emotions from Elijah which tell us that God calls each one of us no matter what our faults and failings might be and he gives us the strength to do his work and carry it out to the best of our ability. In the passages of Elijah, we see him being brave in the face of the tyrannical Queen Jezebel and the Prophets of Baal, the bravery turns to cowardice and despair and ultimately depression where Elijah wishes himself dead, there are elements of impatience, confusion but equally there is the brave, faithful and just one. Reflecting on this, any person can relate to Elijah in all the many different aspects of one's life.

Perhaps what gives me the most hope is the New Testament event of the Transfiguration, where we witness Elijah enjoying his final reward with another Old Testament great figure, the lawgiver, Moses. We see this in the gospel of St Luke and his account of the Transfiguration of the Lord. During the transfiguration Jesus was joined by Moses who represents the Law, and by Elijah who represents the Prophets. In this way, we are shown that the authority of Jesus Christ is greater than these two pillars of the Jewish faith, and we are also reminded that their teachings pointed to his arrival. Elijah is a shining example of one who answered God's call and gave his life to the service of God. Even his name bears witness – the Hebrew 'Elia' means 'The Lord is my God.' In this Jubilee Year of Hope may Elijah be our example and guide on this Pilgrimage of life.

Fr Gerard Walsh, O.Carm

<https://carmelite.org/weekly-reflections/elijah-prophet-of-hope-in-a-troubled-world/>



**THE BIBLE TIME
LINE – THE STORY OF SALVATION
ADULT FAITH FORMATION BIBLE STUDY
CONTINUES on LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 2025**



In the Parish Hospitality Centre - (next to Sacred Heart Church), 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, Queensland 4226, on Last Sunday of the month from 10 am – 12 pm.

*There is no cost; however, to participate, you will need to purchase **The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation Study Set**, which can be obtained from Ascension Press or Garrett Publishing. The Study Set will contain The Bible Timeline Study Book, Chart and Bookmark -*

<https://ascensionpress.com/>

<https://garrettpublishing.com.au/>

A VOCATION VIEW:

You have one precious life to give. How do you choose to offer it to God? Be willing to accept the challenges of discipleship. (Luke 14:25-33)

To talk to someone about your vocation, contact Vocation Brisbane: 1300 133 544. vocation@bne.catholic.net.au and www.vocationbrisbane.com



Scan the QR code
to find out more, or call 1300 133 544
www.vocationbrisbane.com

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION -

“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand

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upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, we must renounce the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our use but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

The vision of Stewardship speaks in every aspect of life, inviting everyone to be thankful, generous and accountable for what each has been given.

TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH: Embrace the hard sayings

Luke 14:25-33 (129). "Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

Nice-guy Jesus inhabits our religious imagination, a carryover from the colouring books. This smiling Lord seeks lost sheep and welcomes prodigal kids home. He banishes fevers and wipes away tears. It can be a jarring wake-up call to encounter the gospel of Jesus, who does all those things but also says we have to give up everything to be his followers. Can't we negotiate here? Does "all" really mean all? A very few will take this saying literally. The vast majority of us spend our lives seeking a comfortable compromise. Jesus is asking for ultimate loyalty, not personal poverty. Does he have your heart?

SIGN UP FOR "TAKE FIVE" DAILY - www.takefiveforfaith.com/subscribe

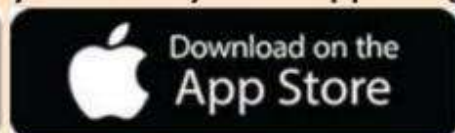
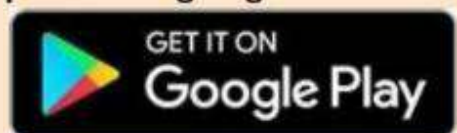
JOBS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/>

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires conducting working with children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) or adults at risk. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has zero tolerance for abusing children or adults at risk.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your support is needed to help our Parish continue valuable pastoral activities and ensure ongoing sustainability. You can give here to assist you in supporting the Parish.



If you can continue to support us, we would be most grateful. We thank all those who have been making payments via credit card and those who have donated directly to the parish account. The pay-wave or tap-and-go machines on the timber stands in our Churches are also a safe and handy way to donate to the Parish. God bless you for your support. If you want confirmation of your donation or a receipt emailed, please contact me at man.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au.

To join planned giving, please contact the Parish Office: (07) 56717388 (9 am–2 pm Mon-Fri).

THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL - -To listen to the whole Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, including the Easter Mass - please visit this link:

Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) - [https:- soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks](https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks).

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C - Sunday, September 7, 2025 (EPISODE-546)

Readings for Sunday, September 7, 2025 - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C

FIRST READING: Wis 9:13-18

Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14+17. "In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge"

SECOND READING: Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Luke 14:25-33). Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant. And teach me your laws.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33



Image Credit: <https://creator.nightcafe.studio/creation/MFsuVOloqv16nfawPBjS?ru=Paul-Evangelion>

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HAPPY FATHERS DAY -

In Australia, it's Father's Day this weekend, the first Sunday of September. We give thanks today for all fathers, for their love, their care, their generosity. We pray that God grants them joy in their family and friends,

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and health and strength.

For all fathers who have passed into eternal life, may God give them a permanent place at the heavenly feast that never ends, for all their goodness and kindness. {FHL}

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HOMILY

To become a full disciple of Christ, we know, comes at considerable cost. Being a full-fledged follower of Christ means accepting a value system that is often at odds with other value systems. This can lead to us being ridiculed and ostracized.

Throughout history, it has led to people losing their friends, family members, reputation, their position, standing in society, and even their lives. The cost is worth it, but our Lord wants us to know that the values of the kingdom will turn on its head the many values of the world. Those benefiting from keeping things as they always were, are not going to surrender their position and privilege lightly.

Our Lord doesn't desire divisions, but He warns us that there are no fence-sitters in the kingdom. We have to jump in wholeheartedly and be prepared for opposition, which will not fight fairly. Sadly, those who oppose Christ's values oppose His vision of true justice, compassion, inclusion, love, and peace.

Why would Jesus counsel His followers to hate their families or their lives? This seems contrary to the consistent message of Christ, which is about love, inclusion, mercy, and graciousness, that our Lord has been proclaiming throughout His whole ministry. When Jesus made this declaration, He was on the road to Jerusalem. He had set His face towards Jerusalem, and there was no stopping Him. ## (William Barclay, the scripture scholar, says)

He knew He was on His way to surrender everything for us. He was going to die after suffering terribly on the cross. The crowds with Him thought He was on His way to an empire, to take over, to claim earthly kingship.

