



Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

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Address: Bryant St, Pialba Q 4655
PO Box 3250, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4pm

20th December / 21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our Parish Churches

St Joseph's Church

Bryant St, Pialba

St Patrick's Church

82 William St, Howard

Mass Centre

St Peter the Fisherman

Burrum Heads Rd

Burrum Heads

Parish Priest

Fr. Jacob Kalu

kaluj@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Staff

Audrey Yu

Pastoral Ministry Coordinator

Winnie Mujunen

Parish Secretary

Nimal Abeywardena

Finance Officer

Gary Varley

Safeguarding Officer

Naomi Kidd

Chaplain – OzCare

Schools

Star of the Sea School

33-35 Hughes Rd

Wondunna, Hervey Bay

PH: 4125 1220

Principal: Nathan Wilson

Outside School Hours Care

Star of the Sea School

Wondunna, Hervey Bay

PH: 4125 6051

Childcare (6wks – 5yrs)

Wondunna, Hervey Bay

PH: 4194 6155

Xavier Catholic College

Eli Waters, Hervey Bay

PH: 4197 1177

Principal: Simon Dash

Welfare Groups

St Vincent De Paul:

21 Liuzzi St Pialba

4338 5850

Centacare:

3324 3800

This Sunday's readings: R1. Is 7:10-14 | R2. Rom 1:1-7 | G. Mt 1:18-24

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,



We are at the end of Advent season. As we make our final preparations for Christmas, we may wonder how we should spend these last few days preparing our hearts. The response from today's responsorial psalm says "Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory." What better way to make our final preparations for Christmas, than by meditating on this response? If we take some time over the next few days to repeat it to ourselves and reflect on its meaning, then when Christmas Day comes, we will be much more ready to enter the full celebration of Christ's birth.

We are being reminded that we are free to either accept or reject God, that God does not impose himself on us. God is never forceful with us, but rather invites us to encounter him in our daily life. We can spend the next few days simply asking ourselves, "Am I letting the Lord in? Or am I shutting him out? Do I make choices that lead me closer to God, or do the choices I make lead me away from God?" Each of us is born with the capacity to choose the One who first chose us, who wants to enter. And that is what God desires; to enter into relationship with us. To come into our lives and be Emmanuel, "God with us." To walk side by side with us in our jobs or classrooms. To sit at the dinner table with our families. To put an arm around our shoulder when we have got bills to pay and no money to pay them. To cheer for us at our games.

The first part of the antiphon, "Let the Lord enter," is our response to God's ongoing invitation. It is our "yes" to God. "Yes, Lord, I, too, want a relationship with you. Come into my life. I freely choose you, just as you first freely chose me." The king of glory wishes to bring that glory into our lives as a gift. This is what we see in the gospel today in the life of Joseph. Joseph is about to unknowingly turn away the Saviour by quietly divorcing Mary. Mary is with child, and the child is not his. According to the law, the just thing to do is to divorce her, and the merciful thing is to do it quietly so that the real father can step forward and claim the child.

It is then that the angel reveals the truth and says, "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." The angel is saying, "God has come to you, Joseph. Will you accept him?" In other words, "Let the Lord enter." The words of the angel also invite Joseph to action. He takes Mary into his home, places her and the child under his protection, devotes his life to loving them. He names the child Jesus. God's invitation always prompts us to action. To be a disciple means more than just hearing the good news, it means acting on it. As Christmas approaches, and we begin to let the Lord, the king of glory enter into our lives, what is God asking us to do?

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 22nd December 2025 to 28th December 2025

St Joseph's Church Hervey Bay

Monday 8am Mass
Wednesday 6pm Mass Christmas Eve
Thursday Christmas Midnight Mass
7am Mass Christmas Day
9am Mass Christmas Day
Friday 8am Mass
Saturday 8am Mass
6pm Mass
Sunday 7am Mass
9am Mass



St Patrick's Church Howard

Sunday Mass: 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month
@ 4pm

St Peter the Fisherman Burrum Heads

Mass: 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month @ 4pm



www.herveybaycatholic.com.au



Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

WE PRAY FOR:

THE SICK: Melinda Audesho, Fe Adilan, Marivic Barrameda, Roman Brackowski, June Bearsley, Gerard Clinch, Marilyn Cotis, Pat Deeley, Carmen Hoolihan, Keith & Angela Mawer, Nina Mironov, Marilyn Monsour, Dot Phillips, Marivic Quiobe, Elaine Sanders, Gerry Sharpe, Jo Shorrock, Doris Sutton, Pam Truscott, Len van Buren, Petrus Van Lierop, John Wilson, Tony & Janette Davies, Linda Sharpe, Joy Smith, Sr Layola, Barry Larsen, Merilyn Baldwin

RECENTLY DECEASED: John William Barker, Natalie Rita Athniel, Colin Barron, John Anthony Crowley, Thomas Mullen, Tim Roker, Teresita Castillo, Neil Harrigan, Ian Withers, Sally Richard, Salvador Rapi, Tony Cavanagh, Rod & Anne Gollan, Kathy Byrne, Philip Picknel, Michael James Crowe, Francisco Tirado

