

15th August / 16th August 2026

Twentieth 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 56:1,6-7 | R2: Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | G: Mt 15 15:21-28

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

Today's Gospel features one of the most unsettling encounters in the New Testament. A desperate Canaanite woman approaches Jesus, crying out for her tormented daughter. She uses a messianic title, calling Him "Sir, Son of David". Yet, Jesus responds with cold silence. When His disciples urge Him to send her away because she is shouting, Jesus states, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." When she persists, kneeling before Him, He uses a harsh cultural idiom: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." For anyone who has ever cried out to God in a moment of crisis and felt met with a wall of silence, this scene hits close to home. Why does Jesus act this way? He is not acting out of cruelty. He is drawing out a profound transformation, challenging both His disciples and us to re-examine who we believe belongs inside the circle of God's grace.

The Audacity of Humble Faith: The Canaanite woman refuses to be excluded. She does not get defensive, throw a tantrum, or walk away insulted. Instead, with breathtaking humility and wit, she steps right into the metaphor: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

She builds a bridge with His own words. She acknowledges that salvation history began with Israel, but she stakes her claim on the truth that God's abundance is so massive that even the "scraps" are more than enough to deliver complete healing. She trusts His goodness more than she fears her own unworthiness. Jesus is moved to open admiration, exclaiming, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish". Her daughter is instantly healed. Her persistence under pressure actually pulled back the curtain to reveal the true breadth of Christ's mission.

Breaking Down Our Borders: This interaction beautifully mirrors the promise made centuries earlier in the first reading from Isaiah: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples." God's long-term plan was never to keep salvation locked behind ethnic, national, or cultural walls. The early Church struggled deeply with this reality. In the second reading, Saint Paul proudly labels himself the "apostle to the Gentiles," desperate to show that God's gifts and call are completely irrevocable, extended to all humanity through divine mercy.

This text forces us to look honestly at our own modern faith communities: Who do we sub-consciously exclude? Who do we think is too far gone, too different, or too broken to receive God's favour? How do we handle divine silence? When our prayers seem unanswered, do we give up, or do we double down with the fierce, humble persistence of this mother?

A Table with Room for All: True faith does not claim exclusive rights to God; it marvels that a God so great would include a sinner like me. Like the Canaanite woman, we must approach the altar with an identical combination of deep humility and absolute boldness. We do not stand here because we have earned it, but because His mercy is wide enough to cover everyone who reaches out in faith. Let us widen our circles, persist in our prayers, and actively welcome the foreigner and the outsider to the house of our Father.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 17th August to 23rd 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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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 Burow, Maria Ruttman, Marie Fowles, Lisa Wong-Kam, Noel Phillips

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rick Reardon, Helen Andrews (Tully), Di London, Ron Telford, John Welch, Ross Tapsall, Gerald Schrama, Gerry Sharpe, Patricia Mary Eekelschot, Frank Bedford, Samuel Boston

ANNIVERSARY: Beatrice Berecny, Potenciano Baculio, Glenda & Des Govers, Tim Roker, Corazon Quijano, Cyril Entriiken

WE CELEBRATE:

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

AUGUST WEDDING ANN.: Hugh & Janet McLaughlin 60th anniversary

(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, 16 August, hosted by Health Care with Christ. Next Sunday, 23 August, will be hosted by Family Group 5.

KNOW YOUR CATECHISM

Q. What kind of devotion is directed to the holy Virgin (Mary)?

A. It is a singular kind of devotion which differs essentially from the cult of adoration given only to the Most Holy Trinity. This special veneration directed to Mary finds particular expression in the liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and in Marian prayers such as the Holy Rosary which is a compendium of the whole Gospel.

(Compendium of the CCC #198)



Star of the Sea Primary School's latest newsletter can be accessed via the link below:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/9i0ulw8OVCj7SqT8?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, 24th 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 Mondays</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>

22-23 August 2026



Empower a child to dream

Your gift to the Mary Mackillop Bursary Fund means the world to a child in need. Your gift helps struggling families and ensures children can access a holistic Catholic Education.

 **2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN**
Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community

WEB: catholiccampaign.com.au PHONE: 07 3324 3200
EMAIL: giving@bne.catholic.net.au

Next weekend, our parish will support the Annual Catholic Campaign. Funds raised will directly impact our parish and local communities. The campaign supports the holistic formation of our future priests, care for our elderly and retired priests, provides access to a Catholic education to children in need and hope to those suffering physically and emotionally in our community. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

ST JOSEPH'S YOUTH GROUP | HERVEY BAY

JOIN US FOR FUN, FAITH & FRIENDS!



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!

Make New Friends | Grow in Faith | Have Fun!

CONTACT US: 0413 432 832 | Email: youth@stjosephsherbv.org.au | Facebook/Instagram: @StJoesYouthHB

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: Sixteen men visit Queensland seminary to pray for their vocation at Quo Vadis weekend



HOLY Spirit Provincial Seminary rector Fr Neil Muir is seeing an increase in men inquiring about the priesthood as the Church celebrates National Vocations Awareness week in early August.