No wonder He turned around and spoke to them clearly and bluntly in this way. In the most vivid way possible, He told them, Anyone who wants to

follow Me is not on a road to worldly power and glory. You must know that.

Rather, you must be ready for loyalty, which will sacrifice the dearest things in life. You must be ready for suffering, which would be like the agony of a man on the cross. And for Christ Himself and some of His closest disciples, it was literally to be such agony.

Others would experience spiritual agony of the same. We must understand His words as intended. And we must remember that Jesus was speaking with the nuance of the Eastern language as it was spoken, which is always vivid, as vivid as the human mind can make it.

When Jesus tells us to hate our nearest and dearest, He doesn't mean literally. There's no hatred in God. He means that no love in life can compare with the love we must bear to God first.

Christ knew if anyone who followed Him had Him as second priority or lower, then when the first of many challenges, threats and suffering come along, these people would fall away immediately. So, this passage teaches us it's possible to be a follower of Jesus without being a disciple. That is, you can follow an army, so to speak, wherever it went, but it doesn't mean you're a soldier.

You could be a hanger-on in some great work without pulling one's weight. When the battle occurs, and if you're not the soldier, you might run the other way.

There's a modern-day story where a person talking to a great scholar about another person, name-dropping his connection to that scholar, so-and-so tells me that he was one of your students.

The great scholar replies, he may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students. That would be a devastating thing. It's the same with a Christian church.

There may be some distant followers of Jesus, but how many are real disciples?

The second point we can take from this gospel is a Christian's first duty is to

count the cost of following Christ. But if the high demands of Christ daunt us, let's remember that we're not left to fulfill this task alone. Christ walks this step before us, and also walks it with us every step of our life.

Our Lord's constant practical example and his teaching show us that we must love and cherish our family and loyally keep our commitments and duties that we owe to parents and family. He's not cancelling that out, even if one could twist the words of the scripture to say that. Our Lord saved one of his most stinging criticisms for people who used religious excuses to justify neglecting their duty to parents and family.

So, when our Lord says in the gospel we should hate our lives or our families, the actual point of Jesus' message is not to reject or abandon bonds of family, the ties of blood, but rather to widen our vision of family. So, Jesus is telling his disciples that his definition of family includes our traditional ties of blood relations, but also includes anyone who acts and follows in Christ's ways, anyone who holds the values of the kingdom, all people, which he means to be taken quite seriously and quite literally. We know that Jesus had deep respect and love for his family, both his earthly family and of course his heavenly family.

So, faithfulness to Christ and love and respect for our family need not be any kind of contradiction, which is good news to know.

Hopefully our faith, our values and relationships with our family and friends will be mutually consistent and supportive. As Christians, and as people of goodwill everywhere in the world, we've gotten so many of our beautiful values from our families, and rightly so.

Jesus is simply saying that if in some situation there had to be a choice between following God and remaining a part of our loving family, well something must have gone awry in that family.

Jesus is saying here, you've got to be in this disciple thing a hundred percent. Half measures just won't do. Being the body of Christ makes us complete sharers in the life of Jesus. And Jesus was never one to do things by half measures. There may very well be a lot of hating at the time of Christ's ministry, but the hating was not by Jesus or his followers.

Rather, some people hated Jesus. They hated his message. They wanted to destroy him and his message and persecute any of his followers.

And they hated him and his followers precisely because they seemed to be welcoming outsiders and strangers into the fold of the family of God, whom they think shouldn't be there. Unintended but very real conflict and loss will be suffered because of choosing to follow Jesus, because people included in Jesus' plan are people who others think should be left out. The hatred and persecution will come from those who are very comfortable with things as they are, because they're doing very well while others are doing very badly.

A change in this situation will be detrimental to them, even if it is helpful to others, and they won't stand for it. The plain truth is our goal is not merely to be a good person and avoid doing wrong. Being a disciple is a goal as well.

Discipleship, being a friend and family member of Christ, is an expensive proposition because it'll cost everything we have. Jesus needs us to give all we have in energy and time. It shouldn't be inconsistent with so many good values in life, because all good values come from God.

Why is this price so high? It shouldn't be, but it's because the stakes are so high. Christ's kingdom is filled with the wonderful values and virtues that all people want and need. They're worth fighting for, and these values are life-giving and lasting.

Christ is asking us to put our lives, energy and resources into the service of His plan for building up the kingdom of God and its transforming values, and they are quite revolutionary. Christ, more than anyone, knows that following Him will lead to tensions and pain, but not because He wants us to reject family, but rather because His message includes more people in the family than others under the old system want or can cope with. In the kingdom, the waters of baptism bind us more closely and more infinitely with all our other members than even deep hereditary ties of family.

And so, this turns the whole system on its head. If people everywhere extended to everyone they met, that same love, loyalty and unconditional

bond of generosity that we share with people who are related to us by blood, what a difference the world would be. And it would be a world ever closer to the vision of Christ's kingdom.

We see an example of this perfectly illustrated by St. Paul, who really is a true and inspiring disciple. We're so fortunate so many of his writings are in the New Testament. He speaks about a fellow Christian, a runaway slave, who's become like a son to him, he writes, because he's a fellow disciple of Christ, a member of the family.

Paul writes to another disciple and begs that disciple to accept his runaway slave back, not as a slave anymore, but as a brother in Christ. This is perfectly consistent with Jesus' gospel, and today we would understand that perfectly. There's a considerable change in our lives and relationships when we become true disciples of Christ.

Things change dramatically, old values and old ways of doing things end, and new values begin. The owner of a slave, which was quite a common practice in Roman times, that owner has paid an enormous price for becoming a Christian, because he's lost his slave. This slave, who has also become a Christian, is now a free person under Christ's law, because in Christ there's no distinction between slave and free, we're all free.

Whatever happened to Onesimus, was he freed as Paul requested? Well, I didn't know, but if we move on 50 years later, St Ignatius, one of the great Christian martyrs, is being taken to execution from Antioch to Rome, and as he goes, he writes letters, which still survive, to the churches of Asia Minor. He stops at Smyrna and writes to the church at Ephesus, and in the first chapter of that letter, he has much to say about their wonderful bishop, and the bishop's name is Onesimus. And Ignatius makes the same pun as Paul made, he is Onesimus by name, and Onesimus by nature.

