# 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

*28th November / 29th November 2026* — *First Sunday of Advent*

## 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: Ezek 34:11-12,15-17 | R2: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | G: Mt 25:31-46

**Dear Parishioners & Visitors,**

The liturgical season of Advent begins by looking forward to Christ's return in glory rather than looking backward to His birth in Bethlehem. As we step into a new liturgical year and begin Cycle B, the Church shifts its focus to the Gospel of Mark. The core message for this First Sunday of Advent is simple, urgent, and direct: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33).

**Living Awake in the In-Between Time:** Today, we cross the threshold into a new liturgical year. The purple vestments, the first single candle lit on our Advent wreath, and the absence of the Gloria all signal a change in our spiritual atmosphere. Culturally, the world around us is rushing headlong into a season of frantic buying, planning, and celebration. But the Church, in her wisdom, calls us to do something entirely counter-cultural: to slow down, to enter the quiet, and above all, to wake up. It might surprise you that on this first Sunday of preparation for Christmas, our Gospel does not mention a stable, a star, or a newborn baby. Instead, Jesus speaks to us about a master leaving his home, placing his servants in charge, and commanding the doorkeeper to stay awake.

**Advent is not merely a historical re-enactment of waiting for the baby Jesus to be born.** Christ was born in Bethlehem about two thousand years ago; that is an unchangeable fact of history. Advent is actually about living at the intersection of two momentous realities: the first coming of Christ in the humility of human flesh, and His final coming at the end of time in glory and majesty. We live in the "in-between time." And how are we commanded to live in this time? Jesus tells us to "Stay awake!"

What does it mean to sleep spiritually? Spiritual sleep is a state of numbness, distraction, and drift. It happens when we get so caught up in the routine of eating, drinking, working, and consuming that we forget who we are and where we are going. We become blind to the presence of God in our daily lives. We begin to live as if this world is all there is, or as if we have all the time in the world to get our lives right with God.

In our first reading today, the Prophet Isaiah cries out a raw, desperate prayer: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1). Isaiah was looking at a broken world, a ruined temple, and a people who had wandered far from God. He acknowledged their sins, saying, "We have all become like one who is unclean... our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isaiah 64:6). Isaiah's prayer is an Advent prayer because it acknowledges our profound need for a Saviour. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot fix our own brokenness. But Isaiah ends with a beautiful image of hope: "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:8).

To stay awake this Advent means to willingly place ourselves back on the potter's wheel. It means acknowledging our sins, stepping away from the distractions that numb our souls, and allowing God to reshape us. True preparation for the Lord's coming requires a change of heart, making this an ideal season to seek God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob**

# MASS Times: 30th November to 6th December 2026

## St Joseph's Church Hervey Bay

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday | 8am Mass |
| Wednesday | 5.30pm Liturgy of the Word |
| Thursday | 8am Mass |
| Friday | 8am Mass & Adoration |
| Saturday | 8am Mass |
| | 6pm Mass |
| Sunday | 7am Mass |
| | 9am Mass |



The first candle of Advent represents *Hope*

## 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

***Second Sunday of Advent***

**1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**
**2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**
**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

## The Pope's Prayer Intention for December

**For single-parent families:** Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.

***WE PRAY FOR:***

***THE SICK:*** Melinda Audesho, Fe Adilan, Marivic Barrameda, Roman Braczkowski, June Bearsley, Gerard Clinch, Marilyn Cotis, Carmen Hoolihan, Nina Mironov, Marilyn Monsour, Dot Phillips, Marivic Quiobe, Elaine Sanders, Doris Sutton, John Wilson, Tony & Janette Davies, Linda Sharpe, Joy Smith, Sr Layola, Merilyn Baldwin, Ruby Magrata, Jennifer Burow, Maria Ruttiman, Marie Fowles, Lisa Wong-Kam, Maree Van Lierop, Benji Fisher, Karl Jackson, Ron Trevillion, Geoff Lorne

***RECENTLY DECEASED:*** Gerald Schrama, Gerry Sharpe, Patricia Mary Eekelschot, Frank Bedford, Samuel Boston, Christine Adams, Daniel (Dan) Gleeson, Nigel Cairns, Sue Cavanagh, Robert Devine, Kevin Clinton Coolie, Terry Murphy, Alan Peart, Alceste Odorico, Petrus van der Lierop, Estelle Renard, Carmen Xerri

***ANNIVERSARY:*** Tony Cavanagh, Ophelia Lamban, Alf Petersen, Kathleen Scotton, Jennie Carthew, Bob Cavanagh, Claire White, Abigail Frivaldo, Bob Bischof, Hazel Berecry, Eileen Entriken, Aldrin Leander, Mathew Berecry Snr

***WE CELEBRATE:***

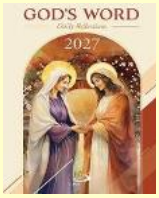
***DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:*** *(Send in names so we can pray for you!)*

***DECEMBER WEDDING ANN.:***

**PIETY STALL.** If you are looking for a unique gift or cards for loved ones, or something for yourself for Christmas? Come support our Parish Piety Stall. New stocks available. We also have catalogue for you to browse.
**Limited stock of the Columban Calendars 2027 is on sale for $10 each**.
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, hosted by Health Care with Christ. Next Sunday, 6 December will be hosted by El Shaddai.




