



PDF version of this parish newsletter [*PDF here*](#):

You can also access an online -web- copy of the newsletter [*Webcopy here*](#)



SURFERS PARADISE CATHOLIC PARISH

Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish E-Newsletter

Parish Office (new): (07) 5671 7388 (Mon-Thurs: 9 am – 2 pm; & Fri: 9 am -12 noon)

Email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au | Website: www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au

Emergencies: Priest contactable via office phone (after hours, follow the menu prompts)

50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, Queensland, 4226

Safeguarding officer -(Robyn Hunt) email= l.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

<https://tinyurl.com/SPCPsite>

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding>

This is Kombumerri Country, which is the traditional custodian of this region. (see here)

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent. Year A

Readings for Sunday, March 8, 2026 - Third Sunday of Lent. Year A

FIRST READING- Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9. "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

SECOND READING- Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (cf. John 4:42+15). Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the World. Give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

GOSPEL- John 4:5-42 – Samaritan Woman

“Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” (John 4:15)



Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 1074985223 - BOLOGNA, ITALY - APRIL 18, 2018: The icon of Jesus and Samaritans at the Well scene in church Chiesa di San Pietro by Giancarlo Pellegrini. Important information. Editorial Use Only. Photo Contributor: Renata Sedmakova

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We congratulate the RICHARDS and DAVIDSON families whose children CAPRI SOL, DARCY & DAISY will be baptised in our Parish. Please keep the Baptism families in your prayers as they begin their faith journey.

PASTORS POST:

As the woman at the well arrives to draw water, as she probably did daily, little did she know that she would encounter Jesus, who would satisfy her deepest thirsts and longings. It is the word “encounter” that is used intentionally. This ends up being more than a simple meeting between two people. It begins with Jesus asking quite simply for a drink. Understandably, the woman is shocked that Jesus, a Jew, would ask her, a Samaritan, for a drink, because they are two groups that simply do not associate with each other.

When Jesus then offers the woman a drink, she asks the obvious – how can you draw any water if you have no bucket? When Jesus offers her water that will quench her thirst forever, she desperately asks for it, thinking that she would never have to return to the well again. The woman has progressively become more interested in what Jesus is offering, but not to the point where she can understand beyond physical water. She nonetheless believes him to be a prophet, and has faith in the prophecy that the Messiah will come. When Jesus explains that He is indeed that Messiah, the Christ, she believed, and many others came to believe because of her testimony. Her testimony then led others to a direct encounter with Christ.

It is this understanding of living water that we too must drink. We are designed to be nourished through the living water of Spirit and Truth. The spirit is that of God, and the truth is Jesus, who as the Son of God on earth, reveals in the flesh the truth about God. It is this spirit that some of you will be baptised into through the living waters of baptism in just four weeks time at the Easter Vigil. Afterwards, it will be by living a life dedicated to Christ and growing closer to him that will enrich your life in the Catholic Church, as you become a part of Jesus’ body, sharing in his life with the rest of the baptised.

Let us all continue our Lenten journey by living out our call as people nourished by the waters of baptism. May you and me grow closer to God during this time by seeking the truth of God’s spirit, that is revealed to us through the life and ministry of Jesus.

FR BRADLEY

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY DURING THE LENT SEASON

**From 20th February until 27th March - at 6pm - in
Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters only**

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent
7–8 March 2026



Photo: Monoranjon and his wife, Anita, live in a village in southwest Bangladesh that is highly vulnerable to climate change.
Credit: Caritas Australia.

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Please donate today, envelopes can be found on the pews in the churches.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7 | Ps 95:1-2, 6-7. 8-9. R. v.8 | Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 | John 4:5-42

Every summer seems to get a little longer and a little hotter. We have all become conscious of issues surrounding water. Either there seems to be too much, as when we see summer floods or rising sea levels in the Pacific. Other times, there seems to be too little water as when the rivers in our country run low or members of God's family around the world experience drought. Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has been responding to the dire needs of water justice in a range of vulnerable countries.

Today's readings may well cause us to reflect on the current state of God's creation. In the book of Exodus, we hear that people are complaining to Moses because they are dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a woman in a Samaritan town. She has come to draw water from the well in the hottest part of the day. In both cases, access

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to water is precarious. Yet God responds not only to a thirst for water but to a deeper thirst as well. Moses' people are thirsty for direction, leadership and hope.

The woman in John's Gospel has a thirst for love and acceptance which, Jesus tells her, will come from within if she is able to accept him and his message of life. As the story unfolds, we learn of her loneliness and see her reconnecting with her community.

In reflecting on this story in Listening Together, Cardinal Radcliffe reminds us that Jesus' first words are abrupt. 'Give me a drink.' He considers the times in John's Gospel when Jesus expresses thirst, including when he is on the cross. Radcliffe concludes that Jesus is thirsty on our behalf. He longs for our freedom.

Thirst is a great spiritual metaphor, one which Pope Leo XIV has used. But let's not forget the millions of people for whom physical water is a real challenge. This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of Monoranjon, a farmer in Bangladesh whose family has been deeply impacted by environmental damage, specifically salination of soil and water. This beautiful story reminds us of the importance of meeting people, as Jesus did, at their place of greatest need.

Our thirst for freedom and justice enables us to Unite Against Poverty.

Please donate today, envelopes can be found on the pews in the churches. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

LENTEN PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

For vulnerable communities who thirst for justice and security, that our support for Project

Compassion will be a sign to them of the love of God for all people.

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ROSIES - LOCAL MINISTRY ON THE STREETS

Some of our Parishioners who volunteer with Rosies will be at each of the Masses this weekend and also next weekend. Rosies is a homeless charity that provides friendship and food to those in need in our community. We are seeking donations to fund the parish run Sunday BBQ at St Vincents Church and also any food items (dry goods only) or toiletries.



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ROSIES

Friends on the Street

"ROSIES REACHES OUT TO THOSE MOST IN NEED, PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR AT RISK, LONELY AND SOCIALLY ISOLATED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES."



Sunday BBQ *needs you.*

Every fortnight, **Rosies Friends on the Street** hosts a community BBQ to serve hot, hearty meals to those experiencing homelessness right here in our city.

For many, it's the only comforting, nutritious meal they'll have all week - a moment of dignity, warmth, and connection that life on the street rarely offers.

We are seeking the financial support of local community businesses.

Financial support will allow us to continue our work, providing food and conversation to those less fortunate than ourselves in our community, into 2026 and beyond.

Seeking financial commitment of:

- \$50 per month ongoing for 12mths minimum, OR
- \$600 upfront donation for the year

An official tax-deductible receipt will be provided to all donors

SCAN HERE



The Rosies BBQ is a favourite of our patrons, any financial support you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

To donate via your bank/EFT:

NAME: Rosies Youth Mission Inc.

BSB: 064 451 **ACC:** 1003 7818

REF: "Your Name - SUNDAY BBQ"

To donate via Rosies Website :

Take photo of above QR code

Add in **Comments/Instructions** area

REF: "Your Name - SUNDAY BBQ"

REST IN PEACE

To Remember....

To Give Thanks....

To Celebrate the Life of....

Maureen Ellen Scott (nee Quain)

30th October 1931- 1st March 2026



Mass of Christian Farewell

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Clear Island Waters.

Friday 13th March, 2026. At 11 am



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Last week's Healing Mass - Bless you, Lord!



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In Preparation for Palm Sunday in a few weeks time

Please bring along Palms to the Palm Sunday Masses 28-29th March. Also, please drop in Palm Fronds at the churches in the weeks prior - special buckets will be supplied. This will assist us in having sufficient Palms for the special celebration of Palm Sunday



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Important Announcement:

Please do not use the parking spaces of the Inspiring Choices HQ (the former Centacare Building Office) - Their management will take necessary action of towing vehicles - at vehicle owner's expense - not authorised to park in the reserved parking spaces for their patients and staff. Thank you.