That word means profitable, so he is profitable or useful to Christ, and it may well be that this is the same runaway slave, who has been released by his owner, and has become a wonderful member of the Christian faith, and later has become a great bishop of Ephesus. How wonderful are God's ways, well worth staying on this difficult path.

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SHARING THE WORD THROUGH THE LITURGICAL YEAR. GUSTAVO GUTIERREZ

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THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS:

→ SEPTEMBER 8 - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century, a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of Saint Anne, built in Jerusalem "where Mary was born". Observed in Rome in the seventh century, it was later used to determine the date of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Because of her importance in salvation history, Mary's birthday is celebrated as well as those of her son Jesus the Lord and of Saint John the Baptist (24 June).

→ SEPTEMBER 9 - m - Saint Peter Claver, priest

What can we do in the face of injustice and inhumanity? We read and hear about it in the news, we see it play out on our borders and in our cities. But what can one person do? Peter Claver, a pious seminarian from Spain who volunteered for the Spanish colonies, was deeply troubled by the treatment of slaves brought from Africa to Cartagena. He headed for the wharf as soon as a slave ship entered the port, boarded, and ministered to the desperately ill human cargo who had managed to survive the horrendous journey. He also advocated and petitioned, insisting that human rights be respected. No evil is so great that you cannot be a force for lessening it.

→ The Most Holy Name of Mary.

The commemoration began in Spain in 1513. The feast was extended to the entire Church following the defeat of Muslim armies at Vienna on this day in 1683 by a Polish army fighting under the name of Mary. By her name, Christians refer to the person of the Virgin Mary, mother of God and mother of the Church.

→ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Originally this day commemorated the dedication of Constantine's Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in the fourth century; after the celebration, the wood of the cross was venerated. The feast spread in the West after the recovery of the relics of the cross from

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Persia in the seventh century. A feast of the Lord, it celebrates the "lifting up" of the Son of Man on the cross into glory, and the paradox of the cross as a sign of humiliation and death, yet the source of victory and life.

→ Our Lady of Sorrows

This commemoration originated in the medieval devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary. Approved for the Servite order in the seventeenth century, it was extended to the whole Western Church in 1814 by Pius VII in thanksgiving for his release from captivity under Napoleon. In the light of Simeon's prophecy about a sword piercing Mary's soul (Luke 2:35), the feast celebrates Mary, the first disciple and the first to share in the pain and triumph of the cross.

The 7 Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

The First Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon and Anna

The Second Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt.

The Third Sorrow: The Loss, for three days, of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

The Fourth Sorrow: The Condemnation of Jesus.

The Fifth Sorrow: The Crucifixion of Jesus.

The Sixth Sorrow: The Retrieval of Jesus' Body.

The Seventh Sorrow: The Burial of Jesus.

→ Saint John Chrysostom

"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."

"If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice."

"Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward & learning to enjoy whatever life has, and this requires transforming greed into gratitude."

"Be ashamed when you sin, don't be ashamed when you repent [To repent means to have a change of heart and mind. It is not simply a feeling of sorrow, but a spiritual growth away from evil/death and a turning to God/life]. Sin is the wound, and repentance is the medicine. Sin is followed by shame, and repentance is followed by boldness - [Boldness means to beg God for undeserved mercy]. Satan has overturned this order and given boldness to sin and shame to repentance."

"Not to share our own wealth with the poor is theft from the poor and deprivation of their means of life; we do not possess our own wealth, but theirs." Saint John Chrysostom.

"The bee is more honoured than other animals, not because she labours, but because she labours for others."

"Why not learn to enjoy the little things- For there are so many of them."

POPE LEO REFLECTIONS -



Pope Leo calls for day of prayer and fasting for peace:

Although August 22 is well gone, it is still a very good idea for us each to dedicate a day or so to prayer and fasting with the intention of Peace, and peace that leads to disarmament.

**Pope Leo XIV invited the faithful to unite in prayer and fasting on 22 August for peace, and calls for a "disarmed and disarming peace" in all places torn by armed conflict.
By Vatican News**

Addressing the faithful gathered in the Paul VI Hall for his weekly General Audience, Pope Leo XIV turned his thoughts once more to the world's many conflict zones.

In recalling the upcoming liturgical commemoration of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is celebrated on Friday, 22 August, the Pope invited the faithful to celebrate that day by praying and fasting for peace.

"Mary is the Mother of the faithful here on earth and is remembered as the Queen of Peace," the Pope said.

As our world continues to be wounded by wars - in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, and in other parts of the world - the Pope invited all the faithful to take part in "a day of prayer and fasting" for all those who suffer because of war, "imploring the Lord to grant us peace and justice, and to wipe away the tears of those who suffer because of ongoing armed conflicts."

"May Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede so that peoples may find the path of peace," he

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added.

Pope Leo also greeted Polish-speaking faithful making a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa at Jasna Góra, who were attending the audience.

"I ask you", he said, "to include in your intentions the supplication for the gift of peace – a peace that is disarmed and disarming – for the whole world, especially for Ukraine and the Middle East."

(IMAGE: Asset id: 2626718303 - Rome, Italy - Pope Leo XIV, Editorial Use Only.

PHOTO FROM: Marco Iacobucci Epp)

LINKS & RESOURCES

Liturgy for you at Home (produced by SPP): [https:- soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks](https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks)

Weekly Homily (produced by SPP): [https:- homilycatholic.blogspot.com](https://homilycatholic.blogspot.com)

Surfers Paradise Parish Facebook: [https:- www.facebook.com/surferscatholic/](https://www.facebook.com/surferscatholic/)

Breaking Parish News (SPP Blog): [https:- news-parish.blogspot.com/](https://news-parish.blogspot.com/)

EthicsFinder is a free, global, digital resource of immense value to interested parishioners. Try ACU's free digital tool, www.ethicsfinder.com.

Readings for next weekend- Sunday, Sunday, 7 September 2025 - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C

FIRST READING- Wisdom 9:13-18b

Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14+17. "In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge"

SECOND READING- Philemon 9-10, 12-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Psalm 119:135). Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant. And teach me your laws.

