



## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### PINE RIVERS

102 SPARKES RD, BRAY PARK Q 4500

(07) 3205 1493 - BRAYPARK@BNE.CATHOLIC.NET.AU

HTTPS://HOLYSPIRITBRAYPARK.COM

OFFICE HOURS - MON-FRI 9AM - 4:30PM

#### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Chinua Okeke, C.S.Sp

[okekee@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:okekee@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr Edward Khaemba, C.S.Sp

[khaembae@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:khaembae@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### PARISH SECRETARIES

Alexandra Lindstrom (Finance)

Giuliano Silvestro (Admin)

#### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Sat 6:00pm (Sunday Vigil)

Sun 7:00am, 9:00am

Sun 11:00am Aramaic Mass

#### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 7:00am; Tue 7:30pm;

Wed 7:00am; Thu 9:00am

Fri 7:00am & 7:30pm (1<sup>st</sup> Friday)

Sat 8:00 am

#### HEALING MASS

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7.00am

#### BAPTISMS

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the Month.

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8.30am and 5.15pm.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month 8:15pm

#### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT,

#### BENEDICTION AND ADORATION

Every Wednesday after the 7am Mass  
until Thursday 8:30am

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month – 8:15pm until  
7:30am Saturday morning

#### ROSARY

After weekday mass

Second Saturday of the month at 7.30am

Last Friday of the month at 6:30am

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chair – Matthew Dahms

Secretary – Patrick Collins

[braypark@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:braypark@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Chair – John Thomas

Secretary – Sabrina Menezes

[braypark@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:braypark@bne.catholic.net.au)

#### LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

Chair – Dawn Penna

Secretary - Marian Brooks

### 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent Year A



The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday; a Sunday of rejoicing. The entrance antiphon for today's Mass reads, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." It is taken from Philippians 4:4-5. I invite you to sing with me again our entrance antiphon: "Rejoice in

the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice. Rejoice, rejoice, again I say rejoice"

We are rejoicing not because we do not have worries or pain, or because we have all the comfort that we need. Not at all. St Paul already declared that hardships, distress, persecution, lack of food and clothing, threats or violence cannot separate us from the love of Christ. (Rom 8:35-39). We are asked to rejoice because of the hope we have in Christ Jesus. Our hope is anchored in our knowledge and belief that Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago, would be reborn again on Christmas Day.

The liturgical colour for third Sunday of Advent is rose; hence it is also known as Rose Sunday. Rose candle and vestments are used on this Sunday if available.

Today's Readings are permeated with either invitations to rejoice or acts that would put a smile on people's cheeks. In the first Reading (Is 35:1-6), Prophet Isaiah extols, "Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy." He then enumerated some of the signs that would be associated with the messianic times, which included the opening of the eyes of the blind, the unsealing of the ears of the deaf, the healing of the lame, the restoration of the power of speech to the dumb and the return of the exiles.

The Gospel continues the theme of John the Baptist, the precursor of Jesus Christ who was introduced to us in the Gospel reading of last Sunday. In today's passage (Mt 11:2-11), John who came to bear witness to the Light, who is Jesus Christ, has been imprisoned by King Herod. John's offence was that he spoke the truth. In being faithful to his central message that people should "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand", he confronted Herod for taking Herodias, the wife of Philip, his brother. (Mk 6:14-29). Our actions or in-actions have consequences; however, it is better for us to suffer for doing what is right rather than for betraying our faith in Jesus.

Based on the Reading of last Sunday (Mt 3:1-12), John was expecting an uncompromising Messiah who would 'cut down and burn any tree that does not produce good fruit.' That is, the Messiah would be judgemental, rewarding people of impeccable character and banishing all the sinners. From prison, John heard that Jesus was mingling with both righteous people and sinners. Jesus said that he had come to seek and save those who were lost (Lk 19:10); and that it was the sick rather than the healthy who needed the doctor (Mk 2:17). This manner of ministry by Jesus in which he does not wait for people to fully repent before he seeks them out, ran contrary to John the Baptist's worldview about the Messiah. Hence, he sent out some of his disciples to Jesus so that he may re-affirm his Messiahship.