ANNIVERSARY: Bob Cavanagh, Jennie Carthew, Claire White, Ronald Byrne, William Byrne, Gordon Leck, Claude & Eileen Entriiken, Hazel Berecny, Maria Rodriguez, Antonio & Elena Vitor, Violita Gandionco, Zenaída Capitulo, Mathew Berecny Snr, Charles R. Boston, Margaret Ryan, Errol Pierce, Barry Foot, Lourdes Quitano, Franklin Soliman, Geoffrey Miller, Nev Drury

WE CELEBRATE:

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Paula Hewett

DECEMBER WEDDING ANN.:

PIETY STALL. Still looking for last minute Christmas gifts? Come support our Parish Piety Stall. Beautiful handmade Christmas cards and new stocks are available. Open each weekend before and after Mass. *No EFTPOS.*

Join us in the **John Paul Centre** for a cuppa following the **9 AM Mass this Sunday, 21st December**, hosted by **Family Group 5.**

On **Christmas Day (25th December)**, we will gather again for a joyful **Christmas morning tea** after the **9 AM Mass**. Everyone is welcome to bring a plate to share as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour together as a community.

Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

The Jubilee Year will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on the **6th January 2026**, the feast of the Epiphany. Please enjoy singing along with the choir the beautiful hymn of the Jubilee "Pilgrims of Hope" while there is still time.

The Jubilee Year also looks ahead to 2033, when the church will mark the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, which Pope Francis called "another fundamental celebration for all Christians."

PARISH GROUPS

Legion of Mary

St Vincent de Paul

Ministry of Consolation

Parish Craft Group

Cenacle "Divine Mercy"

Cenacle of Prayer
(Immaculate Heart of Mary)

El Shaddai

Health Care with Christ

Kids Club - grades 1-8



*A Blessed Christmas and
Happy New Year from
all our Parish Groups.*

*Thank you for all
your support
throughout 2025.*



**All groups will meet again in 2026.
Dates will be announced early
in the New Year.**



THE 4TH CANDLE OF ADVENT

The fourth candle of Advent represents **Love**, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us.

Called the "Angel's Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth. ([Source](#))

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming." – Catechism of the Catholic Church, #524

The Lord is at hand: come let us adore him.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Please note that the parish office will be closed for Christmas and New Year, from **Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026**. The office will open on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

CHRISTMAS 2025 MASS TIMES

St Joseph's Church, Bryant St., Pialba

Carols 30 mins prior to all Masses

Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24th December

Carols at 5 pm

Christmas Nativity Play at 5.30 pm

6 pm Mass

Christmas Midnight Mass at 12 midnight

Christmas Day – Thursday, 25th December

7 am Mass & 9 am Mass

St Patrick's Church, William St., Howard

Christmas Day – Thursday, 25th December

4 pm Mass

ARCHBISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY RESPONDS TO BONDI ATTACK



We are profoundly saddened by the tragic events that unfolded in Bondi last Sunday. Standing in solidarity with people of all faiths across Australia, we extend our deepest condolences to the Jewish community and hold in prayer all who are grieving and impacted.

Read Archbishop Mackinlay's statement, along with reflections from other Australian Church leaders, as they respond to this atrocity:

<https://bit.ly/4pOgjiY>

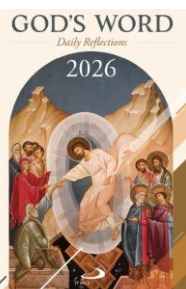
MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

"The only thing death cannot touch is everything we have loved."



The Ministry of Consolation is offering support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. Reach out to Gary Varley on 0497 970 365.

The weather is warming up. Please remember to stay hydrated at all times. Feel free to bring a water bottle along to church. *Strictly no food allowed inside the church.*



God's Word 2026

God's Word for year 2026 is now on sale in the Piety Stall. Cost per book is \$15 only. Everyone is encouraged to get a copy as it is a great little book for personal reflection and the practice of *Lectio Divina*.



Daily Reflection for Lent

The Journey Home – A Lent 2026 daily prayer and reflection is now available for order. The order sheets are available at the church entrances for you to add your name and contact number, or you may contact the Parish Office. Cost per book is **\$5** to be paid on collection.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS GIVING

This Advent and Christmas, please remember those less fortunate than yourself. Collection baskets can be found at both entrances of the Church for items such as: non-perishable items, sanitary items, nappies and toiletries. Donation envelopes are also available at the church's newsstand.

STOPline To report 'reportable conduct' under the Archdiocesan Whistleblower Policy email to: aob@stopline.com.au or Phone: 1300 30 45 50

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Email: torquayoshc@bne.centacare.net.au

Star of the Sea Childcare Centre
64 Washington Dr, Wondunna
PH: 4194 6155
Email: dir.hevybayld@bne.cntacar.net.au

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SAFEGUARDING
The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

Information on Safeguarding is now available on our website.

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