Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

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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

7th November / 8th November 2026 *Thirty-Second 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: Wis 6:12-16 | R2: 1 Thess 4:13-18 | G: Mt 25:1-13

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Church shifts our focus toward the "last things" — death, judgment, eternity, and the eventual return of Christ. Today's readings, particularly the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (Mt 25:1-13), present us with a profound lesson on spiritual readiness. Jesus sets a vivid scene based on the wedding customs of first-century Palestine. Ten bridesmaids wait through the night to welcome the bridegroom and escort him to the wedding banquet. All ten fall asleep when the groom is long delayed. But at midnight, the cry rings out: "Behold the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!". Five are wise and prepared; five are foolish and caught off guard.

The central pivot of the story and its most unsettling moment happens when the foolish bridesmaids realize their lamps are going out. They turn to the wise ones and beg: "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." The reply sounds uncharacteristically harsh at first glance: "No, there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy some for yourselves" (Mt 25:9). Why couldn't they share? Because some things in life cannot be outsourced.

Faith is Personal, Not Delegated

You cannot borrow someone else's prayer life. You cannot ride into eternity on your spouse's devotion, your parents' legacy, or your parish community's spiritual momentum. The "oil" in the lamp represents the cumulative, quiet, daily choices to stay awake to God — the unseen acts of forgiveness, the private moments of surrender, the patient endurance in suffering, and the pursuit of Wisdom. Wisdom (as the Book of Wisdom notes) doesn't just happen to us; she has to be sought, courted, and chosen every single morning.

The Delay is Not an Abandonment

The bridegroom was delayed, and the text says, "they all became drowsy and fell asleep". Notice that even the wise virgins fell asleep! The difference wasn't that the wise stayed wide-awake through the entire midnight wait; the difference was that they brought extra oil for the long haul**.** Spiritual dryness, unanswered prayers, or the feeling that God is taking too long to show up in our lives or our world do not mean God has abandoned us, they mean the night is longer than we expected. Preparation means stocking our souls for the stretches when God feels silent.

Grieving with Open Eyes

St. Paul's words to the Thessalonians bridge this exact tension. He doesn't tell them not to grieve; he tells them not to grieve as those without hope. Hope is the wick that catches the flame of faith. When we face endings, losses, or our own mortality, the oil in our lamp is the deep, stubborn conviction that love is stronger than the grave.

Questions to Ponder This Week

The Oil Check: If the bridegroom arrived in your life or your heart tonight, what is the state of your "oil"? What daily habits of prayer or mercy are you relying on, and where have you been trying to run on someone else's fuel? The False Comforts: What "shortcuts" or distractions (comfort, status, control, or anxiety) are you treating as essential supplies, while letting your actual spiritual life run dry? The Shared Journey: How can you use your own faith not to rescue someone else's responsibility, but to point them toward the "dealer" - the source of grace who freely gives to all who ask?

Peace be with you, Fr. Jacob

MASS Times: 9th November to 15th November 2026

St Joseph's Church Hervey Bay

Monday	9.30am Anointing Mass
Wednesday	5.30pm Red November 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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Pope's Prayer Intention for November

For the proper use of wealth: Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

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.

WE CELEBRATE:

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

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANN.:

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, 8 November, hosted by Legion of Mary / Divine Mercy. Next Sunday, 15 November will be hosted by the Indian Community.



God's Word 2027

The 2027 edition of God's Word is now available and ready to be collected from the parish office during the week, or before and after the weekend Masses. **Cost: $15.00 per copy**.

Know Your Catechism

Q. Why was the world created?

A. The world was created for the glory of God who wished to show forth and communicate his goodness, truth and beauty. The ultimate end of creation is that God, in Christ, might be "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28) for his glory and for our happiness. *(Compendium of the CCC #53)*

"The glory of God is man fully alive; moreover man's life is the vision of God." – Saint Irenaeus

PARISH GROUPS	Meeting:	Time	Place
Legion of Mary	*Mondays*	*8.45am*	*Sr Scholly Hall*
St Vincent de Paul	*Monday 16th 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*

NEWS: Protecting marriage more urgent than ever, Pope Leo says after lung surgery



Marriage requires more than physical attraction, Pope Leo XIV said in his first weekly general audience since undergoing lung cancer surgery, emphasising that authentic love involved mutual self-giving, fidelity and a lifelong commitment between spouses.

Reflecting on the Second Vatican Council's pastoral constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, Pope Leo said the council presented marriage as an "intimate partnership of married life and love," grounded in the mutual self-giving of spouses.

(Read the full news article on The Catholic Leader)



The Way of the Heart - Daily Reflections for Advent 2026

The new Advent reflection resource is available for pre-order. The Order sheets is available at the entrance of the Church for you to add your name and contact number. Cost $5/book to be paid on collection.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Workshop

Presented by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Brisbane Mission Team

- Held on: **21 November, 9am – 4.30pm**, St Joseph's Catholic Church, Pialba

Programme

- ***Introduction to the Charismatic Gifts / Encountering the Holy Spirit.***
- ***The power to say: Gifts of Prophecy, Prayer Tongues and Tongues & Interpretation.***
- ***The power to know: Gifts of Knowledge, Wisdom and Discernment of Spirits.***
- ***The power to do: Gifts of Faith, Healing and Miracles.***

Morning and afternoon tea provided. Bring a plate to share during lunch. Enquiries: Martin Costigan (0402 821 959) and Anne Costigan (0412 348 090).

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year on the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Prison Sunday, bringing attention to the plight of prisoners and highlighting the important work that prison chaplains

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

November: Month for all Faithful Departed

The whole Church will be praying for all the faithful departed in November. Please submit the names of your departed loved ones so we can pray for them. Please use the **November Mass Offering envelopes,** which are available on the Church Newsstand and from the Parish Office.



ACN is a Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. During this Red November we are inviting our parishioners to join us on **11 November at 5.30 pm** for a **Red November** to pray, support and act in solidarity with 388+ million Christians persecuted for their faith. Around the world, churches and public buildings will light up in red as a symbol of the sacrifice and suffering of our modern-day martyrs. Visit www.rednovember.org to learn more.

As this day is also Remembrance Day, we also honour Australians who died or suffered wars, conflicts, and peace keeping operations.

Pastoral visits to prisons

No one is beyond the reach of God's mercy.
(Pope Francis)

Volunteering opportunities are available with Centacare for women and men in several of the correctional centres in the archdiocese – Southern Qld and Brisbane Women's, Arthur Gorrie and Maryborough. Pastoral visits can be life changing for inmates. You will be well trained and well supported within an existing Catholic team and the commitment required is just one morning a week.

Find out more by contacting Judy Norris: 0428 669 572 or email: *judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au*

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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5 Torquay Road, Hervey Bay
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