EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2 AUGUST 2026 YEAR A /2

There is an old line that runs, 'If you feel distant from God – guess who has moved?' It picks up the theme in the Romans reading which we have just heard, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.'

In the midst of persecution and suffering, St Paul writes to the community at Rome to tell them that, even in their fear, desolation and grief, nothing, and no one, can separate them from God's love. This shows us that when we feel separated from God we may have walked away from him, usually through destructive behaviour that sets up and maintains distance between us and the source of our faith, hope and love.

St Matthew and Isaiah also knew that nothing can separate us from God's love. Isaiah's river of plenty and Matthew's loaves and fish are all about the *plenty* of God's kingdom, the abundance of God's goodness.

Too often we focus on the miracle of transformation that occurs in Matthew's Gospel when all he tells about the actual miracle is that Jesus 'breaks and shares'. Matthew is more interested in the leftovers than he is in the miracle itself. From five loaves and two fish we are told twelve baskets of scraps are left over.

Numbers are rarely random in the Bible. The echo of the seven days of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of this story as Jesus takes seven fruits of the earth to feed the crowd. Similarly, the twelve baskets of scraps, the remnants of the meal at which all were filled and satisfied, echo the sign of God through the twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament.

For us today this story also has consoling resonance. Matthew is telling us that Jesus sees our need, does not turn us away, comes to where we are, as we are, and recreates us through the abundance of his love, so we can be signs of His kingdom in the world.

The Church has always believed that the feeding of the crowd prefigured the Eucharist, this weekly time where we receive the fullness of God in his Word, in the life of the community, in the minister and through the transformation of the Bread and Wine.

It's all about abundance. Our God has abundantly provided for us so that we can abundantly provide for all the world which is given into our care. 'Those to whom much is given, much is required.' The problem is that when we look around we see that while some of us have so much, others have nothing at all.

If this reality doesn't move us to a change of heart and right action then we have not understood the story of the loaves and the fish, that God's goodness is never intended for a select few.

Sometimes people look at the poverty in the world and think, 'How could God allow that?' This question can cause us to feel distant from God, but in light of what God has given us and our ability to share from this abundance, when we think like and feel like this, guess who has moved away from whom?

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

PHILERMOS HOUSE- THE BIG RED SHED
NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER

ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

Opening Soon
Do you have 1 to 4 hours, 1 to 2 days per week, Monday-Friday?
Our aim is to create a calm, dignified and supportive space, where people feel seen, valued and cared for.
Roles include:
Foodservice, Cooking, Cleaning, Laundry and Clothing.
Please scan QR code to volunteer.

Readings Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9 August 2026
1 Kgs 19:9. 11-13; Ps 84: 9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-23

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
with Mass and Anointing of the Sick
Thursday 6 August - 9.00am

All are warmly invited to join us for at Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore. Come and take part in a gentle time of prayer, healing, and renewed strength.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses for the Feast of Assumption

- 5.30pm **Friday 14 August** (Vigil) Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore
- 8.00am **Saturday 15 August** St Joseph the Worker, Labrador
- 9.00am **Saturday 15 August** Guardian Angels Church, Southport

Missing Order of Malta Awning

The Order of Malta pop-up awning, stored in its carry case, has been removed from the rear/side area of Guardian Angels Church.
If anyone has information regarding its whereabouts, or has moved it for safekeeping, please contact the Parish Office 5510 2222 as soon as possible. The awning is required and needs to be returned.
Thank you for your assistance.

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:acounts.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

FLOCKNOTE
NEW PARISH REGISTRATION
Stay connected

SUPPORT THE BIG RED SHED -TRIVIA NIGHT

- **Saturday 29th August 2026**
- **From 6:00pm**
- **Southport Bowls Club**
- **$20 per person**
- **Teams of up to 8 people**

Please transfer your payment to the **BNI Beach-side** bank account:**BSB:** 034-154 **Account #:** 291037
Please include your name as the payment reference.
RSVP:Georgia BNI at georgia@iinvestadvisory.com

SACRISTAN MINISTRY - Seeking Volunteers
Southport Catholic Parish is looking for parishioners to volunteer to be Sacristans and Altar Servers at the following Masses:
Mary Immaculate Church Saturday 4.30pm vigil **or** Sunday 9.30am mass. Please speak with Fr Gerard or email parish.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

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

ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

- **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

Saints We Celebrate This Week

3 August : **St Dominic,** Priest

4 August : **St John Vianney,** Priest

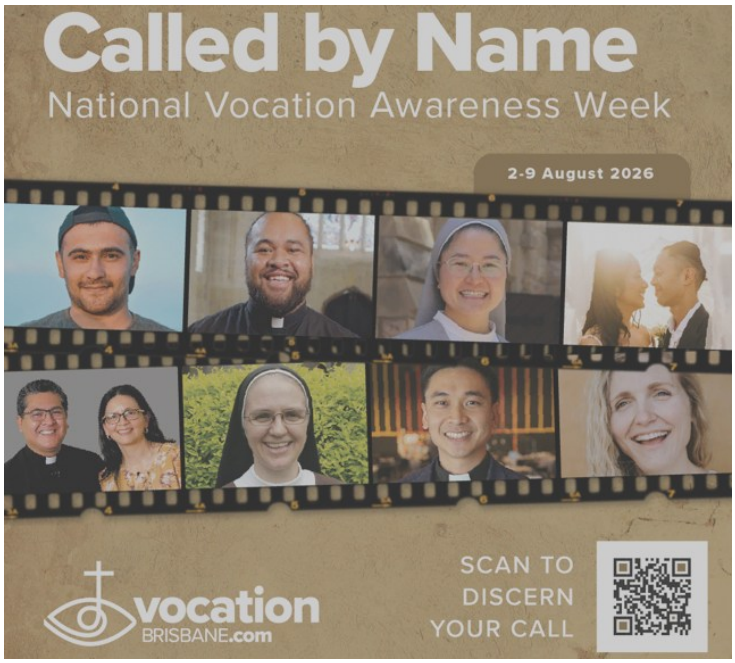
6 August : **The Transfiguration of the Lord**

8 August : **St Mary of the Cross, (Mary Mackillop)**

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

National Vocation Awareness Week 2-9 August 2026



FAITHFUL DEPARTED
John Gordon

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
T: 5510 2222.

This Week in Our Parish

- **Philermos House – The Big Red Shed** is opening soon and is currently seeking volunteers for food service, cooking, cleaning, laundry, and clothing support roles. Register Now - Thank you.
- **Morning Tea** Mary Immaculate Church after 9.30am Mass.
- **24-Hour Adoration** continues at Guardian Angels Church from Thursday noon until Friday Mass at 12.30pm.
- **RCIA Program** invitations are open for adults interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the faith.
  Contact Lawrence Fenech 0458 378 315
- **Parish Walking Group** meets every Saturday at 6.30am at St Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador.
  Contact Janeece 0408 763 772
- **Anointing of the Sick Mass**
  Thursday 6 August 9am Mass at
  Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore
- **Guardian Angels Primary School Mass**
  Friday 7 August 9am school Mass at
  Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore
- **Parish Registration** continues, with 1098 parishioners already registered.

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
Please note that our LSR will be on leave for six weeks until 24 August. For any assistance during this time, please contact the Archdiocese.

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