GOSPEL- Luke 14:25-33

Commitment to Child Safety and Adults at Risk. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of our community. Please see the pages below for more information.

Acknowledgement of Country -

This is Kombumerri Country, the traditional custodian of this region.

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of this country. We pay our respects to the Kombumerri people, the traditional custodians of the land, waterways and seas upon which we live, work and socialise throughout this Catholic Parish of Surfers Paradise. We acknowledge Elders, past and present and emerging, as they hold our Indigenous people's memories, traditions, culture and hopes. We pay tribute to those who have contributed to the community's life in many ways. We affirm our commitment to justice, healing, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. (See further: [The Kombumerri People](#) and

<https://kombumerri.togetherproject.com/digital-resources/yugambeh-language/>)

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**** The significance of the ancient Catholic Blessing Symbol. "20 C+M+B 25"**

An ancient medieval practice that developed in the Catholic Church was to bless one's home with blessed chalk at the yearly Solemnity of the Epiphany. On the door or the lintel will be this symbol:



20 + C + M + B + 25 *

***"Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar" (the traditional names of the Three Wise Men)*

*And also representing the prayer: *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*

May Christ bless this home.

This means that 2000 years ago, after Christ's birth, Wise Men visited and gave homage to the Lord and were welcomed into the hospitality of the Holy Family's abode. We dedicate the present year, '25, of this century to the protection of the Lord.

May the Lord bless this abode.

The letters C+M+B represent Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior, the three Wise Men. CMB is also the initials of the Latin prayer "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" - "May Christ Bless this dwelling place/ abode/ home."

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Never Known to Fail)

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel,

Fruitful Vine, Splendour of Heaven,

Blessed Mother of the Son of God,

Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.

O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Queen of Heaven and Earth,

I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in this necessity (make your request here).

There are none that can withstand your power.

O Mary, conceived without sin,

pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times)

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times)

Amen.



SYNOD 24 - ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE - ACTION PLANS BASED ON THE PLENARY COUNCIL DECREES

Here is a brief summary of the declarations, (with the full document then following it)

Decree 1 (Healing Wounds):

- Archdiocese to develop Indigenous truth-telling, learning, and resource programs.
- Distribute culturally appropriate liturgical resources.
- Develop Indigenous learning opportunities.

Decree 2 (Seeking Healing):

- Engage with survivors via truth-telling and support programs.
- Reassess and focus Safeguarding Sunday with resources and rituals.
- Implement processes for forgiveness, apologies, and healing activities.

Decree 3 (Missionary Disciples):

- Form a family and intergenerational ministry group.
- Strengthen partnerships, develop inclusive sacramental resources, and support marginalized groups.
- Hold listening sessions and ecumenical/interfaith programs.
- Develop digital mission strategies and sports ministry.

Decree 4 (Dignity of Women and Men):

- Explore women's ordination implementation, if laws change.
- Establish a role for lay participation.
- Form a group on inclusive language and theological understanding of women.
- Support postgraduate education for women and men.

Decree 5 (Charisms and Ministries):

- Create a hospitality ministry for parish staff.
- Explore and develop ministries like catechist, lector, acolyte, and others.
- Form a Ministries Discernment Committee.
- Support lay-led liturgies and authorize lay presiding at funerals, baptisms, and weddings.

Decree 6 (Formation and Leadership):

- Develop leadership and formation resources (podcasts, modules, retreats) for emerging leaders.
- Facilitate ongoing spiritual growth opportunities for laypeople and clergy.
- Organize formation events on key topics (prayer, scripture, mission, inclusivity).
- Create pathways for lay involvement in clergy and seminarians' formation.
- Implement a mission-focused, synodal, co-responsible Church roadmap with local conversations.
- Teach discernment and Spirit-led listening, produce related media, and organize intercultural forums.
- Develop a comprehensive formation plan covering all eight Action Plans and provide implementation workshops.

Decree 7 (Governance):

- Regularly celebrate synods as part of Church life.
- Establish a Synod Council with diverse representation, including lay women, Indigenous persons, and people with disabilities.
- Develop statutes for the Synod Council.
- Run deanery-level projects to identify and mentor suitable laypeople for councils and committees, especially from underrepresented groups.
- Create a parish handover process with parish consultation and expectations for pastors.
- Conduct regular performance reviews and professional supervision for pastors.

Decree 8 (Ecology and Conversion):

- Develop and implement an integral ecology formation strategy for clergy, leaders, staff, and parishioners, revised every three years, incorporating Indigenous wisdom and eco-spirituality resources.
- Ensure all Laudato Si Action Plans include frameworks for measuring emission reductions and achieving net-zero targets with clear commitments and timelines.
- Develop and implement an Ecological Ministry Strategic Plan, recruiting deanery representatives to support ecological ministers, overseen by an Archdiocesan coordinator.

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- Promote intergenerational and family initiatives to foster ecological awareness and action.
- Facilitate sharing of ecological activities and foster cross-agency collaboration across the Archdiocese.
- Produce liturgical guidelines and resources to embed ecological commitments into worship.

Closing Remarks:

- Prioritize and accelerate existing initiatives, setting a goal to implement all action plans within five years.
- Establish oversight groups, including the Synod Council and Archdiocesan Synods, to monitor progress and coordinate efforts.
- Engage parishes, communities, and individuals in reading, reflecting, and creatively implementing action plans.
- Recognize additional future needs such as parish and school restructuring, youth engagement, prayer education, and contemplative practices, to be addressed alongside these plans.
- Read in conjunction with the Archbishop's document "With Lamps Ablaze" for broader priorities.
- Publish the synodal declarations and action plans to the entire community and forward a copy to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Overall Responsibility:

- Archdiocesan leadership, parishes, communities, agencies, and individuals are called to active participation.
- Oversight and progress monitoring will be managed by designated groups, ensuring timely and effective implementation.

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Here are the full decrees:



The Action Plans for the 8 Decrees that came out of the National Catholic Plenary Council initially, which we as a Parish participated in very enthusiastically, have now been through the process of SYNOD 24 for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and can be found by clicking on the link below or for those of us who are challenged in this area, we have also repeated below. We look forward to your respectful comments and meaningful discussion as to how we as a Parish go forward. Remembering we cannot do everything but can take one small step at a time. Once again we will call on the Holy Spirit to guide our decision making.