## God's Word 2027

For those who had placed an order, the 2027 edition of God's Word is available and ready to be collected from the parish office during the week.

## Know Your Catechism

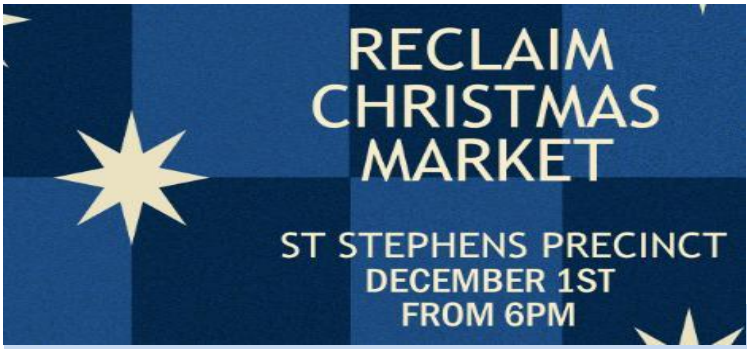
**Q. Why does God permit evil?**

**A.** Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit evil if he did not cause a good to come from that very evil. This was realized in a wondrous way by God in the death and resurrection of Christ. In fact, from the greatest of all moral evils (the murder of his Son) he has brought forth the greatest of all goods (the glorification of Christ and our redemption). *(Compendium of the CCC #58)*

| PARISH GROUPS | Meeting: | Time | Place |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Legion of Mary*** | *Mondays* | *8.45am* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |
| ***St Vincent de Paul*** | *Monday 30th November* | *3pm* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |
| ***Ministry of Consolation*** | *1st Tuesday of each month* | *2pm* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |
| ***Parish Craft Group*** | *1st Wednesday of each month* | *9am* | *John Paul Centre* |
| ***Charismatic*** *Prayer & Praise* | *1st & 3rd Mondays* | *6pm* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |
| ***Cenacle*** *"Divine Mercy"* | *Thursdays* | *9am* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |
| ***Cenacle of Prayer*** *(Immaculate Heart of Mary)* | *Fridays (No meeting on the 1st Friday of the month)* | *8.30am* | *MacKillop Library* |
| ***El Shaddai*** | *Saturdays* | *1pm* | *John Paul Centre* |
| ***Health Care with Christ*** | *4th Sunday of the month* | *10.30am* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |
| ***Kids Club - grades 1-8*** | *1st & 3rd Sundays of the month* ***(school term only)*** | *10.30am* | *Sr Scholly Hall* |




**The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.**




Looking for a different way to celebrate the Christmas season? The Youth and Young Adults Team from Archdiocesan Ministries invites young adults and young families to Reclaim Christmas Market.

Enjoy a festive evening featuring Christmas market stalls, food, carols and community as we gather to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Bring your friends and family to experience the joy of the season in the heart of Brisbane, surrounded by the beauty of the St Stephen's Cathedral Precinct.

**When: Tuesday, 1 December | 6:00pm**
**Where: St Stephen's Cathedral Precinct**




## FUNERAL NOTICE

A Funeral Service will be held at St Joseph's Church on

**Thursday, 3 December 2026**

**at 11.30am**

for our dear brother

**John James Jacoby**.

All are invited to gather in prayer and commend his soul to God's loving mercy.



Hervey Bay RSL

**Carols by Candlelight**

Saturday, 12 December

**Volunteers Wanted**

Scan QR code on the right to register

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

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Kn1rJOP26d4Od22J?ref=Link

## HAVE YOUR SAY: SAFEGUARING SURVEY

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is inviting parishioners to complete a short Safeguarding Survey. It takes only 2-3 minutes and will help us strengthen safety, respect and wellbeing across our parish communities. Scan the QR code on the right to participate.

## MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

*"The only thing death cannot touch is everything we have loved."*



The Ministry of Consolation is offering support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. Reach out to Gary Varley on 0497 970 365.

**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

**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.staroftheseа.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

**ALL 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
E alldistricts@gmail.com
W alldistrictsairconditioning.com.au
ARC CERTIFIED

**AATEC OFFICE TECHNOLOGY**
Copy Print Scan Fax
Rent a NEW Colour Multifunction From $25/wk
4124 2266
Shop 1, 5 Nissen 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.cntacar.net.au

**CSG LAW**
CORSER SHELDON & GORDON LAWYERS
**TIM McQUAID**
5 Torquay Road, Hervey Bay
Phone 4194 4555
Email: CSGHB@csglaw.com.au
www.csglaw.com.au

*Advertise*
*Your Business Here!*
*(for $500/year or 12 months)*
**Contact the Parish Office**
**Phone: 4124 3334**
**herveybay@bne.catholic.net.au**

**SELL YOUR HOME WITH TEAM LOWE**
Brad 0400 239 116
Liz 0421 100 105
PRIME AGENTS

*Advertise*
*Your Business Here!*
*(for $500/year or 12 months)*
**Contact the Parish Office**
**Phone: 4124 3334**
**herveybay@bne.catholic.net.au**

**Solahart HERVEY BAY**
SOLAR HOT WATER SOLAR POWER HEAT PUMP ENERGY STORAGE SMART SYSTEMS
solahartherveybay.com.au 1300 362 821