THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF SOUTHPORT

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
20 SEPTEMBER 2026 YEAR A /2

The film *Forrest Gump* was once described as the 'battler's triumph'. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off.

Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
2) How many seconds are there in a year?
3) What is God's first name?

Forrest answers straight away, 'Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T – Today and Tomorrow.' St Peter replies,

'That's not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?' 'I think the only answer can be twelve.' 'Twelve?' St Peter asks. 'Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .' 'Hold it', interrupts St Peter, 'I see where you're going with this. Let's go to the final question.' 'Sure', says Forrest, it's Andy!' 'Andy?' exclaims an exasperated St Peter. 'OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God's first name?' 'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all', Forrest replied. 'I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.' St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, 'Run Forrest, run!'

In today's Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn't reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal.

We would cynically call the afternoon workers, 'Johnny-come-latelies' and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation we would be with the complainers.

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus' Kingdom as well.

We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn't how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That's why those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, *Things You Get for Free*, argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it's not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first. Rather than resent this, however, let's thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27 September 2026

Ezek 18:25-28; Ps 24:4-9; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" (Matthew 26:40)
Volunteers Needed for the 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration at Guardian Angels Church, Southport
From noon **Thursday to Friday midday** each week. Guardian Angels Church invites parishioners to spend **one hour with Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration**. We do not have enough volunteers, we need more volunteers to help maintain continuous adoration. Even one hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a precious gift and helps sustain this important ministry.
To volunteer: SMS **0402 812 832** or email **adorationgc@gmail.com** Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generosity of your time.

2026 Mass and Healing Service - Guardian Angels Church Southport Tuesday 27 October at 4.30 pm

Fr Rozo's mission of healing has become well known in Europe and throughout the world. He was a Franciscan priest for 25 years before he was called to form his new order. He suffered 8 years of spiritual trial and desolation. Fr Rozo had a spiritual experience with the Holy Spirit in November 1985 followed by a 40 day fast when he lived solely on the Holy Eucharist.

We are privileged to be one of only 2 venues in Queensland to host the world renowned heal priest, Fr Rosario Palic, in our parish for the second time. Those who attended last year will remember the wonderful experience and spiritually charged event that changed many people. Please contact your friends, especially anyone sick and bring them to experience Fr Palic's beautiful words and healing touch. There are no tickets or booking , you are free to come.
Testimony of Maxine Bosher: *Fr Rozo Palic visited Australia two and a half years ago and gave 3 healing Masses. I attended his first healing Mass without expectation or forethought. Prior to that, in October of 2020, I was admitted to hospital for heart failure and an enlarged heart which impaired my heart's ability to pump adequate blood to the body and its organs. The medication I was prescribed made my condition worse. I coughed incessantly, could not sleep, lie down or eat. I stopped all medication except for the diuretics. In May 2023, 4 days after Fr Rozo laid his hands upon me, I had an echocardiogram which showed that my enlarged heart was of average size and the ejection rate of the left ventricle was average. My energy levels, appetite and ability to do volunteer work have improved dramatically.*

St Vincent de Paul
Guardian Angels Southport Conference
Supporting those in need in the Southport/Labrador/ Ashmore Community for over 100 years.
Join our team of volunteers helping families and singles in the local area from our Railway Street Help Centre.
Volunteer from two days per month.
For more information on becoming a volunteer call Chris – 0412 728 117 or Kerrie 0416 061 945

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.

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

HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM COURSE
Part Two: From the reformation to the modern age.
A free seven-week course (15 September - 20 October) every Tuesday after 9.00am mass at Mary Immaculate Church by Yuri Koszarycz. Everyone is welcome.

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

- **21 September: St Matthew** (Apostle, Evangelist)
- **23 September: St Pius of Pietrelcina** (Priest)

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.

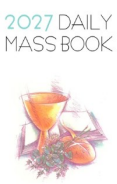
Women's Recollection with Fr Max Polak

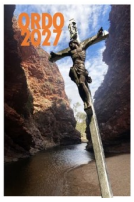
Date: **Friday 25 September 2026**
At: **Guardian Angels Church, Southport**
Program:

- ◊ 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.

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.





~~$36.30~~	~~$36.30~~	~~$27.50~~
discounted rate		
$33.00	$33.00	$25.00

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

Margaret McMahon
David Anthonty William Singleton

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

- **24-Hour Adoration - Guardian Angels Church, Southport** Thursday noon to Friday ending with mass at 12.30pm Friday
- **Adoration - Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore Thursday 7.45am- 8.30am**
- **No Reconciliation** for this weekend Saturday 19 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.
- **Parish Registration** continues, with 1149 parishioners already registered.

2027 Columban Art Calendar is available at each of our Piety Stores. Each calendar is priced at $11.00.

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

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 19 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

FLOCKNOTE
NEW PARISH REGISTRATION
Stay connected

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