[Synod24-Decrees-Document-web.pdf](#)

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 1 - HEALING WOUNDS, RECEIVING GIFTS

The focus here is on the need for a new engagement of the Church with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, beginning with a new kind of listening in the belief that we all can and must learn from the first inhabitants of the land

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

*** That, building on the Archdiocesan Reconciliation Action Plan, the Archdiocese develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander truth-telling, professional learning and formation plan that provides opportunities for all those within parishes, communities and agencies to come to a deeper

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recognition, appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures and spiritualities

** That the Archdiocese develop and distribute culturally appropriate resources to assist parishes, communities and agencies to include aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, traditions, spiritualities, ritual and symbol in prayers and liturgies

** That the Archdiocese develop culturally specific learning and formation opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 2 - CHOOSING REPENTANCE, SEEKING HEALING

The focus here is on addressing sexual abuse in the Church, making amends for failures in the past and working to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, but especially for the young and the vulnerable

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

*** That in dialogue with survivors, the consequences of physical, sexual and spiritual abuse by Church personnel be addressed within the Archdiocese through truth-telling and story-telling sessions in safe spaces that may give survivors and their family members a voice to be heard and honoured, and support for research and programs related to trauma-informed spiritual care and the long-term impact of spiritual harm

** That a Sunday of the liturgical year be set aside within the Archdiocese to focus upon safeguarding and healing, with a reassessment of Safeguarding Sunday looking to rename, refocus and resituate it, with the preparation of appropriate ritual and resources, including an annual commissioning of local safeguarding people

** That the Archdiocese, in dialogue with survivors, implement processes that seek forgiveness for historical failings, recognising and addressing their needs. This could include a formal apology to survivors and their families, symbolic plaques and/or artwork in significant locations, theological reflection on sexual abuse within the Church which ought to be a place of refuge and safety, retreats and days of prayer that can foster healing, and the training of appropriately gifted people to undertake a ministry to survivors and their families.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 3 - CALLED BY CHRIST, SENT FORTH AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

The focus here is on the Church as a community of welcome for all, but especially for those who have been marginalised or excluded, listening to their stories and creating safe and hospitable spaces for them within the Church

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

*** That an Archdiocesan family and intergenerational ministry working group be formed to develop and implement a holistic, intergenerational and inclusive approach to family faith-formation across educational and other Archdiocesan agencies in order to foster lifelong missionary discipleship

** That this working group explore ways of strengthening partnerships between parishes, schools, communities and agencies, develop and implement

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sacramental resources for children with diverse learning needs and disabilities, including training for sacramental coordinators and volunteers to use the resources, develop a safe and supportive network for parents and carers of children and young people who may need additional support to feel welcome, offer advice upon request at decision-making tables at all levels of Archdiocesan governance.

* That there be in self-nominated Mass centres the Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations catering for diverse needs within the community, provided with resourcing around mentorship, formation, training and succession-planning for self nominated clergy, religious and laity

*** That the Archdiocese provide facilitated listening sessions, workshops and forums for safe and supportive story-telling, truth-telling and dialogue, in order to raise awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by those who are marginalised and disenfranchised

** That with the support and mentorship of the Archdiocesan Council for Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations, Queensland Churches Together and the Queensland Faith Communities Council, a co-responsible deanery approach to ecumenism and interreligious relations be developed and implemented, including short courses on ecumenism and interreligious relations, formation of individuals for work in ecumenical and interreligious relations, ecumenical retreats and pilgrimages, ecumenical and interreligious youth summits

*** That a strategic approach to mission in the digital environment be developed and implemented, focusing on the creation of digital media within a Catholic context, formation and training of people to work in the field, and including research into the possibilities and challenges of engaging the sacramental life of the Church through digital platforms such as live-streamed liturgies

** That the Archdiocese develop a pastoral ministry in sport, including formation and support programs and research into best practice and recommended qualifications, training and study pathways for sports chaplains.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 4 - WITNESSING TO THE EQUAL DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN

The focus here is on ensuring that the Church is a place where the equal dignity of women and men is respected and where the gifts of both women and men are identified and allowed to flourish for the sake of leadership within the Body of Christ

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

* That, if the universal law of the Church were modified to admit women to diaconal ordination, the Archdiocese examine how best to implement it in the context of the Church in Brisbane *** That a fulltime role of Executive Officer for Participation be established to design, implement and resource a plan for the full co-responsible participation of lay women and men in the life and mission of the Church ** That a reference group be established to explore options for the use of inclusive language in prayer, liturgy, scripture and all Archdiocesan communications * That a research project be established to explore the theological foundations of diverse understandings of women in the Church, leading to an assembly on co-responsibility of all the baptised in the life and

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mission of the Church *** That a pilot program be established to financially support the postgraduate education and formation of lay women and men in various areas of interest and importance to the Church, with the Archdiocese providing the initial funds with a view to establishing a foundation. A transparent application process would be overseen by the Archdiocesan Synod Council (see Action Plan 7) and approved finally by the Archbishop.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 5 - COMMUNION IN GRACE, SACRAMENT TO THE WORLD

The focus here is on the need to identify and foster the charisms given by God and to encourage new forms of ministry to supply the needs of the Church not only internally, for the sake of worship, but also externally, for the sake of mission

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

** That a ministry of front-of-house hospitality be developed and implemented for secretaries and other administrative staff in parishes and communities, recognising and formalising what is often happening, offering training and networking opportunities to those engaged in the ministry, devising processes of recruitment and care of those called to the ministry, and developing resources to help those engaged in the ministry

*** That the Archdiocese explore fully the possibilities of the ministries of catechist, lector and acolyte and consider what other ministries, open to all, instituted or not, might be needed to meet new needs

*** That the Archdiocese establish a Ministries Discernment Committee to oversee the recruitment, formation, commissioning, institution and continuing education of those preparing for or carrying out such ministries

** That the Archdiocese support and provide resources for lay-led liturgies where appropriate, particularly for parishes and communities without regular access to clergy

** That the Archdiocese give permission for lay people to preside at Catholic funerals and baptisms, indicating the circumstances in which this would be permitted and providing both discernment process and training programs for those involved in this ministry

** That the Archdiocese give permission for lay people to preside at Catholic weddings (in line with Chapter III of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony), indicating the circumstances in which this might occur and the process of delegation ** That the Archdiocese promote the participation of lay people in the ministry of preaching within the Sunday Mass and elsewhere, identifying the situations in which a lay person might offer a reflection during Mass, providing adequate training and support which would include sessions on how to run a Scripture study group, how to write and deliver a Lectionary-based reflection on the readings, how to make best use of the Directory for Masses with Children, drawing upon the resources of Archdiocesan agencies and organisations