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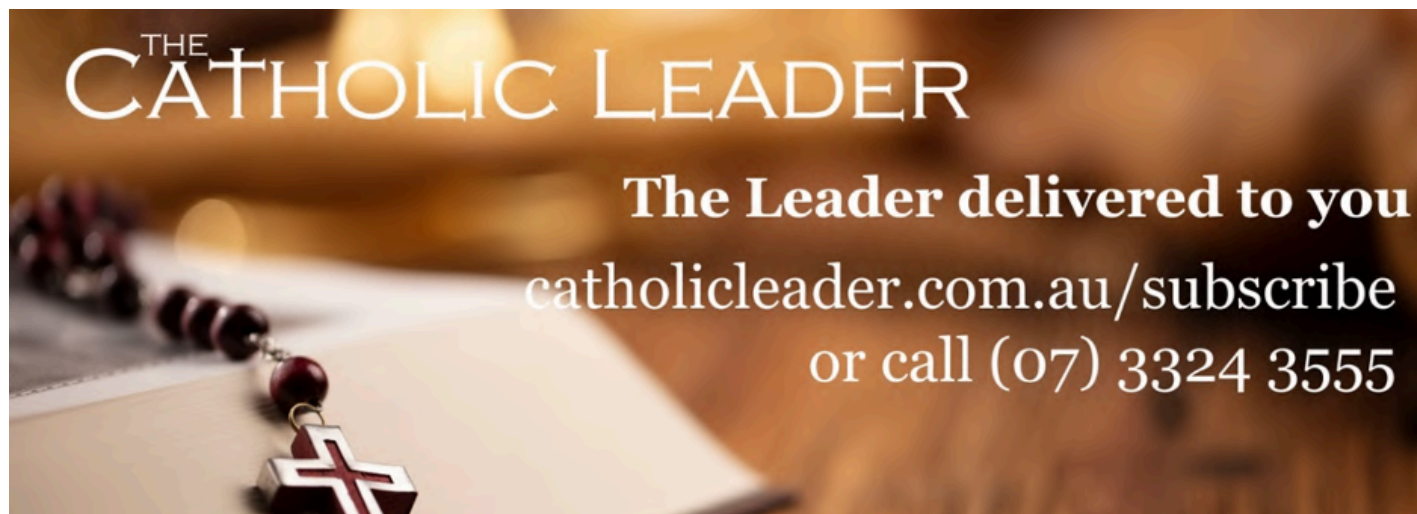
NEEDED - WOOL OR ACRYLIC YARN

Sr Lis Keane and Mary Lepp are seeking donations of 8 ply wool or acrylic yarn to assist the ladies at Numinbah Prison who are crocheting rugs to go with Br Ollies Wheelchairs for Disabled Children in disadvantaged countries.

Your assistance with either yarn (note: there are no colour restrictions), or small cash donations (\$20 - \$25.00) would be very gratefully received and can be left at Sacred Heart Church or Office under either of our names. Our prayers and grateful thanks for your help.

Sr Lis and Mary Lepp.

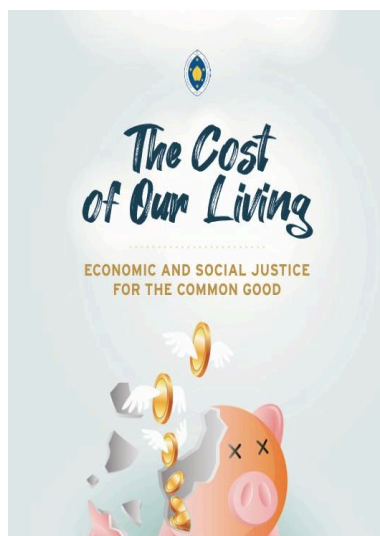
CATHOLIC LEADER NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION



Please subscribe to The Catholic Leader in print.

- Many of you may already know The Catholic Leader, our Archdiocesan Catholic newspaper
- It has shared stories of faith, service and hope from parishes and communities across our Archdiocese for nearly 100 years
- The print edition relies on the support of our Catholic community to continue
- An annual subscription costs \$70 and includes 12 editions delivered directly to your home.
- To enjoy faith-filled stories and to help you stay connected to the life of the Church, subscribe to the Catholic Leader
- To subscribe to the Catholic Leader you can call 3324 3555 or visit their website <https://catholicleader.com.au/subscribe/>
- Please inquire at the Parish Office if you would like the Catholic Leaders contact details or more information.

Bishops seek focus on cost-of-living crisis



Australia's Catholic bishops have urged courage and tenderness in addressing the nation's cost-of-living crisis.

"As disciples of Jesus, we cannot turn away from these realities. The Gospel calls us to see Christ in those who suffer and to walk alongside them with compassion.

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The statement and related resources can be found at [Social Justice Statements](#)

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Art Exhibition & Carnival Festival

Paintings for sale and 15% donation to Clear Island Waters Catholic Church. pick your choice \$85-\$460 or larger at studio

On Friday 13/3/26 5:30-7pm
At Sacred Grounds Cafe.

\$10 nibbles & drink. Any paintings sold on Friday night will have \$10 discount.

Exhibition also open Saturday 14/3/26 9:00-12midday.

I hope you will come to give and receive Margaret Sparks

[0438398040](tel:0438398040)

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A letter in the style of Jane Austen:

Esteemed reader, as this Lenten season unfolds with all the quiet propriety of a well-ordered drawing-room, one cannot help but linger upon the remarkable rencontre between Our Blessed Lord and the Samaritan woman at the well. The scene, with a discretion so delicate and a purpose so expansive, gathers within its delicate margins a vision of unity that would astonish even a collection of the most opinionated neighbours: a unity that ascends above tribe, above language, above the most settled customs.

Our Lord, though wearied as any traveller might be after a tedious journey, requests water not from one beneath Him in condition, but from a soul wearied by circumstance and long kept at arm's length by the world's conventional friendships. The disciples, expecting perhaps a conventional encounter, are shocked; the woman herself receives Him with a gaze that betrays both curiosity and dawning hope. And the ancient prejudice—that Samaritans and Jews should not so much as exchange vessels—crumbles in the light of a compassion more expansive than any mere social rite.

Scholars, in their ordinary fashion, discourse much upon the social pressures which attend such an interview; yet the Captain of this narrative shines forth most brilliantly when tried by the simple calamities and frailties of humanity. The woman's burden—whether sorrow, misfortune, or the snows of gossip—does not render her unfit for the promise of living water. If her past be heavy with losses, then it is to her, and to those among her townsfolk, that the invitation is extended to partake of God's abundant beneficence. The tale does not condemn; it invites healing, and with that healing arrives a renewed sense of belonging to a single kingdom promised of old to Israel, now expanded to embrace all.

What follows—three days in company with the Samaritans, a dialogue that endures beyond weariness and dispute—proves a triumph of mercy over prejudice. He does not compel assent by force, but by a truth that resonates with conscience and with hope. The living water He offers unites those who have long stood apart, teaching that worship in Spirit and Truth transcends either mountain or temple.

Thus, in this moment of mercy and revelation, we glimpse a Master who redefines communion: not by exclusion, but by an all-embracing invitation to belong to God's renewed, reconciled people.

(PK & JA)

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (2026)

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ADMONITIONS, RULES, ETC.



6. Of the Imitation of the Lord.

Let us all, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd who to save His sheep bore the suffering of the Cross. The sheep of the Lord followed Him in tribulation and persecution and shame, in hunger and thirst, in infirmity and temptations and in all other ways; 1 and for these things they have received everlasting life from the Lord. Wherefore it is a great shame for

us, the servants of God, that, whereas the Saints have practised works, we should expect to receive honor and glory for reading and preaching the same.

7. That Good Works should accompany Knowledge.

The Apostle says, "the letter killeth, but the spirit quickeneth." 2 They are killed by the letter who seek only to know the words that they may be esteemed more learned among others and that they may acquire great riches to leave to their relations and friends. And those religious are killed by the letter who will not follow the spirit of the Holy Scriptures, but who seek rather to know the words only and to interpret them to others. And they are quickened by the spirit of the Holy Scriptures who do not interpret materially every text they know or wish to know, but who by word and example give them back to God from whom is all good.



[Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337)– Frescoes in the crossing vault - "The Apotheosis of St Francis", The crossing vault of the Lower Church of San Francesco in Assisi, located directly above St. Francis's tomb and the high altar]

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CENTACARE MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

Marriage preparation courses delivered by Centacare. I hope these details have been helpful. We have been delighted to respond to your queries so far.

We continue to update our course information and booking availability on a regular basis. These updates are available online:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1492480> (FOCCUS pre-marriage course for couples to attend privately)

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1488605> (Saturday group course for multiple couples to attend)

We welcome online bookings as well as direct enquiries from couples who may wish for further information or to book courses at other times.

The FOCCUS pre-marriage course is also delivered at Centacare Family and Relationship Services Gold Coast, for details please contact the Gold Coast office directly:

<https://centacare.com/location/centacare-family-and-relationship-services-gold-coast/>

SAINTS OF ITALY (8th - 20th June 2026)

Fr. Franco Filipetto from St. Mary's Parish in Warrick warmly invites you to join a spiritually enriching pilgrimage to Italy, visiting Milan, Padua, Florence, Assisi, Rotondo, and Rome, walking in the footsteps of the saints, and drawing inspiration from their lives, witness, and enduring legacy in the very places where they lived and served.

This all-inclusive pilgrimage is priced at \$9,290 (30+ pilgrims). The fare includes return economy airfares, local transfers in deluxe coaches, accommodation in 4-star premium hotels, daily meals, English-speaking professional guides, entrance fees as per the itinerary, and more. We would be delighted for you to join us on this unforgettable journey of faith. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email us

pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

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IGNIS DEI

Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish
Youth Group



Want to connect with other youth in the parish?

Join us every Sunday at 7pm in the
Sacred Heart Hospitality Centre

**Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish Youth Group -
Ignis Dei (Fire of God)**

***Ignis Dei Youth - next meeting - Sunday 8
March at 7pm.***

Come and journey with us for the season of Lent as we reflect on the Sunday readings. This is a great way to gather and consider God's voice spoken to us through the readings we hear at Mass during this wonderful season using the resource "The Journey

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THE BIBLE TIMELINE – THE STORY OF SALVATION
ADULT FAITH FORMATION BIBLE STUDY
CONTINUES on LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 2025

Next gathering 29th March 2026

Session 17



In the Parish Hospitality Centre - (next to Sacred Heart Church), 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, Queensland 4226, on the Last Sunday of the month from 10 am – 12 pm.

*There is no cost; however, to participate, you will need to purchase **The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation Study Set**, which can be obtained from Ascension Press or Garrett Publishing - ask the office if we have any still on hand first. The Study Set will contain The Bible*

*Timeline Study Book, Chart and Bookmark - <https://ascensionpress.com/>
<https://garrattpublishing.com.au/>*

Fr Bradley and the parish youth team look forward to our teenage people joining us for these upcoming events!!!

An Archdiocesan Youth Event

RECO RALLY

LOURDES HILL 6:00- 8:30PM
COLLEGE 27.03.26



CATHOLIC Collective



The Archdiocese of Brisbane is hosting the annual Reco Rally. Join youth groups across the Archdiocese for a fun night of, live music, games, inspirational speakers, powerful prayer and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For more info head to the Reco Rally Website
<https://www.catholiccollective.org.au/reco-rally>

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Ignite Launch - Saturday 16 May, 2026 @ Dreamworld

This is an extremely fun day of riding roller coasters and meeting other teens who are exploring the Catholic faith. This is especially appropriate for those who are testing the waters and new to the faith. If you are looking to find out more in a fun and relaxed environment, please join our youth on 16 May.

After the park closes, we will enjoy dinner and a youth dance party, hearing from special guest speaker, Fr Rob Galea, who has an incredible story about how he got away from a life of gangs to living freely in the faith.

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Tickets are [NOW LIVE](#) for the 2026 Passion Play!



This Easter, join us at the beautiful **Lake Moogerah** as the Easter story is brought to life in a powerful outdoor setting. Performed right in front of you, the Passion Play is a meaningful way to reflect, gather, and share the Easter weekend with family and friends.

Book your FREE tickets today!

CLOW – Children’s Liturgy of the Word - Sacred Heart - Clear Island Waters-

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, FROM CRAWLING BABIES (PARENTS STAY) TO TWEENAGERS

Children’s Liturgy of The Word

CLOW

**EVERY SUNDAY IN TERM TIME
DURING 9AM MASS**

**PARISH HOSPITALITY CENTER
SACRED HEART CHURCH, CLEAR ISLAND WATERS**

We provide children with a fun, welcoming environment where they can:

- make friends with their peers (building community)
- understand the meaning of the Gospel with examples of how they can apply it their own life.

All volunteers are trained and hold Blue Cards.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

Children’s Liturgy of The Word

CLOW
TERM 1 EASTER PARTY

**SUN 29TH MARCH
AFTER 9AM MASS**

**PARISH HOSPITALITY CENTER
SACRED HEART CHURCH, CLEAR ISLAND WATERS**

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FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on each First Friday,
6th March, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. Enquiries: Helen 0421935678. "Could you not watch one hour with Me" - Mt 26:4

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AND BENEDICTION

We will be celebrating on the **First Saturday - March 7th, 9 am** at **Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters** only. Followed by adoration and Benediction. Please come along.

Anointing Mass – Mass of Healing FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (February-November Inclusive)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Tuesday, the 7th April, 2026. 10 am - Followed by morning tea. Please let others know who would love to come along

Youth Lenten Retreat

Come and Stay with the ONE
who has loved us even death on a Cross

LET US CELEBRATE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING LOVED ETERNALLY

What specials in the event?

Spiritual
Input

Mass
Reconciliation

Adoration
Personal Prayer

Group
Sharing



Where ? 12 Fedrick St., Boronia Heights, QLD 4124



When ? Saturday, 21st March, 2026 from 09:00AM to 01:00PM

Open to aged from 15 to 40

FREE Event with Lunch provided



RSVP via spc.au.info@gmail.com

More information at www.srspcaustralia.org.au

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Made Herself Ready

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. - Revelation 19:7



A Church without religious women is like a home without a mother.

Young women (aged 15+) are invited to come and discover the importance of religious women in the Church and how their visible witness to Christ can impact your own spiritual journey - whether you're discerning religious life or marriage.

Come and be surrounded by like-minded young women as we address the fears surrounding Religious life while highlighting the beauty and necessity of Consecrated virginity.

SAT, 7TH OF MARCH 26'

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Holy Mass

Guided group discussions

Fellowship & connection

Lunch provided

Talks from each community on the necessity of religious life in the Church



Speakers



SISTERS OF ST. PAUL DE CHARTRES

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATA

SISTERS OF MARY MORNING STAR



LOCATED @ ST. BRIGID'S PARISH, NERANG

GOLD COAST

Register by Feb 21st

For more information and register, visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/madeherselfready>

Contact:

religiousliferevival@gmail.com
with questions.





SOCIAL BUS TRIP

Let's all be Irish on the 17th March 2026.

Come and join us on St. Patrick's Day starting with a bus journey to participate in Mass at St. Stephen's Cathedral at 10am. Father Gerard will be the celebrant and the Mass includes Irish bagpipes. Morning tea next to the Cathedral is included after our spiritual celebration.

Then we head off to Western Districts Rugby Football Club Toowong for a 12 Noon lunch followed by Irish dancing and entertainment. On the way there and home, test your wits by joining in some Irish Trivia, receive prizes including the best Irish outfit and lucky seat. It will be a wonderful spiritual excursion with lots of Irish frivolity.

Please invite your family and friends as all are welcome.

Date: Tuesday 17 March (RSVP: Monday 2nd March)

Location: The bus will depart and return to St. Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador (44 Imperial Parade).

Times: 8:15am for prompt departure at 8:30am and returning at about 4:30pm

Cost: \$30 for bus hire (dependent on numbers). Lunch and drinks are at your expense.

As with all SCL events, bookings are essential. To register, email John Wintour at winlock1@optusnet.com.au or to get further details, please contact Christine by mobile on 0431 630 446.



