



31st January / 1st February 2026

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](mailto:kalu@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

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's readings: R1: Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13 | R2: 1 Cor 1:26-31 | G: Mt 5:1-12

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

What we call the eight beatitudes in today's gospel, is like a summary of Jesus' teaching. It is the gospel in a condensed form and, therefore, requires a great deal of teasing out to get to the simple point-by-point message that it contains.

We are all familiar with political manifestos. These are statements about where the political party is at, what they stand for, what is in it for you if you vote for them, and what they intend to achieve if you elect them. Today's gospel is Jesus' Manifesto. The important thing for us to remember is that, in the words of Jesus, "heaven and earth will pass away before my word passes away." In other words, this is a manifesto in which he certainly will keep his side of the bargain.

There is a lot of teaching contained in this gospel, and to put the beatitudes into simple ordinary words, these might help us. They are blessed who are detached, and have a humble attitude. Even if they have great riches, the riches do not possess them, nor are they boastful and proud about them. Grief is the price you pay for love, so, if you have any capacity for love, then you will need to carry some tissues with you. If you never want to cry at a funeral, do not ever love anyone. The meek and the gentle are the opposite to the bully, and they are the ones who are really powerful.

They are good people who have a real desire for justice and fair play, and who are prepared to ensure that this is available to others. As you treat others, so you yourself will be treated, so if you want mercy, forgiveness, and compassion, then you must begin by giving these to others. A pure heart is not devious, deceitful, selfish, and cunning. A pure heart reflects an aspect of God.

Jesus did not say that they are blessed who have peace. Rather, he commands those who build bridges of peace and reconciliation between others, and between themselves and others. Jesus warns us that, if we follow him, we will be treated like he was, and following him means taking up the cross. Right from the beginning when Simeon took the child in his arms in the temple, he announced that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction. Everything he said, everything he did, and everything he stood for, was a contradiction to this world and its values. Those with power, prestige, and control were threatened by him. The religious leaders who ran the show, and who were the final arbiters as to what was right and wrong, were so threatened by him that they planned and succeeded in killing him.

There is a certain sense of cleansing in today's gospel. It is about letting go of things in our lives that are not life giving, and about becoming wholesome and free. It is a programme for living, a blueprint for inner peace and happiness. Spirituality is totally the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is about surrender. Spirituality is about letting go, knowing that, in death, I must let go of everything anyhow. To live life more fully, it is necessary to be as free from outside controls as possible.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 2nd February 2026 to 8th February 2026

St Joseph's Church Hervey Bay

Monday	9.30am Anointing Mass
Wednesday	5.30pm Mass
Thursday	8am Mass
Friday	8am Liturgy of the Word
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.hervebaycatholic.com.au



Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH: Saturdays @ 5pm or by appointment

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

WE PRAY FOR:

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Tony Cavanagh, Rod & Anne Gollan, Kathy Byrne, Philip Picknel, Michael James Crowe, Francisco Tirado, Patricia Nancarrow, Felix Chua Jnr, Mark Thomas Fletcher, Nathan Adam Keegan, Lucena Bacilio, Graham Minchem, Andres Medardo Enzon II, Alicia Carreon, Peter Hawkins

ANNIVERSARY: Jennifer Weaver, Renato Gungob, Timotea Gungob, Anthony Cefai, Paul Attard, Magdalina Mugot, Keith Berecry, Margaret Treston, Reg Treston, Ophelia Lambon, Charles Boston

WE CELEBRATE:

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: Con Ryan

JANUARY WEDDING ANN.:

Are you new to our Parish?

If you are new to our Parish and our community, please register you and your family on Flocknote by using this link: herveybayparish.flocknote.com.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES READY TO BE COLLECTED

For parishioners who give by the envelope system, the Planned Giving Envelopes for **February to July 2026** are ready for collection from the Newsstand in the church. If you would like to start giving using Planned Giving Envelopes, please contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PARENTS INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents who would like to register their children for the Sacrament of Penance are invited to attend our Parents Information Night on **Monday, 2 February, 6.30 pm** at St Joseph's Church.