*** That the Archdiocese develop and implement a project supporting the integration of families into parishes and communities in order to promote their sense of belonging and engagement in the life of the Church, providing resources to facilitate the incorporation of families into the community both before and after

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the sacraments of initiation and resources to support family catechesis when preparing children for the sacraments

** That the Archdiocese establish a network of groups working in marriage education and enrichment, including marriage preparation for engaged couples and ongoing accompaniment for married couples

*** That the Archdiocese develop and implement a formation strategy on the sacrament of penance and the many ways in which God's mercy is experienced in Christian life and liturgy, providing resources and examples, such as ritual outlines for the celebration of the sacrament of penance, including the second rite, offering retreat opportunities for different age groups to enable them to experience the sacrament of penance, and revising the current sacramental policy on the provision of first penance for children.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 6 - FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

The focus here is on providing in a variety of ways the formation needed for ordained and non-ordained leadership in the Church, so that leaders will be properly equipped for the ministry to which they are called

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

*** That the Archdiocese develop a plan for ministry and leadership formation, including a working group representing key people in formation and developing resources and programs on missional and synodal leadership such as podcasts, online modules and retreats, particularly for emerging leaders who have skills and qualifications equipping them for governance, leadership and other decision-making roles

* That the Archdiocese develop and implement opportunities for lay people to be engaged in ongoing spiritual growth beyond the liturgical context, including in small groups that meet regularly for prayer, bible study, reflection on Church documents, and spiritual accompaniment

* That parishes and deaneries offer formation events drawing upon experts to reflect on key topics such as prayer, scripture, sacraments, marriage and family, mission, care for our common home and inclusivity. SYNOD24

** That pathways for greater lay involvement in the ongoing formation of clergy and the formation of seminarians be identified, providing avenues for accompaniment of clergy by lay people and assisting pastors to work with a small group of lay people to provide regular feedback on homilies, based on an agreed criteria matrix

*** That the Archdiocese develop and implement a road-map for a mission focused Church that is synodal and co-responsible, including localised and ongoing conversations in the Spirit as a regular part of planning, decision-making, pastoral care and community-building

** That the Archdiocese teach simply and systematically the discipline and method of conversation in the Spirit as a way of discernment, attempting to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in listening to each other.

* That the Archdiocese produce podcasts and digital media resources exploring what it means to read the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel

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*** That the Archdiocese, at a time when the ethnic profile of the Catholic Church is changing both locally and globally, organise forums on interculturality in a missional, synodal and co-responsible Church.

*** That a SYNOD24 Formation and Implementation Plan be developed and implemented, providing opportunities for formation in all eight Action Plans and including resources and workshops in areas such as how to share faith with friends, how to engage with scripture, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island spirituality, integral ecology, sacraments and sacramentality, inclusive theology, the role of women in the Church, ecumenism and interreligious relations.

*** That the Archdiocese offers workshops and practical resources on how to implement the SYNOD24 Action Plans in parishes, communities and agencies across the Archdiocese.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 7 - AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION: GOVERNANCE

The focus here is on the governance of the Church in a synodal key, looking to synods as a regular feature of Church life and to synodality as the characteristic of all aspects of Church governance for the sake of mission

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

*** That the Archdiocese commit to celebrating Synods on a regular basis, so that this key element of synodality become a normal part of Archdiocesan life

*** That the Archdiocese establish a Synod Council which will meet regularly through the year between the Synods, members committing to formation in and practice of conversation in the Spirit as a key element of meetings and to formation in the nature and purpose of the Council

** That the Council commit to diverse representation including a mix of lay women and men, religious and the ordained.

** That the Archdiocese prepare Statutes for the Council ARCHDIOCESAN SUMMIT 2023 2 4 / ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE SYNOD24 Action Plans

** That the Archdiocese develop and implement a project to operate at deanery level to identify lay people who are women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, persons with a disability or from a cultural community, and who seem suitable to serve on councils and committees in the parish or the Archdiocese with the right kind of mentorship, accompaniment and formation, especially in the areas of synodality, co-responsibility and mission

** That the Archdiocese develop and implement a parish handover process that includes consultation with members of the parish, especially the Parish Pastoral Council, and the preparation of a statement of what the parish expects of a pastor.

* That there be in the Archdiocese regular performance reviews of pastors to identify areas of strength and areas for growth, with ongoing professional supervision to foster growth.

PLENARY COUNCIL DECREE 8 - INTEGRAL ECOLOGY AND CONVERSION FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COMMON HOME

The focus here is on the need for ecological conversion in the life and mission of the Church, understanding that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are the

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one thing, and that ecological conversion must lead to action

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ACTION PLANS

*** That an integral ecology formation strategy be developed and implemented for clergy, community leaders, agency staff and parishioners, to be revised every three years, helping them to grow in understanding of integral ecology and its impact on our behaviour and drawing where appropriate on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wisdom, and engaging with already existing eco-spirituality resources

* That all organisations, parishes and schools writing a Laudato Si Action Plan include a framework for measuring and reporting emission reduction that leads to a considered net zero pathway that includes commitment and timeframes.

* That, in addition to the emission reduction strategies, Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) priorities be developed in the Archdiocese with a view to assisting all agencies, parishes and communities to embed measurable ESG outcomes into their future Laudato Si Action Plans. SANTA TERESA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE.

*** That an Ecological Ministry Strategic Plan be developed and implemented to support ecological ministry throughout the Archdiocese, recruiting deanery representatives to create hubs that support ecological ministers overseen by a coordinator employed by the Archdiocese to support action in parishes and communities

* That intergenerational and family initiatives be developed to promote the call to care for our common home

* That parishes, communities and agencies share their activities in the area of ecological engagement at events and through avenues of communication, and that cross-agency collaboration in this area be coordinated and encouraged throughout the Archdiocese.

*** That the Archdiocese produce guidelines and resources for parish clergy and liturgy coordinators indicating ways in which a commitment to integral ecology can be integrated into liturgical celebrations.

