THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF SOUTHPORT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
22 MARCH 2026 YEAR A

Rage against Death

When he heard of the fatal illness of Lazarus, Jesus decided to leave the safety of the far side of the Jordan and travel to Judea – a place of vulnerability and mortal danger.
Why? Why undertake such a perilous mission for Lazarus in the first instance, but also for you and for me, for the whole of humanity?
This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, bordering on anger. He is raging against something. What?
He is raging against the seeming finality of death, against that border marked by the grave, a border he intends to cross.
It was his mission to overcome the apparent final dominance of death. The raising of Lazarus is a demonstration of His power to rob death of its supposed supremacy. We hope eventually to share in the fruits of that power.
In the meantime there are at least two ways in which we can place ourselves in this Gospel passage.
At times, you and I are Lazarus. You and I and the whole of humanity need to be liberated, sometimes from the tombs which we construct for ourselves. At other times we need to be freed from grave situations, deadening experiences brought about by others.
At some stage, we will hear the voice of Our Lord. We will be, we are, called by name as was Lazarus: 'Michael, or Mary, emerge from your tomb!' Strangely enough, sometimes it is more comfortable to pretend not to hear that voice. Am I, are you, willing to take the risk of starting life afresh?
The second situation in which we can place ourselves in the Gospel story is with those gathered around the tomb. Did you notice that our Lord himself did not set Lazarus completely free? You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but it is only the start.
Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past.
This is where Our Lord needs assistants. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of *others* which enabled Lazarus to walk, not shuffle, to walk as a liberated son of God.
You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience, who has suffered some event which has drained them of life.
So, at any particular moment we may be summoned like Lazarus, or commanded like those gathered around the tomb of someone else.
We get the courage to respond because it is the summons or command of the One who definitively conquered death, the One who in today's Gospel proclaims: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life, the one who believes in me, even if they die, will live.'
Lord, we believe in you. We will take the step from the situation in which we find ourselves entombed. We will help liberate others already helped by your grace. We are your faithful people moving towards the celebration of your victory over death. We believe that you are the Resurrection and the Life.

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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 - Palm Sunday - 29 March 2026
Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21: 8-9. 17-20. 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Congratulations to our 48 children

who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation

on 18 March 2026.

25 March 2026

The ANNUNCIATION of the Lord

The Sacramental Program for 2025-2026

Confirmation - Reconciliation - First Holy Communion

will conclude with First Holy Communion in June 2026

Information session:

Parents and child/ren Need to attend

Wednesday 6 May at 4.30pm

or Sunday 10 May at 10.45am

Celebration: Saturday 20 June at 4.30pm

and Sunday 21 June at 9.30am.

Church: Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore

Those who enrolled for Confirmation in 2025 do not need to enrol again. The Parish will email you the program details and ask you to confirm your intention to continue to the final stage of initiation.

Fr John Hong wishes to express his sincere gratitude to everyone in our parish for your prayers, kindness, and continued support.

THE PARISH EXTENDS A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO FR JOHN MADDEN for facilitating "Journey with us this Lent.

The Lenten Program concluded on Wednesday at St Joseph the Worker, where around 50 parishioners attended across the four evenings, and on Saturday at Mary Immaculate, where between 20 and 30 parishioners participated.

The sessions were very informative and offered all of us a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Word and the Eucharist. These gatherings encouraged us to be more mindful of what takes place during the Mass and of the many connections woven throughout the liturgy. They reminded us that our presence and preparation can greatly enrich our experience of the Eucharist.

Arriving early, switching off our mobile phones, preparing our hearts beforehand by reflecting on the readings, and being open and fully present throughout the celebration all help us participate more deeply in the mystery of the Mass.

The parish community extends its sincere and heartfelt thanks to Fr John Madden for his thoughtful preparation, insightful presentations, and the depth of reflection he shared with us. His guidance has enriched our understanding and strengthened our spiritual journey throughout this Lenten season. Thank you, Fr John.

Easter Triduum Services

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

Friday	**3 April**	**10.00am**	Stations of the Cross
Sunday	**5 April**	**8.00am**	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

MARY IMMACULATE

Thursday	**2 April**	**6.30pm**	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	**3 April**	**10.00am**	Stations of the Cross
		3.00pm	Good Friday - The Passion of our Lord
Saturday	**4 April**	**6.30pm**	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Sunday	**5 April**	**9.30am**	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
			NO 5.30pm Sunday Mass - 5 April

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Thursday	**2 April**	**6.30pm**	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	**3 April**	**10.00am**	Stations of the Cross
		3.00pm	Good Friday - The Passion of our Lord
Saturday	**4 April**	**6.30pm**	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Sunday	**5 April**	**7.00am**	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
		9.00am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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

Archbishop Shane Mackinlay invites you to the annual

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN

CHRISM MASS

THURSDAY 26 March 2026
7.00pm
Cathedral of St Stephen
249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane
A celebration for
the entire Archdiocese
All Welcome
The undercover carpark will be
available from 6.00pm

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

New Program starts on the 1 April 2026

NEW ENVELOPES available for collection

at all churches this week 21 & 22 March

***If your name is missing, please write your name and contact number on the form provided and we will reach out to you.**

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce Todd

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

Both Mary Immaculate and Guardian Angels Piety Stalls are looking for more Volunteers. If you can assist please call the parish office.

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.

GREAT NEWS Eftpos now available at St Joseph's the Worker

Each piety stall offers baptism candles, rosary beads, statues, prayer cards and other items for sale.

FLOCKNOTE
NEW PARISH REGISTRATION
Stay connected

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 -** lsr.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 Representative
lsr.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