FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8 FEBRUARY 2026 YEAR A

Doctors and dietitians would have some difficulty with the first part of today's Gospel. Jesus does not seem to know that salt is bad for hypertension and cholesterol! Just as health professionals are encouraging us to be careful in using salt, Jesus is telling us to keep it up. Salt in Jesus' day, and for centuries before and after, was the primary preserving agent for food. That day-to-day usage gives us a clue as to the challenge being laid before us.

We are told that if salt has lost its taste it's good for nothing. So the challenge is to keep it fresh so it can keep doing its job. Jesus suggests that, in the same way, we have to be on guard to make sure that our faith remains fresh so it's able to do its job as well.

The fifth and sixth chapters of Matthew's Gospel are devoted to describing the elements of Christian faith. At the start of the fifth chapter we have the Beatitudes that tell us that the presence of God can be discovered in all of life's situations. It reminds us that as Christians we can find God wherever we want to. The rest of these two chapters go on to give us specific directions about the dangers and aides to faith.

Jesus tells us that a hollow attachment to the letter of the law, unbridled anger, an inability to forgive, being unfaithful in marriage, seeking revenge on our enemies, not being true to our word and being enslaved by money are all examples of bad faith. Think for a moment of people you know who are trapped by any of these vicious forces. It's sad to see the energy it takes them to remain angry, greedy, legalistic, fraudulent and unforgiving.

More positively Jesus tells us in these chapters that prayer, being generous to the poor, being discerning about whom we spend time with and what we see and hear, and going without things we often consider essential are helpful to living a faith-filled life. Think for a moment of people you know who live lives like this. Their detachment, sense of generosity and ease with others stands out in our stress-ridden world.

My professor of liturgy used to say 'Good liturgy enlivens faith and bad liturgy deadens it.' This is the same message Jesus gives us today about faith in general. It's crazy for us to keep spending time with people and doing things that deaden our faith. We know the impact of these people or activities by the bad taste they leave in our mouths. After an encounter with them or it we usually tell ourselves that we must not go back for more, but the bad spirit seduces us into repeating the entire episode with frightening frequency. St Ignatius Loyola tells us that in these situations we have to deal with the bad spirit quickly and consistently and learn a new pattern of behaviour that will lead us away from darkness into the light.

The job of faith is to enable us to live out and build Christ's reign of justice and love in this world as a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. May this Eucharist enable us to seek out the people and places that will see the saltiness of our faith remain fresh and interesting so that we will have every chance of preserving our faith in the dryer times, and of our faith in Jesus preserving us in the face of the trials and tests that come our way.

Homily by Richard Leonard SJ

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 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15 February 2026
Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 118: 1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

Ash Wednesday - 18 February 2026

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

Journey with us this Lent
A Lenten opportunity for Spiritual Renewal
Eucharistic Theology-Presenter:Fr John Madden

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

Wednesdays: 7.00pm
Dates: 25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March
Venue: Lumen Christi Centre, Labrador

Saturdays: at 9.30am
Dates: 8 February, 7 March, 14 March, 21 March
Venue: Mary Immaculate Hall, Ashmore

All are warmly invited to participate in this enriching Lenten programme. A contribution of **$10 per session** is appreciated.

We encourage all parishioners to register.

Vocation Day for Women

Saturday 7 March 2026
9.00am-4.00pm
Speakers: Sisters of St. Paul De Chartres
Sisters of the Immaculata
Sisters of Mary Morning Star

Located at St. Bridgid Parish, Nerang
Register by 21 February
Contact religiousliferevival@gmail.com or scanning the QR code provided.

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 on 5510 2222.

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**

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
New Program starts on the 1 April 2026

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. Thank you Fr Gerard

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.**

Cards & Gifts for SALE
All reduced

IN MARY IMMACULATE HALL

$1 - $2 - $5

Please select your items and place your money in the box provided or pay at the piety stall.
Thank you.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

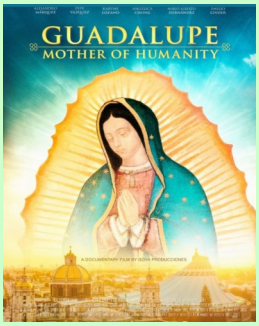
Guardian Angels Church, Southport

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



JOIN US FOR
A SPECIAL SCREENING

In 1531, on a quiet hill near Mexico City a heavenly apparition changed the course of history. Based on true events, "Gaudalupe: Mother of Humanity" examines the miraculous image that defies time, science, and logic; as well as the extraordinary events that have followed.

Because some miracles refuse to fade!

CHEPLEX NERANG
52 PRICE ST NERANG QLD 4211
THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 6.30PM
ALL TICKETS $15

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.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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.

PIETY STALLS

Southport Catholic Parish has three Piety Stalls**.**
Your support would be greatly appreciated.
Guardian Angels Church - open after the 9.00am mass each Sunday.
Mary Immaculate Church - open after all masses.
Also open first and third Saturday of each month at 10.30am pending baptisms.
St Joseph's the Worker Church - open after 8.00am mass each Sunday. (cash only)
Each piety stall offers baptism candles, rosary beads, statues, prayer cards and other items for sale.

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

PARISH WALKING GROUP
meets every Saturday at 6.00am at St Joseph the Worker Church.
Contact Janeece on 0408 763 772

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