CLOSING REMARKS

Some of these action plans already have currency in one form or other in the Archdiocese, or at least in some parts of the Archdiocese. The task will be to give greater impetus and focus to those that already have currency, but also to set in motion the processes to which others look. Not all the action plans will be able to be implemented immediately, but none of them can be delayed indefinitely. Therefore, priorities will have to be set in the hope that the action plans will have been implemented within five years. Budgeting will also need to be considered, as will the question of who has carriage of the various initiatives. There will need to be a group to oversee the implementation of the action plans, the Synod Council will also be charged with oversight of a broader kind, and the Archdiocesan Synods will monitor progress. Yet this is a document not just for some. It is for everyone; and I urge all parishes, communities, agencies and individuals to read and reflect upon the action plans and to be as creative as possible in implementing them. These action plans are comprehensive but not exhaustive.

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There are things not mentioned in this document which are important for the future of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. For instance, we will certainly need to consider restructuring our parishes and even our schools, looking not so much to amalgamation but more to building a “community of communities”. How to engage young people more energetically in the life of the Church is another question not prominent in these action plans but essential for the future of the Church. How to be more effective in teaching prayer as a way of life, the art of listening to God in prayer and the contemplative eye upon the world: this is another. The list could go on. This is another way of saying that these action plans should be read in conjunction with my own document “With Lamps Ablaze” which sets out a number of what I called apostolic priorities for the Archdiocese. These interweave with the action plans found here. I direct that these synodal declarations and decrees which I sign in accord with can. 466 be published to the entire community of the Archdiocese and that a copy be forwarded to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference as required by can. 46. I thank all who have been part of the Synod journey, having heard the Lord’s promise to “make all things new” (Revelation 21:5). I commend these action plans to the grace of the Holy Spirit from whom this process has come forth and to the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, St Stephen and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. May God who has begun the good work in us bring it to fulfilment (cf Philippians 1:6)

+ Mark - Archbishop of Brisbane - November 2024



Safeguarding Framework

“The Church loves all her children like a loving mother, but cares for all and protects with a special affection those who are smallest and defenceless. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community.”

– Apostolic Letter issued ‘motu proprio’ by the Supreme Pontiff Francis 4 June 2016

Purpose

The purpose of the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework is to promote a culture of safeguarding within the Archdiocese and reduce the risks of abuse and harm.

Scope

The Safeguarding Framework applies to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Brisbane.

The framework applies to all Archdiocesan workers.

Framework

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

The Archdiocese adopts and adheres to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

The Standards apply to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop.

Commitment Statement

The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services.

The safety and well-being of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Safeguarding Principles

The following principles guide safeguarding practice in the Archdiocese:

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

Everyone who interacts with the Archdiocese is treated with dignity and respect.

The protection and best interests of children and adults at risk are prioritised.

Safe physical and online environments are provided.

Safeguarding and abuse risks are actively identified and managed.

Compliance with safeguarding standards, policies, procedures, and guidelines is monitored.

Abuse concerns, suspicions, disclosures, allegations, reports and incidents are responded to promptly and effectively.

All statutory obligations to report suspected abuse or harm are complied with.

Safeguarding Governance –Monitoring and Compliance

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is committed to continuous improvement of its safeguarding practice, and compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards is monitored through a program of internal and external auditing.

Non-compliance with this framework, which seriously jeopardises the safety and

wellbeing of others, will be reported to the Vicar General and may be grounds for disciplinary action resulting in dismissal or termination of employment and reporting to church and/or statutory authorities.

Download a copy of the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework

For more information about the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework, contact the Office for Safeguarding Services at safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au or on 07 3324 3752.

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

See also this video on safeguarding -

<https://youtu.be/8AASKl-Sr1A?si=OF6XwqzagYt5fF9d>

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Safeguarding (Children and adults-at-risk)-

StopLine - The Archdiocese of Brisbane Whistleblower Hotline 1300 30 45 50

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

- **Safeguarding Officer - Surfers Parish - (relating to child safety and adults at risk) Robyn Hunt Safeguarding officer - contact lsr.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au - phone - 0409 486 326**



Safeguarding Officer - Surfers Paradise Parish - Robyn Hunt

- **STOPline**

<http://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com>

Email: A0B@stopline.com.au

Phone: 1300 304 550

STOPline is an independent service that receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by workers (including priests, religious employees, educators, practitioners, support workers and volunteers).

- **Archdiocese of Brisbane**

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/support/safeguard>

- **Office for Safeguarding Services:**

Phone: 07 3324 3752

Email: safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding

Level 2 Penola Place, 142 Edward Street, Brisbane

- **Professional Standards Office Queensland**

www.psoqld.catholic.net.au

- **Safeguarding Training**

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>

- **[Incident Report Form](#)**

Each Parish in the Archdiocese of Brisbane has a Local Safeguarding Representative who is responsible for:

1. Making sure that the whole parish is aware of the importance of safeguarding children and adults at risk.
 2. Promoting safe practices, including articulating for others what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, and
 3. Assisting the Parish Priest and staff in the implementation of the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Adults-at-risk Policy in the Parish
- The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children & Adults-at-risk Prevention & Protection Policy can be found at:

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/support/safeguard>

WAYS TO REPORT A SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT OR CONCERN OR TO GIVE FEEDBACK REGARDING SAFEGUARDING

Here is how you can report an incident or concern, or contact someone to talk about a safeguarding matter or get more information:

- Talk to the police (Emergency: '000' Non-emergency: 131 444) or KidsHelpLine (1800 55 1800 or www.kidshelpline.com.au)
- Through the anonymous STOpline (1300 304 550 or AOB@stopline.com.au)
- talk to our Local Parish Safeguarding Representative
- **Fill out a Safeguarding Incident Report and send it to safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au or GPO Box 282 Brisbane Qld 4001**

VOLUNTEERS - Parish Ministries, Groups etc.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has implemented standards of conduct for voluntary church workers to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment. Our commitment to these standards requires that we have a record of your Blue Card and conduct background referencing for all who intend to engage in voluntary ministry, having direct and regular involvement with children, young people and adults at risk.

