TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
13 SEPTEMBER 2026 YEAR A /2

Forgiveness

The Jews were fascinated by the number seven. It reminded them of the seven days of creation and suggested perfection.

So, when Peter queried whether he would be a great hero if he forgave someone seven times, he was speaking in a very Jewish way. Seven times would be perfect.

No, says Jesus. You have to be prepared to forgive seventy times seven, an 'over the top', totally extravagant proposition which was meant to jolt Peter to see that there are no limits to the need to forgive.

But Jesus still keeps the sevens resonating in his answer because he wants to say that to forgive is like a new act of creation: it creates life where there was the deadly desire for revenge, and light where there was darkness.

So, let's look at this sort of forgiveness more closely, at the macro and the micro levels.

I once had the great privilege of shaking hands with Nelson Mandela at a Parliament House reception. Why was the crowd pressing up to this man, hoping to touch him?

Partly because of his great victory over apartheid in South Africa. (Doesn't that word sound so apt in English: apart-hate.) Mostly, I think, because when he came to power he did not set out 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime', to exact revenge on those who had killed and tortured the blacks and coloureds of his beloved country.

Rather, he offered forgiveness to the offenders. Through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, confession and admission of complicity in apartheid would lead to the closing of the books and a new beginning.

It is that sort of forgiveness – the closing of the books and a new beginning – which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others.

When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a disproportionately minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness.

If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in divine life.

After all, don't we pray daily: ' ... forgive us our trespasses *as we* forgive those who trespass against us ... '

Let us keep going at the micro level.

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. It is impossible to forget some terrible hurts or injustices done to one. In fact, it could be dangerous to forget because one could put oneself in a vulnerable situation again.

Remembering can be an important part of healing. So, forgiving is not forgetting.

It is about giving up the desire 'to get even'. It is to give up the all-consuming passion to make sure the wrongdoer 'pays the full price' for the wrongdoing.

And it is good for us. As the Chinese proverb says: 'If you desire revenge, dig two graves. One for the wrongdoer, one for yourself.'

It is easy to talk 'big picture' such as Mandela in South Africa. I know it is much harder within the family and within our circle of acquaintances. Here we can carry resentfulness for weeks or months or years.

Forgiveness is to give up the cold shoulder and the wounding silences when you know the other person is desperate for one gesture, one word.

In my experience, when deeply wounded by someone, it may take years to forgive them. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it.

After all, a lot is at stake:

'Our Father who art in Heaven ....

... forgive us our trespasses *as we* forgive those who trespass against us.'

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

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: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 20 September 2026

Is 55:6-9; Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18; Phil 1:20-24. 27; Mt 20:1-16

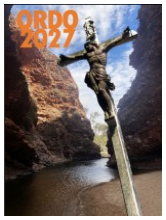
Safeguarding Sunday, 13 September 2026

Today is Safeguarding Sunday in the Dioceses of Australia. It is a day to pray for all who have experienced abuse or harm, to support their healing, and to renew our commitment to creating communities where every person is welcomed, respected and safe.

In the Gospels, Jesus shows particular care for those who are vulnerable and calls his disciples to do the same. Safeguarding is not simply a policy or procedure; it is a Gospel responsibility that reflects the dignity of every person and our shared commitment to love one another as Christ has loved us.

As we celebrate today, let us pray for all who continue to journey towards healing, give thanks for those who serve in safeguarding ministry, and recommit ourselves to building parish communities where trust, compassion and care are evident in all we do.

Annual Liturgy Books for 2027



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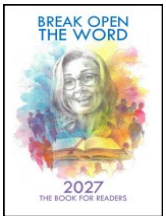

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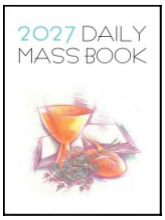

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ORDERS: The 2027 Daily Mass Book, Break Open the Word and Ordo must be ordered by 19 October. Please phone the Parish Office on 5510 2222 (Mon-Fri, 9.00am-12.00pm). Payment is required when ordering. Thank you.

Women's Recollection with Fr Max Polak

Date: **Friday 25 September 2026**
At: **Guardian Angels Church, Southport**
Program:
- ◊ 5.45pm - Arrival
- ◊ 6.00pm - Holy Rosary & Examination of Conscience
- ◊ 6.30pm - Talk - Perseverance & Beginning again
- ◊ 7.15pm - Meditation (Fr Max)
- ◊ 7.45pm - Benediction

Fr Max will be available for confession and spiritual direction.

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

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN

Warmly invites couples who are celebrating 50 years of marriage and above to the annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass.

Saturday 26 September 2026 at 11.30am

The Cathedral of St Stephen
249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane
Family and friends are welcome to attend.

HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM COURSE

Part Two: From the reformation to the modern age.
A free seven-week course every Tuesday after 9.00am mass at Mary Immaculate Church by Yuri Koszarycz.
Everyone is welcome.

PAPER DONATIONS NEEDED

The Parish Office is seeking donations of **A4 and A3 copy paper** to help support the daily administration of our parish. Donations can be left at **any of our three churches** or delivered to the **Parish Office Monday to Friday, 9:00am to noon**. Thank you for helping us continue the work of our parish.

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

- **14 September:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- **15 September:** Our Lady of Sorrows
- **16 September:** St Cornelius (Pope, Martyr)
  : St Cyprian (Bishop, Martyr)

Holy Saints of God, intercede for us as we undertake our work. Pray that the Lord may guide our actions by his holy inspiration and bring them to completion through his gracious assistance. May all that we do be pleasing in his sight and give glory to his holy name. Amen.

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

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.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
Our parish community thrives because of the generosity of our volunteers. We invite you to prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents in one of the following ministries:

- Sacristan - Saturday 4.30pm Mass, Mary Immaculate Church
- Altar Servers, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - at all Masses across our three churches
- Piety Shop Assistants - at Mary Immaculate Church or /and Guardian Angels Church
- Morning Tea Helpers - assisting with washing dishes and cups after morning tea at Mary Immaculate and Guardian Angels

Even a small commitment can make a meaningful difference in the life of our parish. If you are able to help or would like more information, please speak with Fr Gerard or email parish.southport@bne.catholic.net.au.
Thank you for considering how you can serve and strengthen our parish community.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

ANNIVERSARIES
James Donnelly

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

- **24-Hour Adoration** Please see this newsletter for further details.
- **No Reconciliation** for this weekend 12 September at Guardian Angels Church, Southport.
- **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 1136 parishioners already registered.

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

07 5510 2222 / 1300 304 550
aob@stopline.com.au

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
No Reconciliation 12 September 2026

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