For more details on the conference's activities, please contact Conference President Wendy Webb at wendy.webb@svdpqld.org.au

Sunday, 1 March 2026 — SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex17: 3-7

Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8

Jn 4: 5-42

THIS WEEK...

“Love one another. As I have loved you”. John 13:34

PRAYER

Lord, remind me that worshipping you is a way of thinking, not a scheduled activity.

IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

Our pilgrimage through Lent continues this week with Jesus meeting at the well, a woman whom we are told, had had many husbands. She is astounded by Jesus’ knowledge of her past, and his kindness despite it.

This woman has been used to carrying a heavy load of shame and low self-esteem. It’s the reason she is at the well alone, in the middle of a hot day – to avoid the other women of the town and their criticism and gossip.

Jesus tells her that we must worship in spirit and in truth. He offers ‘living water’ from which we will never thirst again. He seems to be saying we need to live our lives daily with a pure heart and genuine intent to love God and our neighbour. Worshipping in spirit and in truth is a daily, minute-to-minute way of thinking, rather than a scheduled weekly activity; an internal way of being, rather than a physical place to be.

The woman runs joyously back to the town, lighter, and relieved of her burdens. So it can be, with returned pilgrims. Often a heavy emotional load is carried into a pilgrimage. It may be sin or shame, fear or anxiety, or desperate unhappiness. Through time spent with Our Lord - be it on a long walk, a journey through Lent or a journey through life, we can emerge lighter, relieved and joyous, with the gift of his grace.

Many St Vincent de Paul staff and members have shared experiences of seeing a person walk into one of our centres, very visibly weighed down by the situation they are in. After some time spent with us, being listened to, affirmed, and having some of their practical needs addressed, the relief and lightness they walk out with, can also be visible, and provides great satisfaction.

(Reflection by Leonie Duck)

What does worship in spirit and in truth look like for you?

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MASS TIMES: SURFERS PARADISE MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart
50 Fairway Drive
Clear Island
Waters, 4226

Saturday Night - 5 pm (Note: Reconciliations from 4-4.30 pm at Sacred Heart)

+ (Maronite Mass, 6:30 pm, Saturday Night).

***Note: First Saturday of the month, morning Mass, Adoration and Benediction: 9 am, 7th March, 2026.**

And also the usual 9 am and 6 pm (at Sacred Heart - Clear Island Waters)

+ (Polish Mass 12:30 pm Sunday)

+ (Italian Mass 4 pm Sunday at Sacred Heart Church)

Weekday Masses - Monday - Friday weekday Mass - 9 a.m. (all at Sacred Heart)

(Healing Mass - Next Anointing Mass will be the First Tuesday in March - 7th April 2026)

{Adoration - **First Friday Night of the Month - 6th March 2026 -**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart Church - First Fridays of the Month,

from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. Enquiries: Helen

0421935678. **"Could you not watch with me for one hour?" Mt 26:40** }.

St Vincent's 36 Hamilton Avenue. Surfers Paradise 4217	Sunday - 8 am & 10 am (Hispanic Mass – 5.30 pm every Sunday) <i>Extra parking is available only metres from St Vincent's Church, King's Car Park, entry via Beach Road. Also, Remembrance Drive opposite the church, next to the new Essentia Building.</i>
Stella Maris 254 Hedges Avenue, Broadbeach, 4218	Saturday - 5 pm Sunday - 7 am

Hispanic (Latino American) Mass: Fr. Luis Antonio Diaz Lamus 5:30 pm Mass - **Every Sunday** -
St Vincent's Catholic Church, Surfers Paradise. Gold Coast Contact: Juan Arrieta.
For more information, please email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Polish Mass: Fr Jerzy Prucnal (Bowen Hills 3252 2200). 12:30 pm Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters. Gold Coast Contact: George Syrek 0411 302 802 -

Italian Mass: Sunday, Sacred Heart Church at 4 p.m. For further information about the Italian Mass on the Gold Coast, please contact Fr Luis Antonio Diaz Lamus (Scalabrinian Missionary) at ladl71@hotmail.com or Giovanna at gianna52@hotmail.com -

Maronite Mass: Fr Fadi Salame 0421 790 996. The 6.30 pm Maronite Saturday Vigil is at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters.

GO CASHLESS DONATIONS -



AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES OF THREE CHURCHES - tap once to donate \$10, tap and other higher denominations are now available on the new devices.

HOSPITAL CALLS - AROUND THE DEANERY -

HELP THE PRIESTS OF THE DEANERY RESPOND TO URGENT CALLS EFFECTIVELY BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING PARISHES' FIRST RESPONDERS TO NEEDS WITHIN THE HOSPITALS LISTED.

To efficiently and promptly address pastoral needs across the Catholic parishes of the Gold Coast, the parishes in this Deanery practice that the first

call for emergencies goes to the priests of the parish where the hospital is located. Here is a helpful guide to the hospitals and their attendant priests. A nursing home call also follows this procedure: the first priest to call is from the parish where the Nursing Home is located. Please help us serve the region effectively and prevent response delays by calling the nearest parish.

- Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish. 5558 0120
- Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish. 56717388
- John Flynn Hospital - Coolangatta-Tugun Parish. 5598 2165
- University & Gold Coast Private Hosp.- Southport Parish. 5510 2222

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CHILDHOOD SACRAMENTS - 2026



Faith: Children's Sacramental Program 2026

Baptism

- Who: Birth to 7 years (older children may need extra preparation)
- Enrolment & booking: Online
(STEP 1 REGISTER; STEP 2 BAPTISM ENQUIRY)
- Eligible - Children aged from birth to 7:
Email Merla Nario: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au
- Children aged 8+ years: email - sacramental.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au to start prep
- When: Most Sundays, 10:30 am, Sacred Heart Church
- Administrative fee: \$130
- How to enrol / info:
 - Parish site: surfersparadiseparish.com.au (Sacraments > Baptism)

Confirmation 2026

- Who: Baptised children in Year 3 or greater. (approx age= 8 or 9 years old)
- When: 2026 prep + rehearsal + confirm
(parent and child to attend the following sessions)
- Meeting 1: 20 or 21 July, 5:30 pm
- Meeting 2: 28 or 29 July, 5:30 pm
- Rehearsals: 11 or 12 August, 5:30 pm
- Confirmation: 21 August 2026, 5:00 or 7:00 pm

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

Safeguarding Officer (relating to child safety and adults at risk) Robyn Hunt Safeguarding officer - contact lsr.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding (Children and adults-at-risk)- The Archdiocese of Brisbane Whistleblower Hotline 1300 30 45 50

- Preparation: Preparation Program (parents + children)
- Administrative fee: \$150 total for Confirmation & Eucharist prep
 - How to enrol / info:
 - Parish site: surfersparadiseparish.com.au (Sacraments > Confirmation)
 - Enrol: STEP 1 REGISTER; STEP 2 ENROL
- For more info: sacramental.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Eucharist (First Holy Communion) 2026

Who: Year 4+; Baptised & Confirmed (approx 9 to ten years of age)

When (sequence): all elements are required.

