SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18 JANUARY 2026 YEAR A

The Perfume of Holiness

I visited my mother quite often in the last years of her life and sometimes when she kissed me and gave me a big hug, I came away with the scent of 'Tea Rose' perfume lingering all over me. Mum loved that perfume and sometimes doused herself quite extravagantly. And some of it would rub off on me.
That is how we become 'holy'.
What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of ordinary people who aren't quite up to the mark in doing the right thing. It certainly doesn't mean an unattractive superiority: 'holier than thou'!
It means being so close to God, so much of an intimate with God, so much one of the close family of God, that God's holiness rubs off.
In today's Gospel, John says of Jesus that He will baptise people with the Holy Spirit. At our baptisms, we were given an extravagant dousing of the Holy Spirit, we were plunged and immersed into Holy Spirit, we emerged smelling of Holy Spirit, we were made holy.
Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'you are my beloved son' or 'you are my beloved daughter'. We are family. We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.
So, if St Paul were writing to us today, he would use the same terms he used in writing to the Corinthians. This is how it would run:
'… to the church of God that is in Southport, made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'
Isn't that a beautiful understanding of who we are?
We are not a branch office of a multinational religious organisation with the Archbishop as the local manager.
We have our own dignity. We are the church of God that is in this town made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.
But, we are not alone. There are many people gathering in a multitude of places around the world, people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. As St Paul would put it, we are *who* we are 'together with all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every meeting place'.
St Paul recognises the bonds which link us. But, how is the 'togetherness' held together?
What quickly emerged in the early church was the need for strong bonds to develop between the leaders of those 'who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ' in Jerusalem and the leaders of those who did the same out on the missions in the pagan world. With the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD, it was natural that the linchpin, the strongest link, should be the successor of St Peter martyred in Rome.
Yes, we are 'Catholic', i.e. worldwide, and 'Roman Catholic' because we are in communion with the Bishop of Rome, the official role of the Pope.
So, at the base level, recall how St Paul describes us:
'Members of the Church of God that is in Southport, made up of those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'
That is who we are. We are those to whom St Paul sends his greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

DONATIONS TO PHILERMOS HOUSE, DAVENPORT STREET SOUTHPORT through the Order of Malta can be made several ways:

- Online through our secure payment facility
  Direct Deposit to BSB: 083 453 Acct: 44888 1897
  Please use 'Southport' as the description and email info@orderofmalta.org.au details to obtain a tax-deductible receipt
- **Phone** by calling 02 9331 8477 - please note the office is closed weekends.
- **Post** with cheques payable to *'Order of Malta'* and sent to Philermos House, Order of Malta, PO Box 79, Caringbah NSW 1495

Readings - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 25 January 2026
Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3; Psalm 26: 1. 4. 13-14; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17; Matthew 4: 12-23

50 % OFF ALL CHRISTMAS ITEMS

After Christmas Mega Sale - One Weekend Only!

Saturday 17 January & Sunday 18 January 2026

This is the perfect opportunity to pick up beautiful gifts, decorations, and treasures at amazing prices as we begin the new year.
The shop will be open **before and after all Masses at Mary Immaculate**, giving everyone plenty of time to stop in, browse and purchase. We're also hoping parishioners from **Guardian Angels** and **St Joseph the Worker** will drop in and take advantage of the sale. Come along, the kettle will be on, enjoy a cuppa and make the most of these fantastic bargains.

Australia Day Mass
Monday 26 January 2026 at 9.00am
St Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador

Ash Wednesday - 18 February 2026

7.00am St Joseph the Worker Church
12.30pm Guardian Angels Church,
5.30pm Mary Immaculate Church

Eucharistic Theology: Lenten Adult Education Programme - Presenter: Fr John Madden
In my experience, people are hungering for a deeper sense of the sacred. I have often heard parishioners ask for some form of adult faith programme to nourish their spiritual lives. People are looking for more than Mass on Sunday to sustain and make sense of the sacred. In response to this situation, I am offering four sessions of Adult Education/formation during the Season of Lent, focusing on the Mass (Eucharist). Each session will build upon the last. Each session will be between 1.15 hour and 1.30 hours. Two opportunities for each session will be available, so no one needs to miss out.

Please note that it is essential to attend all four sessions, as each will build upon the previous one.

