THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF SOUTHPORT

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
16 AUGUST 2026 YEAR A /2

On Catholic Dogs

We are all familiar with the diabolical hatred between religious and ethnic groups which lead into the descent into barbarism.
On a lesser scale, differences between ethnic or religious groups can lead to profound chasms of intolerance opening up between them.
In our Lord's time, the division between Jews and Pagans was very profound. Pagans (most often called gentiles), were outside the chosen people, the children of God, and there was a long history of antagonism.
This is the setting for this remarkable gospel story.
A *pagan woman* approaches a *Jewish man*: Jesus. The disciples react to a woman causing a commotion.
She *is* causing a commotion, but for a good reason. She begs Jesus to heal her daughter with whom she maternally completely identifies: 'Have mercy on me.'
He comments: 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' He is confirming his healing mission to the Jews. She and her daughter don't qualify!
What is going on?
We know that the Prophet Isaiah was a great favourite and exemplar for Jesus. Jesus could open a scroll and quote passages which guided his own understanding of his mission. Jesus had evidently taken Isaiah's picture of a transformed Jewish people being a light to the pagan nations who would *then* be attracted to worship God in the right way.
That is the two-stage sequence which Jesus has embarked on.
Jesus therefore gives a very dismissive answer to the woman: 'It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the house dogs.' The children are obviously the Jewish people, and so Jesus' response is very confronting.
This remarkable *woman*, this remarkable *pagan* woman, stands her ground and engages in a verbal joust with Jesus! She decides to give him as good as she got! She argues: 'Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'
What a fantastic response!
Jesus recognises *her* faith and the daughter was healed.
What a fantastic woman!
She, a pagan woman, helped Jesus see that his liberating mission, his healing, saving mission, was not a careful two-stage affair, Jews first, pagans later. His saving mission was for *all* those who had faith in him – *wherever* and *whenever*.
This story was treasured and remembered in the early church and then put into writing in the Gospels. Why? Because the biggest crisis facing the early church was relations between Jewish Christians and possible pagan converts who wanted to be followers of Jesus. This story would have been told to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in Pagan territory.
That is good news for us, Gospel for us, Gospel for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which, as you know, is the Greek for 'universal', 'world-wide'.
This woman is the one whose story was treasured as opening up the Church to being truly universal – a home for all people – a place where the 'whole' of humanity can be made 'whole' in every way.
That is what it means to be 'Catholic'.
Could this Canaanite woman be celebrated as the first 'Catholic'?

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

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

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: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23 August 2026
Is 22:19-23; Ps 137: 1-3. 6. 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

CONFIRMATION WILL BE CELEBRATED AT MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH
Saturday 29 August 4.30pm / Sunday 30 August 9.30am

Confirmation is a beautiful and meaningful sacrament that marks a significant step in a person's spiritual journey. It is a testament to the power of faith and the enduring connection between God and humanity.

Our Confirmation candidates are currently participating in the parish Sacramental Program to deepen their understanding of the Holy Spirit; the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord; and the way these spiritual gifts can empower them to live a life of faith, service, and witness.

Heavenly Father, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon these candidates as they prepare for Confirmation. Fill their hearts with wisdom, courage, and a deep love for You. Strengthen their faith and guide their steps so they may grow as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please continue to support our candidates and their families with your prayers.

RCIA PROGRAM
Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic?
The **RCIA Program** - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a welcoming journey for adults who wish to become Catholic, complete their Sacraments, or simply learn more about the Catholic faith. The **Catholic Parish of Southport** warmly invites you to take the next step. **For more information, please contact our RCIA Coordinator - Lawrence Fenech** M: 0458 378 315

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

2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community

ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN Supports
1. Retired & elderly priests
2. Seminarian formation
3. Catholic education for those facing hardship
4. Helps Centacare protect the most vulnerable .
Envelopes will be in our Churches next weekend, 22/23 August.
Please donate generously.
Be blessed and bless others with your gift.

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

FLOCKNOTE
NEW PARISH REGISTRATION
Stay connected

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

Saints We Celebrate This Week

- **August 17:** Saint Clare of Montefalco (Virgin) / Saint Hyacinth of Poland (Priest)
- **August 18:** Saint Helen (Empress)
- **August 19:** Saint John Eudes (Priest)
- **August 20:** Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (Abbot and Doctor of the Church)
- **August 21:** Saint Pius X (Pope)
- **August 22:** The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)
- **August 23:** Saint Rose of Lima (Virgin)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Guardian Angels Church, Southport
Each Thursday noon to Friday
ending with mass at 12.30pm Friday
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

DEVOTIONS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Marian Valley Pilgrimage
You are warmly invited to join us on a special pilgrimage to Marian Valley Church as we celebrate the Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Date: Saturday 22 August 2026

Departure: Bus departs at 8.15am

Pick-up Location: 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters

Return Fare:$35.00 per person

Reserve Seat: Contact Xavier M: 0404 843 260 or Madeleine T: 07 5529 1573

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Southport Catholic Parish is seeking parishioners who are willing to serve our parish community in the following ministries:

- **Sacristan**
- **Altar Servers** for the **Mary Immaculate Church** Saturday **4:30pm Vigil Mass**
- **Piety Shop Assistants** at either:
  Mary Immaculate Church or
  Guardian Angels Church Sunday **9:00am Mass**

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

FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Maureen Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES
June Milne

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

- **Week 3 of the Confirmation Program**. Children attendance at Mass this weekend.
- **24-Hour Adoration** Please see this newsletter for further details.
- **Morning Tea** Mary Immaculate Church after 9.30am Mass.
- **Parish Walking Group** meets every Saturday at 6.30am at St Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador. Contact Janeece 0408 763 772
- **RCIA Program** Please see this newsletter for further details.
- **Philermos House – The Big Red Shed** currently seeking volunteers Register Now - Thank you. Please see this newsletter for more details.
- **Parish Registration** continues, with 1107 parishioners already registered.

Missing Order of Malta Awning - Does anyone know where it is? Last seen at Guardian Angels Church We would appreciate its return.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

STOPLINE receives reports of suspected abuse, misconduct, or serious policy breaches involving Archdiocesan clergy, employees, or volunteers. Reports can be made anonymously.
We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk and uphold a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Our parish follows the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework 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