- Session 1: Tues 10 or Wed 11 March, 5:30 pm (parent and child attend)
- Session 2: Tuesday 17 or Wednesday 18 March, 5:30 pm (parent and child attend)
- Reconciliations: Tuesday 19 May, 5:30 pm (parent and child attend)
- Rehearsals: Tuesday 26 or Wed 27 May, 5:30 pm (parent and child attend)
- First Communions: 31 May, 11:00 am or 7 June, 11:00 am (parent and child attend)

Administrative fee: \$120 preparation (excludes Confirmation)

Notes:

If the child was confirmed in 2025, auto-included for 2026 prep; no extra fee if already paid in 2025

If confirmed in another parish, follow the First Communion enrolment steps

How to enrol / info:

Parish site: surfersparadiseparish.com.au (Sacraments > First Holy Communion)

Enrol: STEP 1 REGISTER; STEP 2 ENROL

For more info: sacramental.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au



General

All sacraments at Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters, Qld 4226

Enrolment status or information requests: via parish site links or Sacramental Team emails above

IN OUR PRAYERS *(Please let us know when to remove a name from the list).*

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Please also pray for the following, who are ill. (Alphabetical)

Liz Marie Alcaza, Lindsay Allan, Robert Andreas, Joseph Antony, Milroy Antony, Ellen Ball, Tricia Baumann, Phil Bawden, Gregory Bechly, Nellie Bellinger, Donna Bowman, Mary and Leon Brosnan, Tim Brown, Margaret and Tony Buckingham, Vicky and Andrew Campora, Gerard Carroll, Danielle Cavielli, Nadia Ceh, Tina Conidi, Helen Cooper, Jamie Creed, Shirley Croft, Christopher Cunningham, Mary Curmi, Bernie Delaney, Lenore Dobbie, Glen Dolan, Christopher Eid, Judi Farrow, John Fletcher, John Fox, Lorraine Gallagher, Maralyn Gow, Eleanor (Nelly) Graham, Jenny Haines, Denise Hales, Betty Hannon, Gary Haywood, Jenny Johnson, Kevin & Francis Junee, Leona Kelly, Marjorie Kennedy, Kath Kiely, Jan Kristenson, Robert Lahey, Dallas Laine, Dannielle Therese Larney, Thi Le, Alvin Lee, Gary Linegar, Nathan Lepp, Grace Lim, Maureen Lloyd, Ann Loder, Veronica Lubomski, Victoria MacDonald, Fr John Maher, Jim Mathews, I. McGuigan, Phil and Anne McGuigan, Leonie McMahon, Anthea McMullin, Joanne Mooney, Maryann Moore, Michael & Leslie Murtagh, Eileen O'Mara, Margaret Orme, Tommy Osborne, Kevin Owen, Jamie Paterson, Susan Paterson, Sarah Pawley, Clare Perera, Lesley Petroni, Rachel Raines, Gus Reeves, Melba Rentoul, Fabian Restaino, Sally Rickard, Alan Robinson, Bob Rogers, Joan Cecilia Rudd, Jens Ryan-Raison, Marnia Ryan-Raison, Catherine Sawyer, Alf Schembri, Betty Taylor, Gary Thompson, Leonie and Leonardo Torcaso, Denise Tracey, Lynette Wyer, John Zappa.

RECENTLY DECEASED: (Chronological - Most recent first):

Heidi Paterson, Maureen Scott, Benjamin Said, Arthur Haddad, Chrissy Ewings, Joel Anderson, Rita Bassi, John Herbert Hines, Colleen Ramsay, Cheryl Pia, Rob Paterson, Antonia Galvin, Denise Cartwright, Edwin Pacheco, Chadia Kaminski, Christeen Harth, Kath Rice, Colin Paterson, Carmel Mooney.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH:

This week's Anniversaries (Alphabetical) (8th March - 14th March 2026)

Kath Browning, Racquel Leisa Carruthers, Ronald Patrick (Ron) Chapman, June Hilda Curtis, Arkley Debnam, Bernadette Marie Douwes, Paul Fitzgerald, Fr Patrick Flood, Mary Theresa Ford, Barry Geary, Jeannette Giblin, Rosina Grguric, Shirley May Heath, Mary Madonna Hodge, "Andrew Janiec, Lynette Mary Leonard, Mario Di Martino, Elizabeth Mary McKinstry, Valerie Lorraine Meldrum, Giorgia Teresa Micallef-Vinall, Dawn Milgate, Yvonne Helen Mitchell, Fr Ralph Mitchell, Josephine Nosti, John Desmond O'Hanlon, Gerald Francis (Gerry) O'Reilly, Norma Claire Quinlan, Fr Kevin Ryan, Giovanni Scalcione, Millicent Dawn Shaw, Marija Vaculik, Fr Raymond Wilson.

Last Week's anniversaries of Death: (Sunday, 1 March 2026 -Saturday, 7 March 2026)

Romano Del Bianco, Paul Cedric Bleakley, Rose Mary Booth-Crane, Wilhelmina Elizabeth Carter, Joseph Caruana, Fr James Concannon, Dorothy Kathleen Corbett, Monique Mary Felsman, Fr Patrick Finnerty, Malcolm Leslie (Mal) Flannery, Raymond Fredricks, Michael Anthony Geoghegan, Fr Peter Gillam, Gloria Hart, Fr Brian Horton, Jolan Horvath, Kathleen Jackson, Benjamin Anthony Kyle, Michael Maloney, Kathryn

Matthews, Francis Vernon Maunder, Ronald (Ron) McConnell, Fr John McMonagle, Margaret Mary Miller, Leisa Holman (née Mullins), Larry Klinge, Elizabeth (Betty) O'Hagan, Noel Andrew Brodel Payne, Pamela Margaret Rawlings, Stella Mavis Sammut, Fr Francis Scanlan, Brenda Scantlebury, George Schreiber, Austin Smith, Teresa/Lisa (Hhih Ting) Teo, Kazimierz Tadeusz Ważny, John Anthony Woodruff.

HOLY GROUNDS CAFE -

The Café - "Sacred Grounds" is Located at the Former Atrium Building near the Sacred Heart Church.



Dmitri, Demid, and Svetlana Schodin, the new owners of Sacred Grounds Cafe on the grounds of the parish. They are a very friendly, lovely, young family. The cafe's food

is delicious, and the atmosphere is vibrant and warm. Come and make them feel welcome and support a local business!

The Sacred Grounds will be open from 7 am to 4 pm each day. They specialise in Coffee, breakfasts, lunches, and a takeaway menu, and they even bake on premises!

The café near the Sacred Heart Church is a wonderful gathering place for parishioners, school parents, staff, and the wider public. The café is in the old Atrium building.



This allows community building whilst giving the church the space it

needs for its Masses, Weddings, Baptisms and solemn Funerals.

Please support this excellent continuation of the parish vision.

RELIGIOUS GOODS SHOPS - SACRED HEART AND ST VINCENT'S CHURCHES

offer a wide range of items for faith, devotion, and sacraments. Easter greeting cards as well as crucifixes, rosaries, Bibles, statues, jewellery, and sacramental gifts for Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.

WCCM - WORLD COMMUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN MEDITATION - Lenten Program Starts next week - 17th February (in preparation for Ash Wednesday on 18th February) and will continue for the Lent season



This meditation group meets each Tuesday in the Morris Prayer Room located at 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters. Meditation starts from 10am until 10.30am. This is followed by the Lenten program referencing the 'Compassio' from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong from 10.30am-12noon. You are welcome to attend either one. If you are new to meditation, we will assist you in learning about WCCM and the practice of Christian Meditation. For more information, please contact Pam Egberts at 0493 742 670.

SACRED HEART ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us to pray The Stations of the Cross, The Divine Mercy and The Rosary each day at 8:00 am at the Sacred Heart Church before 9 a.m. Mass, Monday through Friday, including First Saturdays.

ART AND CRAFT GROUP

The Group meets in the Parish Hospitality Centre on Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 noon. Activities include

- Art (watercolour, oils, acrylics, pen and ink drawing, etc.)
- Various kinds of Craftwork (Knitting, Embroidery, Crocheting, Card making, Sewing, etc.)
- Making Rosary Beads (later sent to the missions)
- And any other activities that individuals may have an interest in, or you can bring in your own ideas. A very relaxing and social environment - meet new friends! You are most welcome to join. **For further information, phone the Parish Office.**

THE SACRED HEART BRIDGE CLUB-

Sacred Heart Bridge Club - Join Our Bridge Club! - Meet, Play, and Enjoy the Game of Bridge. Looking for a fun, social, and stimulating activity? Whether you're a returning player or a Beginner wanting to learn, our Bridge Club welcomes players of all levels!

Where: Hospitality Room

When: Monday and Wednesday from 1.00 pm

Contact: Cheryl on 0417 772 701

✓ Friendly Atmosphere ✓ Lessons for Beginners ✓ Weekly Games ✓ Tea, Coffee & Good Company! Come for the cards, stay for the camaraderie!

