

8th August / 9th August 2026

Nineteenth 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: Kgs 19:9,11-13 | R2: Rom 9:1-5 | G: Mt 14:22-33

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

Fixing Our Eyes on Christ Amid the Storms: Dear friends in Christ, today's liturgy brings us face-to-face with a universal human reality: the storm. Whether it is a sudden medical diagnosis, an unexpected financial strain, or a painful rift in a relationship, we all know what it feels like to be tossed about by turbulent waves. In today's Gospel from Matthew 14:22-33, the disciples find themselves in a physical storm on the Sea of Galilee. They are exhausted, heavy-hearted, and battling a headwind in the dark, "fourth watch of the night". It is precisely in this moment of vulnerability that Jesus approaches them in a way they never expected; walking on the very waves that threaten to destroy them.

When the disciples see Jesus, they cry out in terror, confusing their Saviour for a ghost. Jesus immediately speaks to their hearts with words that echo throughout scripture: "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter, always impulsive and eager, responds: "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus gives a single-word command: "Come." For a few spectacular moments, Peter does the impossible. As long as his eyes are locked onto Jesus, the laws of gravity and nature are suspended by the power of faith. But the text tells us that the moment Peter noticed the strong wind, he became frightened and began to sink.

The Greek root word for "doubt" that Jesus uses here literally means to be "double" or "two-fold". Peter sank because he developed a divided gaze. He tried to look at Jesus and the raging storm at the same time. When we look at our problems more than we look at our Saviour, our faith fractures, and we begin to drown under the weight of anxiety.

Hearing God in the Gentle Whisper: This struggle to find God in the chaos is mirrored beautifully in our First Reading from 1 Kings 19. The prophet Elijah is terrified, exhausted, and hiding in a cave from enemies who want him dead. He expects God to manifest in raw, dramatic power. Yet, God was not in the crushing wind, nor the earthquake, nor the roaring fire. Instead, God revealed Himself in a "gentle whisper" or a light breeze.

Like Elijah, we often look for God only in the big, dramatic breakthroughs. But God reminds us that to hear His voice, we must cultivate silence. We must step away from the internal noise of our fears, the constant digital distractions of our world, and the chaotic "winds" around us. Faith is not based on volatile human emotions or external drama; it is a steady foundation built on the quiet, unchanging truth of God's goodness.

The Reaching Hand of Mercy: The climax of Peter's failure turns out to be the ultimate revelation of Christ's mercy. As Peter sinks, he strips away all eloquent speech and cries out the most fundamental prayer of the human heart: "Lord, save me!" Matthew notes that Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught him. Jesus did not wait for Peter to drown a little bit as a punishment for his doubt. He did not lecture him while he was underwater. He grasped him, pulled him up, and brought him back into the safety of the boat. Jesus is also close to us even in the storm of life.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 10th August to 16th 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 Feast of Assumption
 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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

The Pope's Prayer Intention for August

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.

WE PRAY FOR:

THE SICK: Melinda Audesho, Fe Adilan, Marivic Barrameda, Roman Brackowski, 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 Burrow, Maria Ruttman, Marie Fowles, Lisa Wong-Kam, Noel Phillips

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rick Reardon, Felix Chua Jnr, Bigy Sacuti, 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, Samuel Boston

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

WE CELEBRATE:

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

AUGUST 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, 9 August, hosted by Indian Community.

Next Sunday, 16 August, will be hosted by Health Care with Christ.

KNOW YOUR CATECHISM

Q. In what sense is the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of the Church?

A. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church in the order of grace because she gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God, the Head of the body which is the Church. When he was dying on the Cross Jesus gave his mother to his disciple with the words, "Behold your mother" (John 19:27). (*Compendium of the CCC #196*)

Holy Day of Obligation **Solemnity of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mass: **Saturday, 15 August, 8 AM,**
at St Joseph Church, Pialba

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, 10th August 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>

ST JOSEPH'S YOUTH GROUP | HERVEY BAY

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WHEN: Fortnightly
TIME: Starting 22nd Aug • 3rd Oct • 14th Nov
 5th Sep • 17th Oct • 28th Nov
 19th Sep • 31st Oct • 12th Dec
WHERE: 4pm until 6pm followed by mass at 6pm
WHO: High Schoolers (Years 7-12)
ACTIVITIES: Games, Music, Faith Chats, Food, Outings!

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

NEWS: Pope Leo XIV warns prayer is disappearing from Christian families



The pope has urged Catholics to rediscover prayer "in its true form" and embrace the Liturgy of the Hours as a daily school of Christian prayer.

Pope Leo XIV said that prayer was no longer being passed on in many Christian families as he urged the faithful to rediscover it as a fundamental dimension of human life.

"In our time, in contexts dominated by an efficiency-driven and consumerist mindset, prayer may seem pointless and trivial," the pope said during his general audience on 5 August.

Read the full article: [The Catholic Leader](#)

22-23 August 2026



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What is the Liturgy of the Hours?

Liturgy of the Hours refers to the Church's **formal set of prayers** prayed at various times throughout the day. The practice grew from the Jewish tradition of reciting prayers at set times of the day.

In the Christian tradition the Liturgy of the Hours, also called the Divine Office, developed as a **necessary complement to the Sacrifice of the Eucharist**, the highest act of worship of God. The Office came to be prayed at definite times, extending liturgical worship into the different hours of daily life thereby consecrating the course of day and night to God. [Source.](#)

HERVEY BAY CHURCHES UNITED IN PRAYER

WHEN: 1:30 - 2:30pm, 14th August
 WHERE: Nikenbah Baptist Church
 WHAT: Combined Churches Prayer
 WHO: All are welcome to attend



Pre-Mass time is meant for silent prayer

"When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us... [but] it is not a moment for chitchat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus ... silence is so important." – Pope Francis (15 Nov 2017)

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.

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