Fr Muir said the Banyo-based seminary welcomed 16 men aged 19-39 visiting as part of Quo Vadis, a vocations retreat, last weekend. Fr Muir said he had seen the residency at the seminary increase from eight to 19 at present. *Read more on [The Catholic Leader](#)*

2026 SEASON OF CREATION EVENTS

ECUMENICAL LITURGY	TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER	11AM	Lychee Garden Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens
REFLECTION ONLINE WORKSHOPS	TUESDAY'S 1 SEPTEMBER - 29 SEPTEMBER	9AM	Zoom
SEASON OF CREATION MASS	9 SEPTEMBER	12:30PM	St Stephen's Cathedral
ART EXHIBITION DIANNE MINNAAR Days of Creation	3RD - 8TH OCTOBER	8:30am- 4:00pm	St Stephen's Cathedral Precinct



2026
SEASON OF
CREATION

Scan the QR code or visit
tinyurl.com/SeasonOfCreation26
for info and to register.
Presented by Archdiocesan Ministries



Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco



We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

Applications close 31 October 2026 Send us an enquiry on our website: www.cagliero.org.au or via email: lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

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

Star of the Sea
Catholic Primary School
*Offering excellence in education
from Kindy to Year 6.*

33 Hughes Road
Torquay Qld 4655
☎ 07 4125 1220
ptorquay@bne.catholic.edu.au
www.starofthesea.qld.edu.au

centacare
Care is our calling.

- Aged Care
- Community & Pastoral Care
- Disability Care
- Early EdCare
- Family & Relationships

How can we help?
1300 236 822

XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Providing high quality
inclusive Catholic
education from
Kindergarten to Year 12

enrolmentsxavier@bne.catholic.edu.au
4197 1177 www.xavier.qld.edu.au

Quality costs less at...

HBW
FOODSERVICE

Food Service Distributors
Ph: **4128 4144**
57 Hunter Street Hervey Bay

Cullen & Couper Pty Ltd
Surveying and Town Planning

surveying@cullenc.com.au
4124 7054

MICHAEL WEAVER
T/A
WIDE BAY ELECTRICAL

ABN 63 531 328 728 LIC. 52089
• Commercial • Industrial • Residential
0408 012 654
widebayelectrical@gmail.com

Thinking funeral
insurance?
Ask Ross.

Ross
FUNERALS
Everyone has a story

Hervey Bay & Fraser Coast Crematorium
4124 7511 www.rossfunerals.com.au

AUSTRALIAN OCEAN KING prawn COMPANY

Monday to Friday
Ph: 4125 4823

5kg cartons of frozen, local caught
king prawns. Available cooked or green
at wholesale prices.

Enquire at Hervey Bay Cold Stores
Ellengowan Street Urangan

A grade mechanical Services

- Log Book Servicing
- Airconditioning Servicing & Repair
- Brakes, Suspension & Exhausts
- Safety Certificates

4128 1113
Shed 1, 7-9 Islander Road, Pialba

ELL DISTRICTS
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES & ELECTRICAL
ABN 36 365 562 313
QBCC: 1283754

- Domestic • Commercial • Caravan A/C
- Installations • Service • Sales
- Air Conditioning Cleaning

M 0402 170 370
elldistricts@gmail.com
elldistrictsairconditioning.com.au

AATEC
OFFICE TECHNOLOGY
Copy Print Scan Fax

Rent a NEW From
Colour Multifunction **\$25/week**

4124 2266
Shed 1, 5 Nelson St, Pialba
aatec.com.au

J. KIRK & SONS
83-85 Torquay Road, Scarness
Ph: 4124 2524

*A Genuine, Local, Family Owned
Funeral Firm. Est. 1865*

Hervey Bay Crematorium
224 Urraween Road, Urraween

Catholic Early EdCare
WATCH THEM GROW

Star of the Sea Outside School Hours Care
33-35 Hughes Rd, Torquay
PH: 4125 6051 MB: 0400 335 760
Email: torquayoshc@bne.centacare.net.au

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

CSG LAW
CORSEY SHELTON & GORDON
LAWYERS

TIM McQUAID
5 Torquay Road, Hervey Bay
Phone 4194 4555
Email: CSGHB@csglaw.com.au
www.csglaw.com.au

little eco events

Party Hire | Birthdays | Celebrations

Crafting memorable and
mindful nature-inspired
celebrations for children
and families on the
Fraser Coast

0477 323 795
www.littlecoevents.com.au

**SELL YOUR HOME
WITH TEAM LOWE**

Brad
0400 239 116

Liz
0421 100 105

PRIME AGENTS

JAACS DIESEL REPAIRS

PH: 0467 878 791
E: jaacsdieselpairs@gmail.com
AG, CIVIL & MARINE

Solahart
HERVEY BAY

- SOLAR HOT WATER
- SOLAR POWER
- HEAT PUMP
- ENERGY STORAGE
- SMART SYSTEMS

solahartherveybay.com.au 1300 362 821