YOGA AT THE PARISH HOSPITALITY CENTRE -

Join us for our social class in the Parish Hospitality Centre next to the Parish Office. Classes run every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. Learn to relax while gaining greater flexibility, inner strength, body awareness, and concentration, while increasing your breath support and overall well-being. Ruth is an IYTA-accredited instructor with extensive experience and offers a caring, carefully monitored one-hour session for \$10 (new attendees, please arrive by 10:30 a.m. to prepare adequately for class). For more information, please email surfers@bne.catholic.net.au.

OUR LADY'S STATUE -

Praying the Rosary - Our Lady's Statue in the Parish - Details of the Statue of Our Lady are going around the Parish. If you would like her in your home and to say the Rosary, please contact Maxine or Pat. For more information, please email: psela@bigpond.com or surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

23/02/26 Helen & Thor - at Merrimac
02/03/26 Lilly Leongue - at Varsity Lakes
09/03/26 Lilly Leongue - at Varsity Lakes
16/03/26 Lucianna Lang at Varsity Lakes
23/03/26 Lucianna Lang at Varsity Lakes
30/03/26 Susanna Jacobs at Robina
06/04/26 Susanna Jacobs at Robina
13/04/26 Rachael & Kamel Courtino at Broadbeach waters
20/04/26 Rachael & Kamel Courtino at Broadbeach waters
27/04/26 Merla & Rodney Nario at Molendinar
04/05/26 Merla & Rodney Nario at Molendinar

SACRED HEART CHURCH PARKING

A special notice - when parking, please leave the emergency and taxi pickup "yellow painted area" clear for ambulance or brief taxi drop off and pickup and the disabled parking areas are only for disability permit persons - thanks for your assistance in ensuring this important compliance]

EXERCISE CLASS - LOW IMPACT - FOR HEART HEALTH -

Join Rochelle for a fun, functional exercise class at Casey Hall. Low-impact cardiovascular exercises for heart health, improve strength and balance- an all-around fitness class for over 65's. Stretch and strengthen the whole body, make new friends and feel great. Tuesday mornings @9.30 Beginners welcome. Contact Rochelle. For more information, please email: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au or call 07 5671 7388.

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP - ST VINCENT'S CHURCH, SURFERS PARADISE.

The Bible Study Prayer Group meets every Friday from 5 pm-6 pm at St Vincent's Church (40 Hamilton Ave, Surfers Paradise).

Join us for a read/study break and open The Word weekly from 5 pm to 6 pm. For further enquiries, please contact the Parish Office. surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

PRAYER GROUP - SPANISH SPEAKER

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

Safeguarding Officer (relating to child safety and adults at risk) Robyn Hunt Safeguarding officer - contact lsr.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding (Children and adults-at-risk)- The Archdiocese of Brisbane Whistleblower Hotline 1300 30 45 50

Jesús de la Misericordia. Invites you to participate on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 11 am to 2 pm. Place: Hospitality Room. Sacred Heart Church. "We praise, We praise, We grow spiritually from the Word of the Lord." For more information, please contact Grace. For more information, please email: grace.flowers.art@hotmail.com or surfers@bne.catholic.net.au -

PARISH PODCAST

To tune in to **Our parish Podcast of the Mass for Sundays and Solemnities**, please visit regularly the following link: To listen to the Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, please visit this link: Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) - <https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks> Also found at - <https://tinyurl.com/FHLpwk>

A VOCATION VIEW:

Only the Lord can give true living water, the fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.

To talk to someone about your vocation, contact Vocation Brisbane: 1300 133 544. vocation@bne.catholic.net.au and www.vocationbrisbane.com



Scan the QR code
to find out more, or call 1300 133 544
www.vocationbrisbane.com
Follow us on socials
@vocationbrisbane



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - Worship God Alone

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." John 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions, we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centred."

The vision of Stewardship speaks in every aspect of life, inviting everyone to be thankful, generous and accountable for what each has been given.

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TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH - Truth Be Told

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." (John 4:5-42).

Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Pilate didn't stick around for the answer (which in itself says a lot), but if he had, he might have heard something like the definition the Catechism of the Catholic Church provides: "Truth as uprightness in human action and speech is called truthfulness, sincerity, or candor. Truth or truthfulness is the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words, and in guarding against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy." Now we have a sense of what it means to imitate Christ in all things.

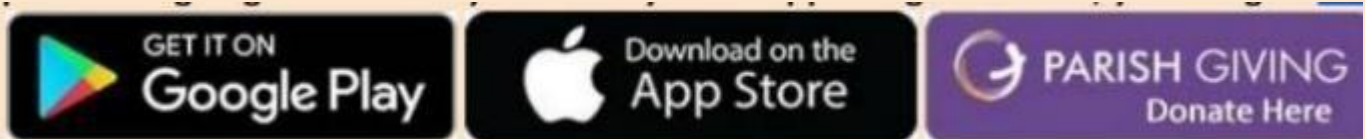
SIGN UP FOR "TAKE FIVE" www.takefiveforfaith.com/subscribe.

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers>

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires conducting Working With Children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) or adults at risk. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has zero tolerance for abusing children or adults at risk.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your support is needed to help our Parish continue valuable pastoral activities and ensure ongoing sustainability. You can give here to assist you in supporting the Parish.



If you can continue to support us, we would be most grateful. We thank all who have made payments by credit card and those who have donated directly to the parish account. The pay-wave or tap-and-go machines on the timber stands in our Churches are also a safe and handy way to donate to the Parish. God bless you for your support. If you want confirmation of your donation or a receipt emailed, please contact me at slaters@bne.catholic.net.au .

To join planned giving, please contact the Parish Office: (07) 56717388 (9 am–2 pm Mon-Thursday or 9 am-12 noon Fri).

Also - Bequest information. If you wish to make a Bequest in your will, please contact the Parish Office - surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL

-To listen to the whole Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, including the Easter Mass - please visit this link:

Liturgy for you at Home (by SPCP) - [https:- soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks](https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks).



Image Credit- Shutterstock Licensed. Stock Photo ID: 1630381168 - OHRID, MACEDONIA - MAY 04, 2019: Jesus and the Samaritan woman, fresco in the Church of Saint Paraskeva of the Balkans near Saint Naum Monastery, Ohrid in Macedonia - Important information - Editorial Use Only. Photo Contributor: Zvonimir Athletic

GOSPEL THIS WEEKEND

As our Lenten journey continues, we have the wonderful incident of Our Lord meeting and speaking with the Samaritan Woman at the well. This extraordinary encounter and discussion bring home to us that Jesus came to bring about unity, through the salvation of the entire people of Israel, not just the tribe of Judah, but the whole of Israel. Including the Samaritan people and in fact people of every tribe, nationality or tongue. Our Lord's sensitivity and care and concern for all people shines through brightly in this meeting.

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We are very familiar with this delightful meeting of Christ with the Samaritan woman at the well. Even so, it is important that we always remain open to the many layers and deeper truths that can always be plumbed from God's living word, and approach this incident with minds and hearts open to being further nourished.

There are so many wonderful elements in this scene. We know that even the disciples are described as surprised to see Jesus talking with this woman. It is

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Safeguarding (Children and adults-at-risk)- The Archdiocese of Brisbane Whistleblower Hotline 1300 30 45 50

often assumed that this is because he is speaking with a woman, but actually it is not so unusual that an exhausted and parched traveller might ask for some water from anyone they come across. The biggest surprise was that he was speaking to a Samaritan. And the most astounding thing for this lady is that he seemed to be asking for her to share her water container, as he had none. It was well known that Samaritans and Jews did not associate and certainly didn't share eating or drinking implements, for they thought of each other as heretics. Despite this, they believed many of the same things and their practices were not so different. They differed massively in where the proper place for worship was, with Jews saying God's temple, and the Samaritans, Mount Gerizim.

Despite this, they had the same spiritual ancestors and were all descended from the different tribes of the originally united Israel, (combining Judah and Israel, the latter which included Samaria).

Over the centuries many assumptions have been made about the woman at the well that are not necessarily borne out by the text. We are fortunate that as we collect more and more perspectives from the Jewish cultural practices and beliefs of the time, a richer window opens up to us. For example, it has been often assumed that the woman was at the well in the heat of the day, to avoid her fellow Samaritans with the thought that she may have been a woman held in low esteem in the village. But, there is nothing to suggest that this is summertime, it could be the middle of winter. Also, the hottest part of the day would not be midday but 3 pm.