PIETY STALL. If you are looking for a unique gift or cards for loved ones, or something for yourself, come support our Parish Piety Stall. New stocks available. Open each weekend before and after Mass. **No EFTPOS.**

Please join us in the John Paul Centre for a cuppa after the 9am Mass this Sunday, 1 February, hosted by the **EI Shaddai**.

Next Sunday, 8 February to be hosted by **Health Care with Christ**.

PARISH GROUPS	Meeting:	Time	Place
Legion of Mary	Mondays	8.45am	Sr Scholly Hall
St Vincent de Paul	Monday, 9 th February 2026	3pm	Sr Scholly Hall
Ministry of Consolation	1 st Tuesday of each month	2pm	Sr Scholly Hall
Parish Craft Group	1 st Wednesday of each month, returning 4 th February 2026	9am	John Paul Centre
Cenacle "Divine Mercy"	Thursdays; returning on 5 th February 2026	9am	Sr Scholly Hall
Cenacle of Prayer (Immaculate Heart of Mary)	Fridays (No meeting on the 1 st Friday of the month)	8.30am	MacKillop Library
EI Shaddai	Saturdays	1pm	John Paul Centre
Health Care with Christ	4 th Sunday of the month	10.30am	Sr Scholly Hall
Kids Club - grades 1-8	1 st & 3 rd Sundays of the month (school term only)	10.30am	Sr Scholly Hall

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord



Image: Ludovico Carracci, via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

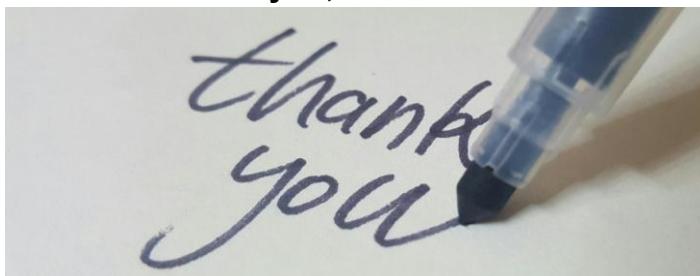
The feast of the Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on 2 February each year, traditionally known as 'Candlemas'. Falling forty days after Christmas, it commemorates the moment Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple, fulfilling the ritual requirements of the Law of Moses.

The feast reminds us that our belief in God is often lived out in honouring the observance of our faith. Mary and Joseph were obedient to God's law, despite Mary's unique holiness as the sinless Mother of God and Jesus' divinity. Their willingness to submit to the law of Moses demonstrates how they lived out their faith in humble, ordinary ways.

A long-standing Candlemas tradition is the **blessing and lighting of candles**, a powerful sign that the light of Christ shines in darkness. ([Source](#))

This year, the feast coincides with our Anointing Mass. **Parishioners are invited to bring their candles during the Anointing Mass to be blessed.** Please label your candles to avoid any mixed-ups.

Thank you, Father John!



Fr John Grace will be leaving for Brisbane on Friday morning, 6 February. There will be no Mass that morning; instead, a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion will be celebrated.

The Parish Office has organised a farewell lunch with Fr John on **Wednesday, 4 January at 11.30 am** at the **RSL**. If you would like to join the luncheon, please contact the Parish Office.

We thank Fr John for his care and dedication to our parish community, and we pray that he continues to serve God faithfully wherever he is called.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HERVEY BAY

Please support the needy of this City by placing any non-perishable food items in the baskets at the front doors of the Church. Envelopes are also available inside the church on the newsstand & from the Parish Office. *Thank you, Hervey Bay Parishioners, for your generosity and continued support!*

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.*

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 Ministry of Consolation welcomes anyone who feels called to support those experiencing grief.

Lenten Programme 2026



This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February, marking the beginning of the Season of Lent.

As with previous years, the Parish is planning to run a weekly Lenten reflection by using the booklet *The Journey Home*. The time of the reflection will be announced nearer the time. *The Journey Home – A Lent 2026 daily prayer and reflection* is now available for order. [Please place your order by 6 February.](#)

Cost per book is **\$5** to be paid on collection.

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.

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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Star of the Sea Childcare Centre
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