Jesus gave the disciples of John a message to take back to him. The core of the message was that he was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah about the Messiah. "The blind sees again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." Thus, through these means, Jesus was making the kingdom of God manifest by rejuvenating the people and adding effervescence to their lives.

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

## THANKSGIVING VIA DIRECT DEBIT

Many parishioners are undertaking **Planned Giving** via Direct Debit. The advantages include...

- ✓ Reduces waste: huge paper saving
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- ✓ Aids Parish planning.

**First Collection** is for the support of the Priests

**Second Collection** is for support of the Parish

The simple **form** is available from the back of the church or Parish Office. You can set up regular payments now.

**Please consider!**

## We Remember



*Those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially:* Juliane Filian, Caroline Kimaryo, Daniella Hopgood, Moira Cross, Kathleen Kelly, William Roater, Heather Cunningham, Edith Jones, Gwendoline Brown, Fred Rohlf, Arthur Edmonds. *May their souls rest in peace.*

*We pray for all of our sick parishioners and those who we have been asked to pray for, especially:*

Lameka Eketi, Sa Tamalii, Brendan Drury, Stephen Thompson, Jacob Young, Marg Wallace, Ellie Zemann, Clive Smith, Editha Hall, Betsy Van Meygaarden, Peter Brown, David Lowe, Clifford Naughton, Darren Searle, Glen Brown, Henry Mencia, Victoria Murrell, Maarten Vollebregt, Henny Van Meygaarden, Elda, Albert Jahnke, Mark Hopgood, Angela Gannon, Josephine Abellera, Kevin Pavey, Carolyn Tanner, Dorcas Leema, Eddie (Luisa's brother), Bernadette (Luisa's daughter), Fiona Russell, Maggie, Frank Zoing, Michael Sedl, Trish, Jeffrey Heyne, Larry Eliepa, Arthur Naylor, Bryan Doyle, Marian David, Vincent Stufano and family, Sr Lina Vaschina, Anna Maria Vaschina, Christina Grace Hambling, Josie Longo, Marco Polo Tanzi, Gerry Demenzes & Maria Stufano, Lewis Mika. People in Nursing Homes.

***If you would like a priest to visit yourself or if you know of someone, for anointing and/or Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office on 3205 1493.***

### SYRIAC CATHOLIC MISSION

Thu 5-8pm (Women' Group), Fri 6-8pm (Teenagers), Sat 9.00-11.00am (*Catechism & First Communion*)

Subdeacon - Zaid Sallouha 0499404013

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic Community of Holy Spirit Parish, Pine Rivers, guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, commit ourselves to:

1. Fulfilling our Baptismal responsibility through evangelization and service;
2. Becoming a loving and welcoming community;
3. Recognizing and affirming the dignity of all as "Children of God";
4. Deepening our spirituality; that God's Kingdom may reign now and evermore.

## This week in our Parish

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00am Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 8.30am  
Thursday morning

Thu 18<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Mass (No School Mass)

**Note: Benediction will be after the Wednesday 7am Mass**

## ADORATION NOTICE

Please note that Adoration will cease from after Adoration on the 17/18th December. NOTE: That means AFTER NEXT WEEK's Adoration. It will resume on the 7/8th January 2026.

## Upcoming Events

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent  
Advent Reflections

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> December Visit of Spiritan General Councillors

## Mass Intentions

Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	Lameka Eketi (Healing)
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	Mercy John (RIP)
		Mary Stewart (RIP Anniversary)
	9.00am	Eric Labrooy (RIP Anniversary)
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Merlin Sony (RIP)
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	The Holy Souls of Angelita Gunston & Ryan Gunston (RIP)
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Frederick & Grace Collis (RIP)
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00am	Ricardo Ayala (RIP)
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Augustine Fernandez (1 <sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary)

## CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION

Join us for the Second Rite of Reconciliation on this Friday, 19 December 2025 at 7:30 pm. Experience God's mercy through praying together and individual absolution, which will help you to welcome the Christmas season with a renewed spirit. All are warmly invited.

## PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas break from Monday, December 25th to Friday, January 12th. From Monday, January 15th to Tuesday, January 30th, the office will have reduced hours, open only on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 30th.

## FATHER CHINUA'S INSTALLATION MASS & CELEBRATORY MORNING TEA THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED

A big thank you to all those who worked hard to ensure the success of the day – which included the working bees, choir, cuisine, florists, altar servers and so on. It was a very special morning for both Father Chinua and our Parish Community.

Archbishop Shane received a very warm welcome to our Holy Spirit Parish and it was great to see the Church packed for the event.



## SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR SPIRITAN COUNCILLOR FROM ROME

We are delighted to welcome the Very Reverend Fr. Philip Massewe, CSSp, Spiritan Councillor from Rome, to our parish. Please join us in extending a heartfelt greeting to Fr. Massewe as he joins our celebration this Sunday.



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to all who have donated to our Appeal. ALL money donated will be used in our local area.



## COLUMBAN CALENDAR FOR 2026 NOW AVAILABLE

The Columbian Calendars for 2026 are now available from the Piety Store for \$11.00.

## SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS



St Vincent De Paul Christmas Cards are available at the Piety Store: A packet of 5 cards for \$2.50.

## CHRISTMAS MASS VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for any Readers, Special Ministers, Altar Servers, and Data Projector Operators who are available for the Christmas Masses. Please write your name and contact details against your preferred time on the sheets in the Sacristy.

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council meet monthly to advise the parish priests on matters of pastoral needs. New members are needed. Please speak with the priests or contact the parish office.

## SPIRITANS PAPUA NEW GUINEA ANNUAL APPEAL

Thanks to your wonderful support, we raised a total of **\$6,647.90** for our Spiritan mission in PNG. Your generous contributions will be used to refurbish the Formation house in Aitape. We are truly blessed by your commitment to this global mission.



## SEASON OF ADVENT

30th November 2025 to 24th  
December 2025

Liturgical Year A - Weekday Cycle 2

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON ADVENT REFLECTIONS FOLLOWED BY MASS

From the first to the third Sunday of Advent (30<sup>th</sup> November – 14<sup>th</sup> December), we will have Advent Reflections at 4:30pm, followed by Mass at 5:30pm. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, 21<sup>st</sup> December, we shall be celebrating Simbang Gabi (Christmas Novena Mass) at 7.00pm.

The themes to be discussed each week will be:

Week 1: Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah

Week 2: The family tree of Jesus

**Week 3: Role of Mary in the history of salvation**

Week 4: Simbang Gabi (21<sup>st</sup> December) - Rosary 6.00pm, Carols 6:30pm and Mass 7.00pm

### CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY & CHOIR – INVITATION TO JOIN THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

As we prepare for Christmas, we would love to invite the children of our parish to take part in this year's Nativity Play and to join the Spirit Alive Choir for the Family Christmas Vigil Mass at 6:00pm on Wednesday, 24th December.

The Nativity Play and Choir are a wonderful opportunity for our children to celebrate the birth of Jesus, grow in confidence, and experience the joy of sharing their gifts with the parish community. We welcome all children – no previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to participate.

Nativity Play Practice Times

- Monday 15th: 7:00pm – 8:30pm (Parish Hall)
- Thursday 18th: 7:00pm – 8:30pm (Church)
- Monday 22nd: 7:00pm – 8:30pm (Church)

Spirit Alive Choir Practice (children and adults are welcome)

(Each practice will be at the Church)

- Saturday 13th: 2:00pm
- Saturday 20th: 2:00pm

Children are welcome to take part in the Nativity Play, the Choir, or both. If your child would like to join the choir, please bring them to the practices listed above so they can learn the music and take part confidently on the night.

### SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The Holy Spirit Catholic Community has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Safeguarding Contact Email:

[lsr.brayspark@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:lsr.brayspark@bne.catholic.net.au)

### PARISH MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

Whether you're looking for fellowship, faith formation, or a way to serve, you are warmly invited to be a part of our many groups within the parish.

**Knights of the Southern Cross**

**Parish Young Adults**

**Children's Catechism**

**Legion of Mary**

**Couples for Christ Australia**

**St Vincent de Paul Society**

**Men's Prayer Group**

**Marian Movement of Priests**

**Community Connect**

For more information, please contact the Parish Office by phone on 3205 1493 or email at [brayspark@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:brayspark@bne.catholic.net.au)

### NURSING HOME MINISTRY

We celebrate Mass monthly with the residents of local nursing homes.

**Mass Schedule (Monthly):**

Pinewoods: December 16, 10:30am

Anam Cara: December 18 1:30pm

Strathpine Aged Care: December 19 10:30am

**We welcome volunteers and visitors! Please contact the parish office to learn more.**

### READINGS FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Acknowledgement: Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). All rights reserved.*

#### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.  
Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.  
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Ps 145:6-10 (JB)*

**R.** Lord, come and save us.  
It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**  
It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**  
It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

#### **SECOND READING**

*James 5:7-10 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St James  
Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think  
of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the  
precious fruit of the ground until it has had the  
autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to  
be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's  
coming will be soon. Do not make complaints  
against one another, brothers, so as not to be  
brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is  
already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your

example, brothers, in submitting with patience,  
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the  
Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18) (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 11:2-11 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing  
and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the  
one who is to come, or have we got to wait for  
someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell  
John what you hear and see; the blind see again,  
and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the  
deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the  
Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy  
is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to  
talk to the people about John: 'What did you go  
out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in  
the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see?  
A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who  
wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then  
what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I  
tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the  
one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to  
send my messenger before you; he will prepare  
your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the  
children born of women, a greater than John the  
Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the  
kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Tae Kwon Do classes held at Holy Spirit School every Wednesday afternoon. All ages welcome. Established since 1988. Please call Damian or Daisy on 0438 860 967 for more information.

*The privacy of all individuals with whom HOLY SPIRIT PARISH interacts is very important to us and we are committed to protecting all personal information we collect and hold. Our Privacy Policy is available by request.*

**Roster for this Sunday – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month)**

	6pm Saturday	7am Sunday	9am Sunday
<b>Readers</b>	Tony Martin	Ashley Smith Marie Hird	Ester Malgapo Rebecca Davis
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Tony Martin Alan Brooks Yanery Ventura	Vicki Norris Ashley Smith Agimary Joseph	Bryan Irvine, Joyce Cubillan, Alvin Cubillan, Pele Pese
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Charlotte Lindstrom Josie Lindstrom Juliette Lindstrom	Lokani Fosita Julius Fosita	Justice Emmanuel Wisdom
<b>Data Projection</b>	Michael Heyne	Paul Ferris	
<b>Music</b>	Jennifer Marsh	Emmanuel Choir	"Le Ala" Samoan Choir
<b>Hospitality</b>			Samoan Group

**Roster for next Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month)**

	6pm Saturday	7am Sunday	9am Sunday
<b>Readers</b>	Doreen Mones Menuki Perera	Paul Ferris Sherine Tobias	Joyce Cubillan Crisalyn Tenio
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Doreen Mones Pat Casey Carleen Augustus	Marie Hird Lito De La Vega Jun Lacson	Susan Lu, Juliet Kumar, Japar Kumar, One more please
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Paulo K Manuel K		Francis Fernando Peter Fernando Theresa
<b>Data Projection</b>	Michael Heyne	Paul Ferris	
<b>Music</b>		Emmanuel Choir	Couples for Christ Australia
<b>Hospitality</b>			Filipino Group