THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25 JANUARY 2026 YEAR A

The Voice of Jesus

There are certain news readers or presenters on the radio or TV one wants to switch off: something in the voice grates. Others, one could listen to endlessly: something about the tone is so attractive.

Jesus' voice must have sounded fascinating: something about it perfectly vocalised his attractive and fascinating personality. It gave true voice to who he was, and this is what proved so alluring to those four fishermen, two sets of two brothers.

It is an extraordinary situation.

These men were running successful fishing operations, family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and *called* them, the Gospel says, *at once* they left their boats and followed him.

Immediately, they allowed this stranger to wrench them out of their place in society, in the commercial life of the Sea of Galilee. Without any further ado, they gave up their status as independent and settled businessmen and became dependent itinerants.

How did this come about?

They were Jewish. Their Jewish scriptures and tradition would have prepared them, filled them with longing and expectation for the Messiah. They were in a state of readiness.

Then, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God, for whom they had been listening.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' *

Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything, abandoning their livelihood, for the chance to have *their* souls contoured along the same lines.

And then, the call: 'Follow me… ', the call not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

At some stage, you will hear his fascinating voice, and a decision will be required: a decision of faith.

'Come, follow me.' The faith required is not a peculiar sort of knowledge about this or that. 'Faith' is setting out on a journey in the hopeful conviction that *this* Jesus *is*

the person who wants to set me on the Way which is most life giving,

the person through whom I can receive divine mercy,

the person in whom I can share victory over death,

the person by whom I am called to participate in Divine life.

The Nazarene is calling.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John are also beckoning: 'Take the risk of joining us. Let us together follow the sound of that voice which reverberates throughout all creation, the sound of that voice which perfectly articulates Divine Truth and Beauty, the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ.'

* John O'Donohue, *Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*, Bantam Press, p.246.

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 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1 February 2026
Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; Psalm 145: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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

Australia Day Prayer

God of all creation,
You have blessed this land with ancient beauty, deep story, and a people shaped by many cultures.
On this Australia Day, we pause in gratitude for the gifts of this country - its coastlines and deserts, its forests and cities, its languages and traditions.

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**

Ash Wednesday - 18 February 2026

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

Lenten Adult Education Programme
Eucharistic Theology

More detailed information can be found at the entrance of each church.

We encourage all parishioners to register.

Presenter: Fr John Madden
Wednesdays: 25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March at 7.00pm
Venue: Lumen Christi Centre, Labrador
Saturdays: 28 February, 7 March, 14 March, 21 March at 9.30am
Venue: Mary Immaculate Hall, Ashmore

All are warmly invited to participate in this enriching Lenten programme. A contribution of **$10 per session** is appreciated.
Please add your name to the **registration board** located at the entrance of the church.

Sacristan and Altar Server - Volunteers Needed

Southport Catholic Parish is seeking parishioners who feel called to serve as sacristans and altar servers at the following Mary Immaculate Church Masses:

• Saturday 4.30pm
• Sunday 9.30am

These ministries play a vital role in supporting our priests and ensuring our liturgies run smoothly. If you are responsible, organised, and willing to serve our parish community in a meaningful way, we would love to hear from you.

Please email parish.southport@bne.catholic.net.au or speak with Fr Gerard.

Thank you for considering this important ministry.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

If you would like to be part of the Planned Giving Program **please contact the Parish Office 5510 2222 Wednesday-Friday 9.00am to midday. Email: accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**
In making a commitment to be part of our planned giving program you are directly supporting and enabling the maintenance and growth of our parish's mission.

HELP SUPPORT SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH OFFICE If you're looking for a simple but meaningful way to help ease the parish's day-to-day needs, consider donating a ream of A3 paper. This small gesture can make a big difference in supporting the parish's administrative work. **Donations can be dropped off at any of our three churches or the Parish Office Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and midday, thank you.**

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

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Rita Maree Hare

Allan Wood

Edith Lattanzio

ANNIVERSARIES

Erwin Eiberger

Myrna Schrader

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.

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.

Marian Valley Church

You are warmly invited to join us at Marian Valley Church on the following dates:

- 11 February - **Our Lady of Lourdes** Annual Pilgrimage of the Sick and Elderly
- 13 February - **Feast of Our Lady of Fatima**

The bus will depart promptly at 8.15am on both days from: 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters

Return bus fare: $25.00 per person per trip

To secure your seat for either or both days, please provide your name and contact number to:

- Xavier Solomon – 0404 8432 60
- Madeleine – 5529 1573

Archdiocese of Brisbane Achieves 96% Compliance in National Safeguarding Audit

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has achieved a 96% compliance rating against the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards following a comprehensive independent audit conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL).

For the first time, Centacare services, Catholic Early Ed Care services, Brisbane Catholic Education schools and Archdiocesan Ministries participated in the audit process, together with a sample of 15 parishes. Their inclusion provided the comprehensive view of safeguarding practice across the breadth of the Archdiocese's parishes, ministries and services to date.

This strong result affirms the Archdiocese's ongoing commitment to building safe, respectful, and accountable environments for children and vulnerable people across all ministries."

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