

25th July / 26th July 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: kgs3:5, 7-12 | R2: Rom 8:28-30 | G: Mt 13:44-52

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

Finding the True Treasure Within. If God appeared to you tonight in a dream and whispered, "Ask what you would like me to give you," what would your answer be? Would you ask for a cure for an illness, a solution to a financial burden, or perhaps peace in a fractured relationship?

In our first reading from the Book of Kings, a young King Solomon is given exactly this choice. He doesn't ask for a long life, riches, or the destruction of his enemies. Instead, he asks for an understanding heart to discern between good and evil, so he may govern his people well. Solomon understands that worldly wealth is fleeting, but the wisdom to walk in alignment with God is a permanent asset. This request sets the stage for Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Matthew, where he concludes his great discourse on the parables of the Kingdom. Jesus reveals what ultimate wisdom looks like in action through three brief images: a buried treasure, a merchant seeking fine pearls, and a dragnet cast into the sea.

The Joy of Single-Minded Surrender. In the first two parables, Jesus describes individuals who discover something of incomparable value; the Labourer: A man stumbles upon a treasure hidden in a field and the Merchant, a trader actively searches for fine pearls and finds one of supreme quality. Though their paths to discovery are different, one finds it by surprise, the other through a lifelong search, their responses are identical. They instantly sell everything they own to possess it. Notice the specific detail Jesus includes about the labourer: "in his joy he goes and sells all that he has." This surrender is not a painful, legalistic sacrifice. It is a joyful clearance of what is lesser to make room for what is absolute. When you find the true treasure, giving up your old attachments does not feel like a loss. It feels like a rescue.

Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of God is not just a future destination, but a present reality that demands our total, single-minded allegiance. It requires us to look at our lives and ask: What am I holding onto that prevents me from fully possessing the love, peace, and grace of God?

Sifting the Baggage of Life. The final parable shifts from discovery to discernment. Jesus compares the Kingdom to a dragnet that gathers fish of every kind. When it is hauled ashore, the fishermen sit down to sort the good from the bad. This image reminds us that our time on earth is a period of accumulation, but an ultimate hour of reckoning will come. The net of the Church spreads wide, welcoming everyone. However, just as the fishermen sort their catch, we are called to daily sit down and sort through our own hearts. We must regularly sift out the unnecessary baggage we gather; greed, pride, self-reliance, and resentment, and retain only what is good, righteous, and eternal. As Saint Paul comforts us in his second reading to the Romans, this process is held together by divine providence: "All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Even our struggles and failures can be reordered by God to conform us into the image of His Son. The central challenge of this Sunday is to re-evaluate our deepest desires. *True wisdom is recognizing that God does not merely offer us treasures; He is the treasure.*

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 27th July to 2nd August 2026

St Joseph's Church Hervey Bay

Monday 8am Mass
 Wednesday 5.30pm Mass
 Thursday 8am Mass
 Friday 8am Mass & Benediction
 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

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

2nd Reading: Romans 8:35,37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

The Pope's Prayer Intention for July

For respect for human life: Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

WE PRAY FOR:

THE SICK: Melinda Audesho, Fe Adilan, Marivic Barrameda, Roman Braczowski, June Bearsley, Gerard Clinch, Marilyn Cotis, Carmen Hoolihan, Nina Mironov, Marilyn Monsour, Dot Phillips, Marivic Quiobe, Elaine Sanders, Doris Sutton, Petrus Van Lierop, John Wilson, Tony & Janette Davies, Linda Sharpe, Joy Smith, Sr Layola, Marilyn Baldwin, Ruby Magrata, Jennifer Burow, Maria Ruttman, Marie Fowles, Lisa Wong-Kam

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rick Reardon, Felix Chua Jnr, Bigy Sacluti, Lucena Baculio, Nathan Adam Keegan, Helen Andrews (Tully), Di London, Ron Telford, John Welch, Ross Tapsall, Julie Cantar, Gerald Schrama, Gerry Sharpe, Spera Scriha, Elizabeth Mendoza, Patricia Mary Eekelschot, Frank Bedford

ANNIVERSARY: Nena Baculio, Roger Yting, Juanito Yting, Uldarico Magtolis, Cecil Porter, Norma Arboiz, Neville Entriiken, Pexie Ernest, Janice Dullaway, Shannon Reardon, Beatrice Berecny, Potenciano Baculio, Glenda & Des Govers, Tim Roker

WE CELEBRATE:

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

JULY WEDDING ANN.: (Send in names so we can pray for you!)