In any case, there are heaps of reasons a person might be avoiding their fellow townsfolk other than sin, including illness, sorrow, depression, and tragedy. She may have withdrawn from others due to what seems like a tragic series of events that had befallen her and her family. We know that the lady had been married several times, but again it is unfairly assumed that she was morally poor or a public sinner. Her husbands may all have died through tragedy. (Perhaps like the awful incident in the Book of Tobit where a woman's newlywed husbands - all seven husbands in a row- each died on their wedding night – in that famous biblical scene, the people felt pity for her, and some thought she might be cursed, but they did not cast her out, but the woman in that scene felt shame and distress). Or this Samaritan woman's husbands may have divorced her, with no-fault attributed to herself, as only men could divorce women without any particular reason.

Jesus points out that she is not married, as the man she lives with is not her husband, but again, this man could be a relative or a son. He could well be simply pointing out that with no husband, she was in that culture and time-dependent on the charity of distant relatives. This lady may have been depressed and downcast, having suffered so much personal tragedy in her life... The people might have felt that God was not blessing her, and had abandoned her, because of all that had happened in her life. Our Lord's gentle words can be taken to say, "I know all that you have been through. I know what has happened to you. God's Kingdom is for you too." This would be very fitting of one who came to heal and to reach out to those bowed down.

If the lady were truly an outcast, she would not be so readily believed by the townsfolk when she told them she had met the messiah. Why believe the word of a woman of ill repute? We are told they believe her and go to see themselves and then believe no longer because of what she said but because of meeting him. Astoundingly, we are also told something often missed. HE stays with the Samaritans for three days. He eats with them, stays in their shelter and talks with them. This is amazing.

The other clue is at the start... It says.. the well is the one Jacob built... the bones of the prophet Joseph are buried here. They are heirs, like the Jews, to the promise of Jacob and Joseph and the forefathers. Our Lord, in a deep theological discussion with the woman at the well, promises that he is the living water from heaven... and he offers her and the Samaritans this as well. He indeed says salvation is from the Jews, but he is the Messiah, who comes to reunite the divided kingdom -- And it is the reunited Jews (from Judah and Samaria), he is preaching and bringing back into the fold. When Our Lord tells the woman all about herself, she feels welcomed and understood. He is filled with compassion for her suffering. Is he comparing her to the experiences of Joseph, whose suffering at the hands of his brothers and his being sold into slavery in Egypt eventually led to the salvation of his family and his people? Was Our Lord assuring the lady that her suffering and pain over all these years will be healed by his ministry and inclusion? Through her inexplicable suffering, the Lord, the water of life, was giving not only her but her whole township new and eternal life... and reunion with the one Kingdom of Israel.

The most amazing part of this encounter is when Jesus says to her: "We worship in Jerusalem, and you on this mountain here..." (which sounds initially very inflexible and with no room to move for either "side")... but then he adds something that astounds and amazes everyone: "but there will come a time

when we will worship not on this or that mountain, but will worship God in Spirit and Truth." That time has already come through Christ, who is the living temple and from whom the waters of life flow to all. Christ, again finds ways of healing, reconnecting and unifying all people, not through compromise, but from a thoroughly liberating wider perspective and way of truth and life where all sides can move forward as God's people. Jesus' example shows us that the solution to division and disagreement is compassion, respect, listening, healing, and lovingly being open to the fullness of vision that doesn't stand on narrow refusal to have a meeting of heart and mind.

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References: Fr Paul W. Kelly; *The Samaritan Woman Reconsidered*. Kindle Edition. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg (Author), Pinchas Shir (Editor), Ludmila Lizorkina (Editor). ISBN: 1713300362. December 1, 2019; Gutiérrez, G. and Dees, C. (1997). *Sharing the Word through the liturgical year*. 1st ed. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

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To listen to the Sunday Mass each week (including homily) from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, please visit this link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks>.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS:

→ St Frances of Rome, Religious

- ◆ 9-Mar. Optional Memorial
- ◆ Born in Rome in 1384. Died there on this day in 1440. Established a community of laywomen who followed the Rule of Saint Benedict and ministered to the poor. Remembered as a dedicated laywoman who, in a time of plague and civil war, worked tirelessly for the poor and the sick yet without compromising her love for her husband and family.
- ◆ "Sometimes I must leave God at the altar to find Him in my housekeeping."
- ◆ "Hope everything from the mercy of God; it is as boundless as His power."
- ◆ "A married woman must leave all her devotions when the household demands it."
- ◆ "She did not cease to be mindful of the things of God during her marriage, so that she pleased God in her husband and her husband in God." – from the prayer book of the community founded by St. Frances.

PAPAL REFLECTION



Author: Krys Shahin

The pope urged priests to resist using AI to prepare homilies and to genuinely connect with communities and their peers.

VATICAN CITY, — Pope Leo XIV urged priests not to fall into the "temptation" of using artificial intelligence to prepare their homilies during a conversation with the clergy of the Diocese of Rome on Thursday.

The closed-door meeting, which the Vatican News described as an "open and sincere one," consisted of the pope giving an address, then answering questions from the clergy.

During the session, the pope encouraged priests to understand the first step of pastoral work, which he said was "truly knowing the community where I am called to serve."

This turned into a conversation about the use of AI and internet use.

"Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not move them, they die," he said. "The brain needs to be used, so our intelligence must also be exercised a little so as not to lose this capacity."

"To give a homily is to share faith," he added, and AI "will never be able to share faith."

He also encouraged the clergy that seeking "illusion on the internet, on TikTok," through likes and attention cannot replace authentic spiritual connection.

Pope Leo urged his listeners to continue learning and studying to counteract reliance on and temptation of AI.

"Study in our life must be permanent, continuous. When I hear someone tell me — this is true, a priest told me this — 'I have not opened a book since I left the seminary,'" he said. "My goodness, I thought, how sad."

He also said studying and learning could be done alongside companions or a group of friends who can "reflect together."

His warnings about the tech came as the Vatican plans to debut a translation system — assisted by artificial intelligence — to allow attendees to follow (in real time), liturgical celebrations in St. Peter's Basilica in 60 languages.

Source:

<https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/nation-world/pope-leo-cautions-against-ai-reliance/507-d2539385-d50a-41ae-b2de-b7a8a21f82da>

LINKS & RESOURCES

Liturgy for you at Home (produced by SPP): [https:- soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks](https://soundcloud.com/user-633212303/tracks)

Weekly Homily (produced by SPP): [https:- homilycatholic.blogspot.com](https://homilycatholic.blogspot.com)

Surfers Paradise Parish Facebook: [https:- www.facebook.com/surferscatholic/](https://www.facebook.com/surferscatholic/)

Breaking Parish News (SPP Blog): [https:- news-parish.blogspot.com/](https://news-parish.blogspot.com/)

EthicsFinder is a free, global, digital resource of immense value to interested parishioners. Try ACU's free digital tool, www.ethicsfinder.com.

Readings for next weekend- Sunday, March 15, 2026 (Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year A)

FIRST READING- 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 - "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want"

SECOND READING- Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (John 8:12) "Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life."

GOSPEL- John 9:1-41 – Man Born Blind

Commitment to Child Safety and Adults at Risk. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of our community. Please see the pages below for more information.

Acknowledgement of Country -

This is Kombumerri Country, the traditional custodian of this region.

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People of this country. We pay our respects to the Kombumerri people, the traditional custodians of the land, waterways and seas upon which we live, work and socialise throughout this Catholic Parish of Surfers Paradise. We acknowledge Elders, past and present and emerging, as they hold our Indigenous people's memories, traditions,

culture and hopes. We pay tribute to those who have contributed to the community's life in many ways. We affirm our commitment to justice, healing, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. (See further: [The Kombumerri People](https://kombumerriproject.com/digital-resources/yugambah-language/) and <https://kombumerriproject.com/digital-resources/yugambah-language/>)

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**** The significance of the ancient Catholic Blessing Symbol. "20 C+M+B 26"**

An ancient medieval practice in the Catholic Church was to bless one's home with blessed chalk on the annual Solemnity of the Epiphany. On the door or the lintel will be this symbol:



20 + C + M + B + 26 *

* "Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar" (the traditional names of the Three Wise Men)

And also representing the prayer: *Christus Mansionem Benedicat

May Christ bless this home.