Topics will include the following

- The structure of the Mass
- The introductory rite is an essential part of the Mass.
- The Liturgy of the Word is central to our understanding of the Eucharist itself.
- How the Word of God – 1st reading - Psalm - 2nd reading – gospel form a unity and set the theme for the Eucharist itself.
- The Prayers of the Faithful and the offertory connect the liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- The Eucharistic Prayer is explained in detail (focus on Eucharist Prayer Three)
- The responses of the congregation as part of the Eucharistic Prayer
- Transubstantiation (how the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ)
- The Eschatological aspect of the Eucharist (the spiritual – beyond time and space)
- The Our Father and the sign of peace are examined in detail
- Final prayer and commissioning.

These are just some of the main points I will be addressing as part of this series of talks.

My Eucharistic Theology is based upon Luigi Rulla SJ and Sebastian Moore OSB.
Luigi Rulla SJ was a Psychiatrist, Poet and Lecturer in Vocational Discernment Psychology, and Sebastian Moore OSB was a Theologian and Author. I would highly recommend his book '*The Crucified is no Stranger.*' I found his books to be inspirational, and they have had a deep impact on my own personal spiritual journey. Luigi Rulla's theory of interpersonal dynamics in spiritual direction and self-transcendence is both challenging and informative. I found his works to be insightful and engaging.
My research paper in systematic theology explored Luigi Rulla's understanding of the human person and how his psychological insights can be applied to Eucharist Theology based on the theology of Sebastian Moore.
These sessions will not be academically heavy but informative and light-hearted. These will consist of informal discussions and plenty of time for questions and personal engagement. Please come and join us as we explore our faith together and learn from each other. Give yourself this spiritual and sacramental gift for the Season of Lent in 2026.

Meeting Dates and Locations
Wednesdays: 25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March at 7.00pm *Lumen Christi Centre, Labrador*
Saturdays: 28 February, 7 March, 14 March, 21 March at 9.30am *Mary Immaculate Hall, Ashmore*

Everyone is warmly invited. A small contribution of $10 per session is appreciated.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Guardian Angels Church, Southport

Each Thursday noon to Friday

ending with mass at 12.30pm

24 hour adoration

Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore

Thursday 7.45am- 8.30am

Please help us by committing to a time either on Thursday or Friday. SMS our Timetable master on 0402812832 or email adorationgc@gmail.com

Children's Liturgy will resume at Mary Immaculate Church 9.30am in **February 2026**.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Espectacion Ledesma

ANNIVERSARIES

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE BOOK OF THE SICK

Each Church has both these books on display.

If you would like to include a name in either of the books, please seek approval from the parish office on 5510 2222.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2026

Confirmation – Reconciliation – First Holy Communion

Families of children who received Confirmation in 2025 are invited to enrol in the 2026 Reconciliation Program. To register, parents are asked to contact the parish office.

First Reconciliation Celebration

Wednesday, 18 March 2026 at 5.00pm Mary Immaculate

Parent Information Session will instead be held on:

- **Sunday, 22 February at 10.45am**, or
- **Wednesday, 25 February at 4.30pm**,

at Mary Immaculate Church. Parents are required to attend **one** of these sessions.

Mass Attendance for Children

Children participating in the program are expected to attend Mass on the following weekends:

- **21–22 February**
- **28 February–1 March**
- **7–8 March**
- **14–15 March**

Thank You, Judith Kraft

This Sunday, we celebrate Judith Kraft as she retires after many years of devoted service to St Joseph the Worker Church. Her steady presence, kindness, and generosity have deeply shaped our parish. Judith, thank you for the gift of your dedication. May this next chapter bring you joy, rest, and every blessing. You will always be part of our parish family.

Fr Gerard and Parishioners

FLOCKNOTE

NEW PARISH REGISTRATION

Stay connected

We kindly invite you to register at your earliest convenience via our parish website https://scp.org.au or by scanning the QR code.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

STOPLINE receives reports of suspected abuse, misconduct, or serious policy breaches involving Archdiocesan clergy, employees, or volunteers (reports may be anonymous). We uphold zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk. Our parish follows the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework, with strong recruitment, screening, and ongoing practices to ensure a safe ministry environment.Our Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) is **Catherine - safeguarding.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**

07 5510 2222 / 1300 304 550

aob@stopline.com.au

www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

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

Filipino Mass
1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration
Thursday 12.00 noon (24 hours)

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

Korean Mass
Sunday 3.00pm
한인미사 일요일 오후 3시

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
Webpage: https://scp.org.au

safeguarding.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office Ashmore
Monday to Friday 9.00am-12.00pm
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish Reception/Secretary
parish.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Programme
sacramental.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Finance Officer
accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor
Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Parish Priest
Fr Gerard McMorrow PP