



Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

Phone: 4124 3334
Web: www.herveybaycatholic.com.au
Email: herveybay@bne.catholic.net.au
Facebook: Hervey Bay Catholic Parish
Address: Bryant St, Pialba Q 4655
PO Box 3250, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4pm

1st August / 2nd August 2026

Eighteenth 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: Is 55:1-3 | R2: Rom 8:35,37-39 | G: Mt 14:13-21

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

We live in a world governed by the strict logic of transactions. If you want food, you must pay for it. If you want security, you must earn it. We measure, we calculate, and we frequently worry that there will not be enough. Yet, the liturgical readings for the Eighteenth Sunday, shatter this worldview. They invite us into a completely different reality: the logic of divine abundance, radical compassion, and unmerited grace.

The Divine Invitation: Free of Charge. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah extends an extraordinary, almost incomprehensible invitation from God, "All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!" Isaiah addresses a people who are spiritually and emotionally exhausted, much like many of us today. He asks a penetrating question: "Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?" We often consume our energy seeking security in things that leave our souls entirely empty. God invites us to step away from the exhausting treadmill of self-reliance.

The Compassion of Christ and the Miracle of Small Offerings: This theme of divine care reaches its peak in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus has just received the devastating news of the execution of his cousin, John the Baptist. He seeks a lonely, deserted place to grieve in silence. But the crowds discover where he is and follow him on foot. Faced with this massive, intrusive crowd, human logic would dictate self-preservation. Even the disciples, looking out at the thousands of hungry faces as evening falls, take a pragmatic, transactional approach: "Send the crowds away... so they can buy food for themselves." But Jesus does not see a nuisance; he sees a flock without a shepherd. "His heart was moved to pity," and he heals their sick. Then, he turns to his disciples and issues a shocking command, "There is no need for them to go away; give them something to eat yourselves."

The disciples look at their little resources; five loaves and two fish and see utter insufficiency. "What is this among so many?" they ask. This is where the great shift occurs. Jesus asks them to bring what little they have to him. He takes the loaves, looks up to heaven, says the blessing, breaks the loaves, and hands them to the disciples to distribute. The miracle happens in the hands of Christ and through the cooperation of the disciples. Not only does everyone eat until they are entirely satisfied, but they collect twelve baskets of leftovers. How do we take this message into our daily lives this week?

Surrender Your "Five Loaves": Stop waiting until you are perfect, wealthy, or entirely secure before you serve God or help others. Bring your small, seemingly inadequate gifts, your limited time, your broken heart, your modest talents and place them in Jesus' hands. When surrendered to him, he multiplies them beyond your wildest imagination.

Adopt the Gaze of Compassion: Challenge yourself to look at the people around you, your family, your coworkers, the lonely neighbour not as demands on your busy schedule, but with the compassionate eyes of Christ. Let us approach the altar today with grateful hearts, ready to be fed by the one who opens his hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 3rd August to 9th August 2026	
St Joseph's Church Hervey Bay	
Monday	9.30am Anointing Mass
Wednesday	5.30pm Mass
Thursday	8am Mass
Friday	8am Mass & Benediction/Adoration
Saturday	8am Mass Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop
	6pm Mass
Sunday	7am Mass 9am Mass
St Patrick's Church Howard	
	Sunday Mass: 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Sundays of the month @ 4pm
St Peter the Fisherman Burrum Heads	
	Mass: 1 st and 3 rd 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
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Kings 19:9, 11-13
2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

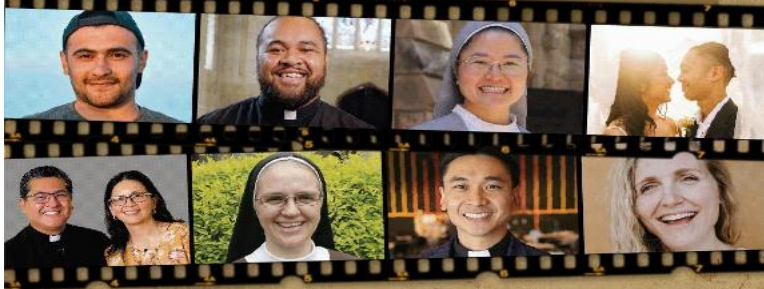
For evangelization in the city: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

PARISH GROUPS	Meeting:	Time	Place
Legion of Mary	<i>Mondays</i>	8.45am	Sr Scholly Hall
St Vincent de Paul	<i>Monday, 10th August 2026</i>	3pm	Sr Scholly Hall
Ministry of Consolation	<i>1st Tuesday of each month</i>	2pm	Sr Scholly Hall
Parish Craft Group	<i>1st Wednesday of each month</i>	9am	John Paul Centre
Charismatic Prayer & Praise	<i>Next Meeting September 1st & 3rd Monday</i>	6pm	Sr Scholly Hall
Cenacle “Divine Mercy”	<i>Thursdays</i>	9am	Sr Scholly Hall
Cenacle of Prayer <i>(Immaculate Heart of Mary)</i>	<i>Fridays</i> <i>(No meeting on the 1st Friday of the month)</i>	8.30am	MacKillop Library
El Shaddai	<i>Saturdays</i>	1pm	John Paul Centre
Health Care with Christ	<i>4th Sunday of the month</i>	10.30am	Sr Scholly Hall
Kids Club - grades 1-8	<i>1st & 3rd Sundays of the month</i> (school term only)	10.30am	Sr Scholly Hall

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Haven't joined the Life in the Spirit Seminar yet? It's not too late! Our next session takes place on **Saturday, 8 August**, at **9 AM**. Everyone is warmly invited to come along, whether you have attended the previous session on 1 August, or are brand new. We'd love to see you there!

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.

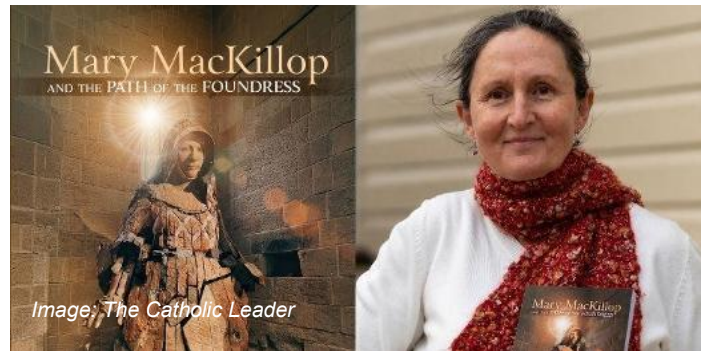
If you would like to start giving using Planned Giving Envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

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 August is dedicated to
The Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

NEWS: Tracing the path of brave Catholic women who set out to live their faith



Fifty women, some who were accused of disobedience but went on to change the course of the Church's history, have been featured in a new book.

Mary MacKillop and the Path of the Foundress, written by Carrie Lock, goes over the lives of 50 foundresses uncovering their moments of struggle, opposition, joy and peace. St Mary MacKillop co-founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart in South Australia in 1866.

As change agents, the foundresses needed to be risk-takers to redefine social boundaries, Ms Lock said. "And this required a very mature understanding of obedience," she said. *Read more on [The Catholic Leader](http://TheCatholicLeader.com).*



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Amy-Jill Levine is Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, at Vanderbilt University.

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