

Today we will listen to one of the greatest sermons ever given. It is universally known as The Sermon on the Mount. What makes it great is not just the beauty of its language or the hope of its theology. It is truly great because Jesus was preaching to the reality in front of him. The Jews listening that day were poor, in grief, meek and hungry for justice. Some were trying to be merciful to their enemies, struggling to find God in the midst of persecution and attempting to make peace while their family and friends were being falsely accused and condemned.

As true as this was for the Jews of Jesus' day, it was even more so for the earliest Christian community for whom this Gospel was written.

Sometimes when we hear a sermon our reaction can be, 'What would he know?' 'If only he knew the complexities of my life, he would soon change his tune!' It's true that some of us have not been sensitive to the human frailties of the congregation in front of us and we have not been able to communicate our own frailties in the words we deliver.

The Sermon on the Mount is a model for all of us in every way. When Jesus says 'Blessed are you' he is not being patronising, glossing over all sorts of tough human realities with, 'Well done, keep it up, be happy and we'll fix it all up in heaven.'

In the Hebrew Scriptures, a blessing is the discovery that God is present and active in one's experience, right here and right now. So the Beatitudes are saying that you do not need to go past your own daily struggles to find the presence of God. Jesus tells us that if we are poor, compassionate, mournful, campaigning for a just society and suffering because of it, gentle, innocent, a peacemaker or a martyr, we are encountering, in a special way, the presence of God.

The God of the Beatitudes is a companion with us in every experience we go through. God is our best friend, walking beside us as we get out of bed and meet the days we would rather not face.

Sadly, God-as-friend is a rich image not used as much as it should be. We choose our friends, we like to spend time with them, we tell our intimate friends things we tell few others. Sometimes, when we are on top of the world or in a crisis we call our best friends ahead of our family. And we know our friends like us because they seek us out and want to share our life.

Jesus is the best friend we could ever have, interested in every daily event and he's there for us at every moment in life. Yet he doesn't barge in. He waits patiently for an invitation to enter our lives at whatever level we want.

Jesus-as-friend doesn't give us old-fashioned sermons, but rather meets us where we are, embraces us and holds us close when the going gets tough and helps us find the way forward. Jesus-as-friend is the greatest Beatitude of all.

© Richard Leonard S



Readings 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 February 2023
Isaiah 58:7-10; Ps 111:4-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

8.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

Rosary

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

Novena

Wednesday 6.00pm

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

Filipino Mass

1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00pm

Rosary & Mass

Friday 12.00pm



Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

Adoration & Rosary

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Rosary & Mass

Friday 10.00am

PARISH CONTACTS

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish office Ashmore

9.00am-3.00pm

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish office Southport & Gift Shop

9.00am-4.30pm

115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

Office Support

Catherine Francis E: parish@scp.org.au

Finance Officer

Therese Rogers E: accounts@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Lisa Perkins E: sacramental@scp.org.au

Associate Pastor

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Parish Priest

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP

Personal Assistant

Fiona Mahoney

Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish
invites you to their
Lunar New Year Festival



Sacramental Preparation



AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR RECONCILIATION 2023

The Sacramental Program for Reconciliation 2023 begins mid-February. It is open to children who are at least 10 years old (Year 5). The program allows the children to explore and learn deeply, the mercy and love of God and the process involved in seeking God's forgiveness experienced in Reconciliation.

The online registration for the Sacramental Program for Reconciliation

is now open

It will remain open until Monday 6 February 2023

At the completion of this program, the children will celebrate the 1st Rite of Reconciliation on either Wednesday 15 March or Thursday 16 March

If you would like your child to be involved in this program please follow this link:

<https://scp.org.au/2023-sacrament-of-recon>

or visit our webpage to access the registration form

If you have any queries please contact Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or Email: sacramental@scp.org.au

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Volunteers needed

to help us bring the Word of God to our children and teach them about Jesus at our Children's Liturgy held at our 9.30am Sunday Mass each week

Please contact Lisa Perkins 5510 2222 or sacramental@scp.org.au

No experience necessary and all materials and lesson plan provided

2 February

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Feast

The Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord 40 days after the birth of Jesus. Before 1969, the feast was known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or Candlemas. It was celebrated in the earliest times in the Church in Jerusalem and from there the observance spread throughout the Christian world. According to the law of Moses, a woman was ritually unclean for 40 days after childbirth. Therefore, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord and offer sacrifice for purification. "... just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,' and to offer the sacrifice of 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons...'" ([Luke 2:23-24](#))

Since a procession and blessing of candles has been traditionally included with the "Candle Mass" on this feast day, it became known as "Candlemas Day." The candles serve as a symbol of Jesus being "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel," as foretold by Simeon. ([Luke 2:32](#))

STOPLINE receives information about suspected abuse,
(information can be provided anonymously)
misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers.
PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: aob@stopline.com.au
ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)
Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.



RECENTLY DECEASED



Jann Phoon

By request, the names of our sick and deceased family and friends will be recorded in these books in each church

Please pray for all whose names are recorded in the Books of Remembrance



World Day of Prayer 2023

The World Day of Prayer service will be held at
Mary Immaculate Church on
Friday 3 March at 10.00am

The theme for this year is
I have heard about your faith

It will be prepared by the women of Taiwan

There will be morning tea available after the service

For more information please contact
Carmel Donaghy on 5594 0719

Morning teas

Morning tea is held

every Sunday after 9.30am Mass
at Mary Immaculate Church

and

1st Sunday after 8.00am Mass
at St Joseph the Worker Church

Come and join us
All are welcome
Please bring a plate to share



THE GRACE OF BAPTISM RETREAT

presented by The Mission Team of Catholic
Charismatic Renewal, Brisbane

A group of lay people whose mission is to "foster a personal conversion and relationship with Jesus Christ through the release of the Holy Spirit."



Discover how precious you are in
Christ, experience the healing touch
of God, encounter the Holy Spirit...

I baptise you with water but one who is more powerful than I is coming; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Luke 3:16

Date Saturday 4 February, 2023
Time 9.00am – 4.00pm commencing with Mass
Venue St Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

BYO lunch. Attendees are asked to bring a plate of food to share for morning and afternoon tea

To register or for further information, please contact
Len Airey, Mission Team Co-ordinator, CCR Brisbane
on 0421 977 849 or lenpatairey@gmail.com

A parishioner, Simon Hodsdon, needs to rent a 2 or 3 bedroom property with 1 or 2 car spaces and a yard for storage. It is for himself and his son. They don't have any pets. He is looking to rent by mid-February or sooner if possible.

If anyone can help with this request
please contact
Simon on 0419 310 846

SPECIAL LITURGICAL DATES THIS WEEK

Tuesday 31 January	St John Bosco
Thursday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord