

19th September / 20th September 2026

Twenty-Fifth 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

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

This Sunday's readings: R1: Is 55:6-9 | R2: Phil 1:20-24, 27 | G: Mt 20:1-16

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

What we call 'Radical Grace' may seem scandalous because the Kingdom of Heaven operates on a standard of overwhelming generosity rather than strict human fairness. Today's readings strip away our deeply ingrained sense of transactional justice and expose us to the provocative, unconditional love of God. When we look at the world through the lens of human economics, we see scarcity, comparison, and the need to earn our worth. But when we look through the eyes of the landowner in the Gospel, we see a Father who cares more about human dignity than human productivity.

The Clash of Expectations: The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard strikes a nerve because it feels intensely unfair. The first group of labourers worked twelve hours under the scorching sun. The final group worked for just sixty minutes in the cool of the evening. Yet, at the end of the day, everyone received the exact same wage: one denarius. If this were an earthly business operation, the first workers would have every right to file a union grievance. They expected more because they did more. But Jesus explicitly begins the story by saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." He is purposefully subverting our corporate mindsets. The first reading from Isaiah gives us the ultimate key to understanding this puzzle: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8)

The Downside of Comparison: The real conflict in the Gospel is not the amount of money paid, but the comparison. The first workers were perfectly happy with their wage until they saw what the latecomers received. Their joy was instantly killed by envy. The Landowner asks a piercing question that echoes through the centuries to us today: "Are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15). How often do we fall into this trap in our spiritual and daily lives? We begrudge someone who finds faith late in life, feeling our years of church attendance should buy us a higher seat in heaven. We look at someone who has been forgiven much and resent that they receive the same mercy we do. We measure our self-worth by how much "better" we are doing than our neighbours. Envy tells us that another person's blessing somehow diminishes our own. But the divine denarius — the gift of eternal life, love, and salvation — is infinite. It cannot be divided, carved up, or earned.

The Eleven-Hour Mercy: We often read this parable identifying ourselves automatically with the first group; the hard-working, faithful, long-suffering believers. But the raw truth of the Gospel is that we are all the eleventh-hour workers. None of us can stand before God and demand heaven based on our own merit. If God gave us strict, mathematical justice, we would all fall short. Everything we have; our breath, our life, our faith, our sacraments, is unearned grace. The Landowner went out at the eleventh hour not because he needed more labour, but because he saw people standing idle in the marketplace, discarded by society, with no one to hire them. He brought them into the vineyard because he cared about their livelihood, not their utility.

Let us pray for a heart transformation today. May we stop demanding that God act like a human accountant and instead learn to rejoice that He acts like a loving Father.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 21st September to 27th September 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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Helen Andrews (Tully), Di London, Ron Telford, John Welch, Ross Tapsall, Gerald Schrama, Gerry Sharpe, Patricia Mary Eekelschot, Frank Bedford, Samuel Boston, Christine Adams, Daniel (Dan) Gleeson, Nigel Cairns, Sue Cavanagh, Robert Devine

ANNIVERSARY Augusta Yting, Rose Kirkwood, Sylvia Bedford, Tony Cavanagh, Ophelia Lamban

WE CELEBRATE:

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

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

The Pope's Prayer Intention for September

For the care of water: Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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, 20 September, hosted by the Indian Community.

Next Sunday, 27 September (Multicultural Mass), will be hosted by the Parish Community (Please bring a plate to share!)

KNOW YOUR CATECHISM

Q. What are the most ancient symbols (professions) of faith?

A. The most ancient symbols of faith are the *baptismal* creeds. Because Baptism is conferred "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19), the truths of faith professed at Baptism are articulated in reference to the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. (Com. CCC#34)

PUBLIC ROSARY

Join us in the Nationwide Rosary prayer!

Date: Saturday 10 October Time: 9:00 am

Venue: Scarness Park Shelter (Near the Beach House on the Esplanade near the small jetty.)

Please bring your own Rosary Beads, chairs, family and friends!

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, 21st September 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>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>



Congratulations!



We congratulate and rejoice with the 29 children who received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time on 23 August and 12-13 September.

The month of September is dedicated to The Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Multicultural Mass

Our parish family is blessed with a rich mix of cultures and backgrounds! On **Sunday, 27 September at 9:00 AM**, we will celebrate our annual Multicultural Mass to coincide with the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

We invite you and your family to take part in this special celebration:

- **Display your flag:** Bring the flag of your native country to be displayed during Mass (*Please pass the flag to the parish office before 25 September*).
- **Proclaim the Word:** Represent your culture by reading the First Reading, Second Reading, or a petition for the Prayers of the Faithful in your native language. (*Please contact the parish office in advance*).
- **Celebrate through culture & food:** Wear your traditional attire to Mass and **bring a dish** from your home country to share at Morning Tea immediately following the Mass.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the vibrant unity of our community!



With Smart Loving's Marriage Kit, hosted by Archdiocesan Ministries

Invest in your relationship through six online sessions designed to strengthen communication, decision-making and connection. Grounded in relationship science and created for real couples, this program offers practical tools to help you build a stronger, more loving marriage.

HOW IT WORKS Enjoy each lesson together as a couple, then join the weekly date night, hosted by Archdiocesan Ministries.

BEGINS Wed 7 Oct 2026 7.30pm Brisbane	FORMAT Online 6 x 1 hour sessions	COST \$24.50 per couple PDF included
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RSVP Before Tuesday 6 October via the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/SLdatenight to register.



PARISH MORNING TEA

Please join us for Morning Tea at **Poppies** located at the **RSL** on **Thursday 24 September at 9.30 am**. All are welcome!



The latest Star of the Sea Primary School newsletter can be accessed from this link: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/0lab9Sonli1mTbGE?ref=Link>

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.

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
64 Washington Dr, Wondunna
PH: 4194 6155
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