



Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

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Address: Bryant St, Pialba Q 4655
PO Box 3250, Hervey Bay Q 4655
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4pm

12th September / 13th September 2026

Twenty-Fourth 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: Sirach 27:30-28:7 | R2: Rom 14:7-9 | G: Mt 18:21-35

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

The Mathematics of Mercy: A learning process to forgive starts from the Heart. How many times should we forgive someone whom deep down, we feel does not deserve it? This is the raw, human question Peter poses to Jesus in today's Gospel from Matt 18: 21-35. Peter thinks he is being incredibly generous by suggesting seven times, more than double what typical rabbinic custom of the day required. But Jesus shatters human calculations by responding, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." In doing so, Jesus moves forgiveness out of the realm of bookkeeping and into the realm of grace.

The Infinite Debt vs. The Micro-Debt. To illustrate this, Jesus shares the parable of the unmerciful servant. A servant owes his king ten thousand talents, an astronomical, completely unpayable sum equivalent to millions of dollars or multiple lifetimes of labour. When the servant begs for patience, the king is moved with profound compassion and completely wipes the slate clean. Yet, moments later, that same forgiven servant chokes a fellow worker who owes him a mere hundred denarii, a few months' wages. He refuses to show the same mercy he just received and throws the man into debtor's prison.

When we look closely at this parable, we are forced to recognise ourselves. The king represents God, and we are often the first servant. The debt we owe to God due to our sins is an unpayable mountain. Yet, in His infinite mercy, through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God completely forgives us. By contrast, the offenses others commit against us, as deeply as they hurt, are like the small debt of a hundred denarii. Jesus is teaching a sobering reality: if we refuse to forgive the relatively small debts of others, we block the flow of God's immense forgiveness in our own lives.

The Poison of Resentment. Our first reading from Sirach 27: 30- 28:7 gives us a psychological and spiritual mirror: "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight". Why do we hug anger tight? Because resentment gives us a false sense of control or power over the person who hurt us. But holding onto a grudge is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. As the author Lewis B. Smedes beautifully observed, "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." Forgiveness is not about minimizing the wrong or pretending the pain isn't real. It is about releasing the offender from your emotional grip so that God can heal your heart.

Living for the Lord. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds us that "none of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself". Because we belong to Christ, our relationships cannot be governed by the standard of the world. The world tells us to cancel, avenge, and hold grudges. Christ calls us to a higher standard of community living because our primary identity is that we are redeemed sinners.

Forgiveness is rarely a one-time emotional event; it is a daily, deliberate decision of the will. When memories of the hurt resurface, we must choose to forgive again making up the seventy-seven times Jesus spoke of. As we approach the altar today to receive Christ, who forgave His executioners from the Cross, let us ask for the grace to release whoever is in our personal "debtor's prison". Let us stop counting the offenses of others and start counting the boundless mercies of God.

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 14th September to 20th 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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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.

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: 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

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!)

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, 13 September, hosted by LOM / Divine Mercy. Next Sunday, 20 September, will be hosted by Indian Community.

We welcome any groups interested in helping to host our Sunday Morning Tea or just bring a plate to share. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

KNOW YOUR CATECHISM

Q. What are the symbols of faith?

A. The symbols of faith are composite formulas, also called "professions of faith" or "Creeds", with which the Church from her very beginning has set forth synthetically and handed on her own faith in a language that is normative and common to all the faithful.

(Compendium of the CCC #33)

Welcome Back & Thank You

Welcome back, Father Jacob! We hope you had a restful break. A sincere thank you to Father John Grace for stepping in and caring so wonderfully for our parish community in Father Jacob's absence.

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>



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation runs from **1 September (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology)**. Each year during this period, Christians come together in prayer and action for Creation.

This year's theme, "**Living Water**," explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of the living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

"War creates wounds that damage the whole fabric of life, harming not only individual persons and communities, but also their broader network of relationships with the whole human family, and their harmony with creation. *It reveals a deeper failure to live in God's image and likeness, to respect life and to care for the earth entrusted to us.* This is not only a political failure, but *also a moral and spiritual one.* Rooted in distorted desires and the misuse of human freedom and power, war stands as a counter-witness to the Gospel of peace." – Pope Leo XVI

([Message for the 11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2026](#))

**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!



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us on **1300 133 544**



Discernment through Ministry and Formation

St Joseph's Youth Group

Next Youth Group gathering:

Saturday, 19 September 2026, 4 PM

(For High Schoolers Years 7-12)

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
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