THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
19 APRIL 2026 YEAR A

With very good reason, the story of the road to Emmaus is thought to be the best parallel we have in the New Testament to our weekly celebration of the Eucharist. This idea could be a little surprising for some who might think the Last Supper would hold more similarities. Luke, however, reminds his community, who are like us, that even though they, like us, are prevented from seeing Jesus, they can still have a life-changing experience of his presence.

The disciples are on a journey of faith and Jesus meets them where they are, as they are. This is a critical detail in the story. Jesus listens to their expectations, hopes and disappointments and only after they have expressed the reality of their situation, does Christ open the scriptures to them. In doing so he takes their disillusionment and enables them to see the connections with the story of salvation. This leads them to hope. Even then, they do not recognise who Jesus is until he breaks the bread and in that action he is revealed as the one in whom they had been hoping. This experience drives them back to Jerusalem to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

Every Sunday as part of our journey of faith we embark on our road to Emmaus. There is never any point in us coming here pretending to be different from how we actually feel and who we are. God sees our hearts and minds and wants to meet us in the midst of our lives, whatever they may be like. The Emmaus story teaches us that Jesus firstly wants to listen to us before he wants us to listen to Him.

Emmaus, however, was not just about the disciples and their lives, in the same way that the Eucharist is not just about our lives either. Christ opens the scriptures to us each week so that we can make sense of our experience, see the ways in which God is present and absent and recognise our own foolishness. As with the Emmaus disciples, we are welcomed to the table of the Lord where we recognise Christ in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup. This meal enables us to go out from here and proclaim to all we meet that Christ is risen.

One of the things the Church values most deeply is its connection to the experience of the earliest Church. And rightly so. It's a great privilege for us to recall that what we do here each Sunday is built upon the faith and weekly celebration of countless generations.

And though, appropriately, many things can be different in various cultural settings for the Eucharist throughout the world, several elements always stay the same. It is the Risen Christ who accompanies us, listens to us, opens our minds to the scriptures, hosts us at his table, and sends us out to tell the world that He has been raised from the dead.

This is the best way to understand ourselves as 'traditional Catholics'. We share with thousands of generations the same fire of God's faithful love burning in our hearts as we are welcomed here each week, are listened to, taught, nourished and sent out to do our bit for the coming of Christ's Kingdom.

Homily by Fr 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 - Fourth Sunday of Easter - 26 April 2026
Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 22:1-6; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that 'those who met Jesus along the roads of Palestine experienced his humanity, his eyes, his hands, the sound of his voice.'

'Those who decided to follow him', the Pope suggests, 'were moved precisely by the experience of his welcoming gaze, the touch of his blessing hands, his words of liberation and healing.'

Christ's being with us, the Pope makes clear, is integral to his mission.

Through this dynamic, the Pope says, 'the disciples opened themselves to an encounter with God. Indeed, Christ's flesh, his face, his gestures and his words visibly manifest the invisible God.'

This mystery illuminates our calling. As the Pope says, 'when we look at [the Church] closely, we discover a human dimension made up of real people, who sometimes manifest the beauty of the Gospel and other times struggle and make mistakes like everyone else. However,' the Pope continues, 'it is precisely through her members and her limited earthly aspects that Christ's presence and his saving action are manifested.'

Therefore, whatever our shortcomings, we are part of this mystery. There is no 'pure Church, separated from the earth', as the Pope puts it, but rather 'one Church of Christ, embodied in history', in which we all have a part to play.

Reflection by Nick Brodie

ANZAC Day Mass

Date: Saturday, 25 April 2026
Time: 8.00am
Church: Mary Immaculate Church

"Lest We Forget"

All parishioners are invited to join us for a special ANZAC Day Mass as we remember the courage, sacrifice, and service of the men and women who have served our nation. Let us gather in prayer for peace, healing, and hope.

Blessings for Fr Gerard as He Travels

Fr Gerard will be travelling to Lourdes with the Order of Malta to celebrate Mass. Following this pilgrimage, he will be taking some annual leave. During his absence, we are grateful to have Fr John Madden kindly assisting with parish duties. Please keep Fr Gerard and all pilgrims in your prayers.

We wish Fr Gerard a blessed journey and a time of ell-earned rest and renewal.

The Sacramental Program for 2025-2026

First Holy Communion
will conclude in June 2026

Parents and child/ren Need to attend

Information session:	Wednesday 6 May at 4.30pm or Sunday 10 May at 10.45am
Practice:	Sunday 7 June at 10.45am or Wednesday 10 June at 4.30pm
Celebration:	Saturday 20 June at 4.30pm or Sunday 21 June at 9.30am
Church:	Mary Immaculate

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.

Please keep our children and families in your prayers.

PARISH REGISTRATION REMINDER

Thank you to the 747 parishioners who have registered. This allows the parish to maintain accurate records.

FLOCKNOTE
NEW PARISH REGISTRATION
Stay connected

ALPHA starting soon at St Mary's Coomera!

There's a seat for everyone

Join us on Sunday 19 April at 10.30am as we launch Alpha - a welcoming space to share a meal, watch a short video, and explore life, faith and meaning together.

Also running Tuesdays at 6.00pm from Tuesday 21 April.

Sign-ups available via the QR code.

Planned Giving Program – Southport Catholic Parish

If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program, please contact the Parish Office on 5510 2222 Wednesday – Friday, 9.00am to midday. Email: accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

By making a commitment to planned giving, you directly support and enable the ongoing maintenance and growth of our parish mission. Thank you Fr Gerard

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

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.

PARISH WALKING GROUP

meets every Saturday at 6.30am at St Joseph the Worker Church.
Contact Janeece on 0408 763 772

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

ANNIVERSARIES

Madeline Morgan

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.

"Good Father, teach us as a community to care for our priests: to listen without judging, to give thanks without demanding perfection, to share with them the baptismal mission of proclaiming the Kingdom in word and deed, and to accompany them with closeness and sincere prayer,"

One of Pope Leo XIV month of April prayer.

Feast of Corpus Christi

Date: Sunday 7 June 2026 from 2.00pm.
Place : Cathedral of St Stephen with proceedings led by Archbishop Shane Mackinlay.

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.**

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