This means that 2000 years ago, after Christ's birth, the Wise Men visited, paid homage to the Lord, and were welcomed into the Holy Family's hospitality. We dedicate the present year, '26, of this century to the protection of the Lord.

May the Lord bless this abode.

The letters C+M+B represent Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior, the three Wise Men. CMB is also the initials of the Latin prayer "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" - "May Christ Bless this dwelling place/ abode/ home."

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SYNOD 24 - ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE - ACTION PLANS

For in-depth resources please visit the following link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1taBpy2wR96rMsIEbWHpiDI3jaDpS_rzYJ_iqYLQWygw/edit?usp=sharing



Safeguarding Framework

"The Church loves all her children like a loving mother, but cares for all and protects with a special affection those who are smallest and defenceless. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community."

– Apostolic Letter issued 'motu proprio' by the Supreme Pontiff Francis 4 June 2016

Purpose

The purpose of the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework is to promote a culture of safeguarding within the Archdiocese and reduce the risks of abuse and harm.

Scope

The Safeguarding Framework applies to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Brisbane.

The framework applies to all Archdiocesan workers.

Framework

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

The Archdiocese adopts and adheres to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. The Standards apply to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop.

Commitment Statement

The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services.

The safety and well-being of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Safeguarding Principles

The following principles guide safeguarding practice in the Archdiocese:

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

Everyone who interacts with the Archdiocese is treated with dignity and respect.

The protection and best interests of children and adults at risk are prioritised.

Safe physical and online environments are provided.

Safeguarding and abuse risks are actively identified and managed.

Compliance with safeguarding standards, policies, procedures, and guidelines is monitored.

Abuse concerns, suspicions, disclosures, allegations, reports and incidents are responded to promptly and effectively.

All statutory obligations to report suspected abuse or harm are complied with.

Safeguarding Governance – Monitoring and Compliance

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is committed to continuous improvement of its safeguarding practice, and compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards is monitored through a program of internal and external auditing.

Non-compliance with this framework, which seriously jeopardises the safety and wellbeing of others, will be reported to the Vicar General and may be grounds for disciplinary action resulting in dismissal or termination of employment and reporting to church and/or statutory authorities.

Download a copy of the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework

For more information about the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework, contact the Office for Safeguarding Services at safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au or on 07 3324 3752.

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

See also this video on safeguarding -

<https://youtu.be/8AASkl-Sr1A?si=OF6XwqzagYt5fF9d>

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

Safeguarding Officer (relating to child safety and adults at risk) Robyn Hunt

Safeguarding officer - contact lsr.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding (Children and adults-at-risk)-

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility -

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

- Safeguarding Officer - Surfers Parish - (relating to child safety and adults at risk)

Robyn Hunt Safeguarding officer - contact l.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au - phone - 0409 486 326



Safeguarding Officer - Surfers Paradise Parish - Robyn Hunt

- **STOPline**

<http://bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com>

Email: AOB@stopline.com.au

Phone: 1300 304 550

STOPline is an independent service that receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by workers (including priests, religious employees, educators, practitioners, support workers and volunteers).

- Archdiocese of Brisbane

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/support/safeguard>

- Office for Safeguarding Services:

Phone: 07 3324 3752

Email: safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding

Level 2 Penola Place, 142 Edward Street, Brisbane

- Professional Standards Office Queensland

www.psoqld.catholic.net.au

- Safeguarding Training

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>

- **Incident Report Form**

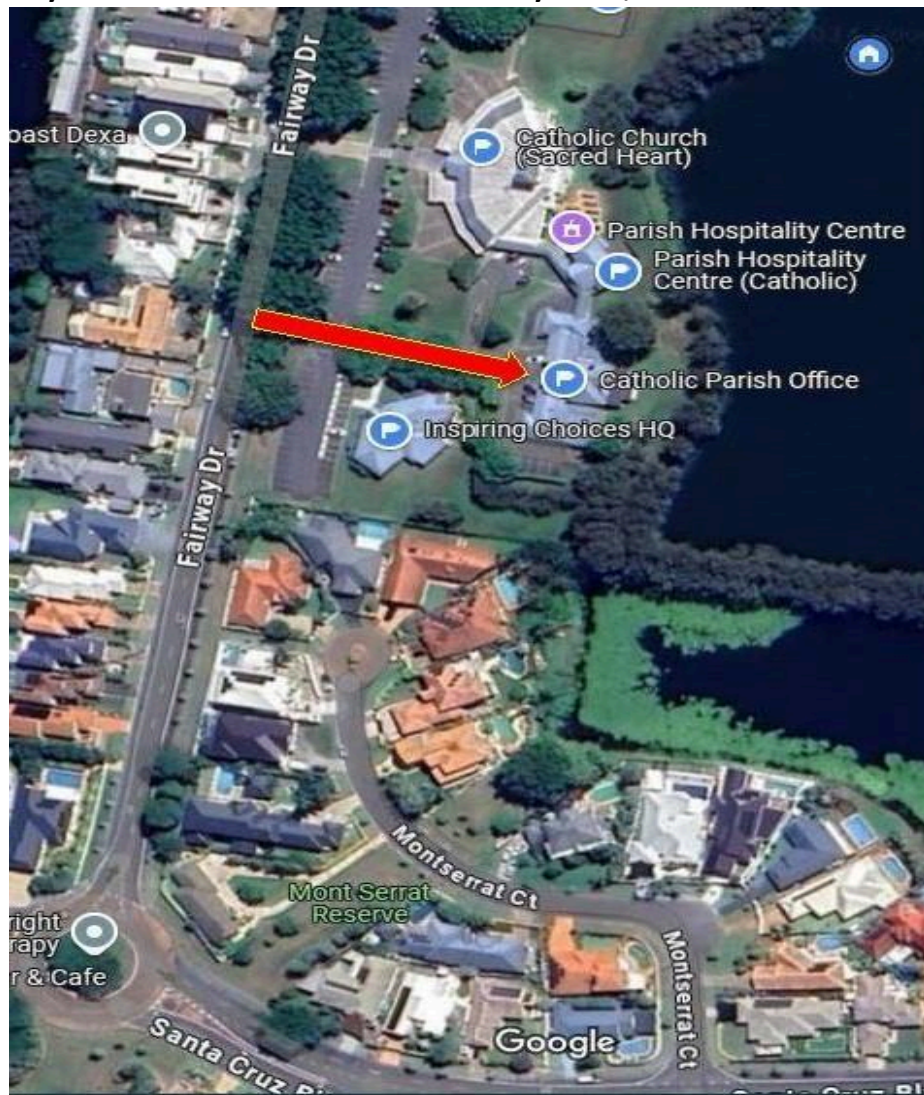
For more details on safeguarding please visit here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ja2NmPbkoqk5Jw4bfDdZVRwWHAIPQfn7qU5uQZ3oYD8/edit?usp=sharing>

Sacred Heart Church and Parish office - (directions and location)

50 Fairway Drive. Clear Island Waters. Queensland 4226

(The best entry is the southern entrance off Fairway Drive, nearest to Santa Cruz Boulevard).



map: -

https://www.google.com/search?q=50+fairway+drive+clear+island+waters+qld+map&rlz=1C1GCEA_enAU797AU797&oq=50+fairway+drive+clear+island+waters+qld+map&aqs=chrome..69i57.8142j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Our parish office location is found here: [Please see here for a map with details of the location of the parish office.](#) Please see below for a photo of the Catholic Parish office(with the name “Glendalough - Parish Office” written on a sign over the door - Glendalough is pronounced “Glenda-lock” and is named after a famous Irish location where Catholic Saint Kevin lived- one of our schools in the parish is named St Kevin’s in honour that patron saint).



Below is a picture of the Sacred Heart church, which is located on the same grounds (to the left of the parish office)