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. We also have catalogue for you to browse. Open each weekend before and after Mass. *EFTPOS available!*

SUNDAY AFTER MASS CUPPA

Please join us in the John Paul Centre for a cuppa after the 9 am Mass this Sunday, 26 July, hosted by Parish Pastoral Council. Next Sunday, 2 August, will be hosted by El Shaddai.

We welcome any groups who would like to help hosting our Sunday Morning Tea. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

KNOW YOUR CATECHISM

Q. How does man respond to God who reveals himself?

A. Sustained by divine grace, we respond to God with the obedience of faith, which means the full surrender of ourselves to God and the acceptance of his truth insofar as it is guaranteed by the One who is Truth itself.

(Compendium of the CCC #25)

Star of the Sea Primary School latest newsletter can be accessed via this link:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/BbdSwZh12zD2kVnd?ref=Link>

PARISH GROUPS	Meeting:	Time	Place
Legion of Mary	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>8.45am</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>
St Vincent de Paul	<i>Monday, 27th July 2026</i>	<i>3pm</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>
Ministry of Consolation	<i>1st Tuesday of each month</i>	<i>2pm</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>
Parish Craft Group	<i>1st Wednesday of each month</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>John Paul Centre</i>
Charismatic Prayer & Praise	<i>Next Meeting September 1st & 3rd Monday</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>
Cenacle "Divine Mercy"	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>
Cenacle of Prayer (Immaculate Heart of Mary)	<i>Fridays</i> (No meeting on the 1 st Friday of the month)	<i>8.30am</i>	<i>MacKillop Library</i>
El Shaddai	<i>Saturdays</i>	<i>1pm</i>	<i>John Paul Centre</i>
Health Care with Christ	<i>4th Sunday of the month</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>
Kids Club - grades 1-8	<i>1st & 3rd Sundays of the month</i> (school term only)	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Sr Scholly Hall</i>



This week, Catholic schools across Queensland celebrate **Catholic Education Week**, a time to give thanks for the life, faith and learning nurtured within our school communities. Guided by the theme **Share Your Light, Inspire Others**, we recognise the many ways students, staff, parents and families share their gifts in service of the Gospel and the wider community. We invite our parish community to hold our local Catholic schools in prayer, asking God's blessing upon all who teach, learn and grow together, and that their light may continue to inspire hope, faith and love in our world.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
Conducted by The Charismatic Prayer Group

When:	4 Consecutive Saturday Mornings
Beginning:	Saturday, 1 August
Time:	9 AM – 11 AM each session
Where:	John Paul Centre

If you wish to attend, please write your details on the forms placed at the rear and side Church doors.



PARISH MORNING TEA

Please join us for Morning Tea at **Poppies** located at the **RSL** on **Thursday 30 July at 9.30 am**. All are welcome!

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES READY TO BE COLLECTED

For parishioners who give by the envelope system, the Planned Giving Envelopes for **August 2026 to January 2027** are ready to be collected from the Newsstand in the church.

If you would like to start giving using Planned Giving Envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

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.

Our parish now offers **EFTPOS** for added convenience. Parishioners can use this option for **donations** as well as for purchases at the Piety Stall.

**The month of July is dedicated to
The Precious Blood of Jesus.**

INDEED, WHEN "WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR FRAGILITY, OUR HEARTS BECOME OPEN TO SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER AND TO INVOKING THE ONE WHO CAN GRANT WHAT NO HUMAN POWER CAN ENSURE: THE PROFOUND RECONCILIATION OF HEARTS AND, WITH IT, TRUE PEACE"



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 26 July

The celebration of this day provides an opportunity for the Church, at all levels, to draw close to the elderly; to celebrate their unique role in our families and communities; and to reach out to those who may feel lonely or forgotten. Read Pope Leo's message [here](#).

**WALKING WITH MARY IN
Hope and Wonder**

A Zoom Novena in Preparation for the
Feast Day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

DAILY FROM
JULY 30 - AUGUST 7 | **7:30PM - 8:00PM AEST**

You're invited to join Mary MacKillop Place for a Zoom novena of prayer and reflection.

Over nine days, we will explore hope and wonder through the life Mary MacKillop as we journey towards celebrating her Feast Day on Saturday 8 August.

Zoom Link to join the Novena:
<https://zoom.us/j/92816949299>

For more information about Feast Day 2026 visit us at:
<https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/>



OUT OF THE
Ordinary

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

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