- [Safe Conduct Standards \(Archdiocese of Brisbane\)](#)
- [Prior Conduct Declaration \(Archdiocese of Brisbane\)](#)
- [Archdiocese of Brisbane Policy Whistleblower](#)

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has the following safeguarding training packages, Safeguarding Induction, Applied Safeguarding Training and Training for Local Safeguarding Representatives, which can be viewed here:

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>

BLUE CARD - 'No Card, No Start'

Individuals must have a valid blue card before starting paid work or volunteering. All cardholders must apply to renew their blue card before it expires to continue working/volunteering. If an individual lets their card expire, they must cease work until they obtain a new valid blue card. **For further information about the Blue Card Application process, please click**

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[here >>](#)

SEE ALSO

- [Criminal History Statutory Declaration](#)
- [‘Police Check’ can now be completed online using InterCheck.](#)

Volunteers can do this via the Volunteer Portal, <http://archbne.org/welcome>, which will inform them whether they need a Police Check for their ministry.

- [Online Police Checks - User Guide](#)

Surfers Paradise Parish Mission Statement.

We, the Catholic community of Surfers Paradise, guided by the Holy Spirit, strive to live the mission of Jesus through the spirituality of stewardship.

We are all brothers and sisters in the family of God, and we believe in the inherent dignity, reverence and sanctity of all humans as lovingly created children of God.

Centred in the Eucharist and nourished by word and sacrament, we proclaim by faith and action the love of God for all.

We seek in our daily lives and actions, and in our wider community participation, to live consistently and practically each day of the week, what we proclaim in worship of God on Sundays.

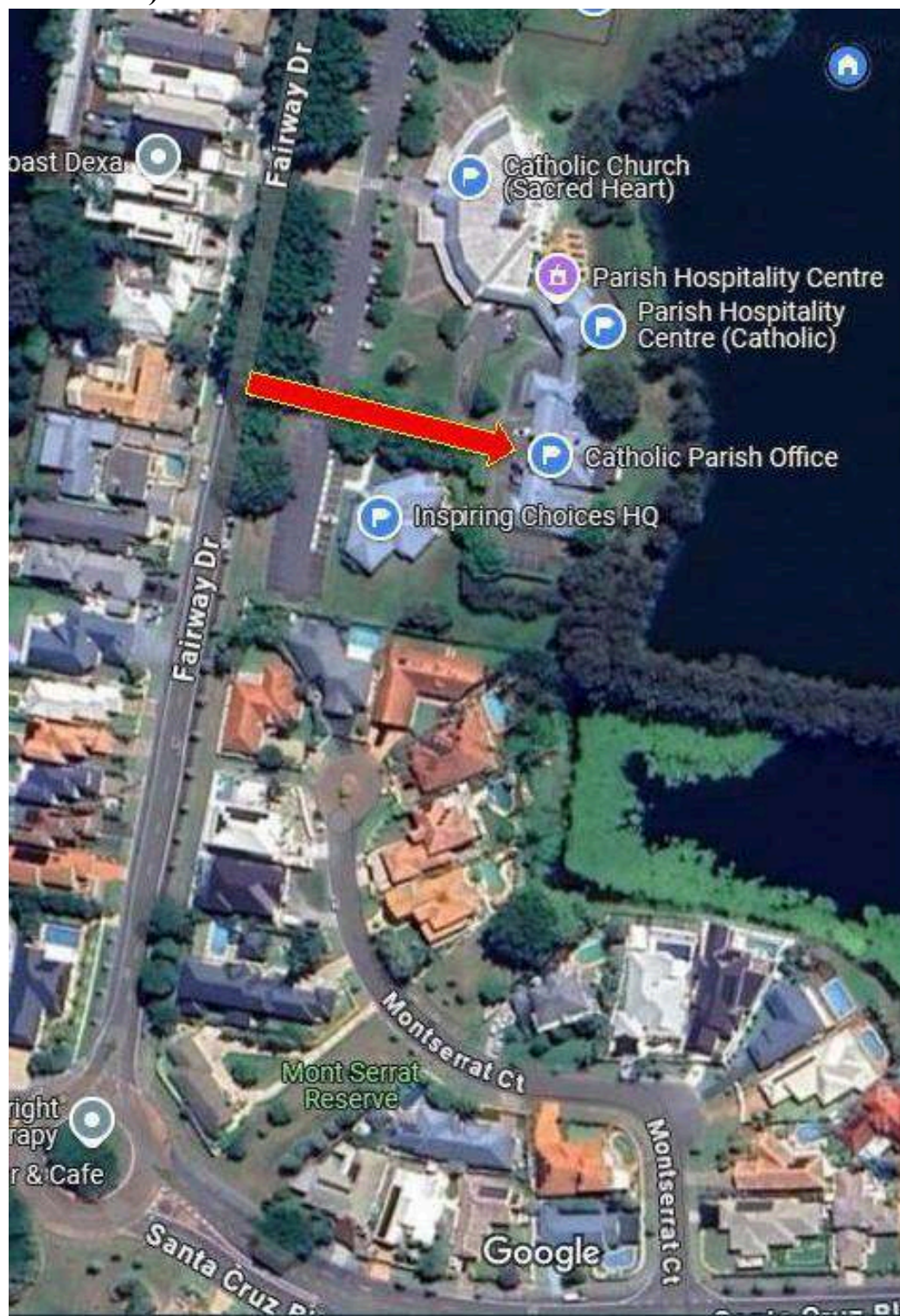
In the spirit of gratitude, we live out this mission by

- **Committing to be prayerful disciples of Jesus Christ.**
- **Recognising and sharing our gifts and talents.**
- **Active involvement in the life of the parish, for the sole purpose of promoting the honour and glory of God, through our care and love of our neighbour**
- **Hospitality, charity, justice and compassion in practical ways.**
- **Nurturing our young people.**

Sacred Heart Church and Parish office - (directions and location)

50 Fairway Drive. Clear Island Waters. Queensland 4226

(The best entry is the southern entrance off Fairway Drive, nearest to Santa Cruz Boulevard).



map: -

https://www.google.com/search?q=50+fairway+drive+clear+island+waters+qld+map&rlz=1C1GCEA_enAU797AU797&oq=50+fairway+drive+clear+island+waters+qld+map&aqs=chrome..69i57.8142j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

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Please see below for a photo of the Catholic Parish office(with the name “Glendalough - Parish Office” written on a sign over the door - Glendalough is pronounced “Glenda-lock” and is named after a famous Irish location where Catholic Saint Kevin lived- one of our schools in the parish is named St Kevin’s in honour that patron saint).



below is a picture of the Sacred Heart church which is located on the same grounds - (to the left of the parish office)



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