



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](https://holyspiritbraypark.com)

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

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Chinua Okeke, C.S.Sp

okekee@bne.catholic.net.au

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr Edward Khaemba, C.S.Sp

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 (1st Friday)

Sat 8:00 am

HEALING MASS

2nd Friday of the month at 7.00am

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8.30am and 5.15pm.

1st Friday of each month 8:15pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT,

BENEDICTION AND ADORATION

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

1st 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

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Chair – John Thomas

Secretary – Sabrina Menezes

braypark@bne.catholic.net.au

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

Chair – Dawn Penna

Secretary - Marian Brooks

24th/25th January 2026 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

THEME: A CALL TO REPENTANCE

The first reading from the book of prophet Isaiah (Is 8:23-9:3) focuses on the life of the people of two Israelite border towns of Zebulun and Naphtali which were situated West of Lake Galilee. As border town people, they lived and mingled with Canaanites and Phoenicians who became snares to their religious practises. Hence, their land was referred to as the "Province of the nations" which was walking in Darkness due to the influence of idolatrous belief systems. The Oracle of prophet Isaiah contain in this first reading was that "The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone." Thus, the Lord was about to lift the status of the land of Zebulun and Naphtali and their inhabitants. They are no longer to be regarded as people at the fringe of the society, no. They are now part of the mainstream.

In the Second Reading, Paul pled for unity among the believers in Corinth. He was dismayed at the division among the worshippers as he criticised some of the slogans that were prevalent among them like 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. He urged them to come back to their senses since only Christ is the reality, Paul, Apollo, and Cephas were mere servants of Christ. It was Christ who died and rose for their Justification.

The Gospel (Mt 4:12-23) presents us with Jesus' early public ministry which commenced after the arrest of John the Baptist. He left his home of Nazareth and settled in the town of Capernaum which bordered the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali. Matthew who was writing to a Jewish audience and wanted to prove from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ, believed that Jesus' re-settlement at Capernaum had fulfilled the prophesy contained in the first reading: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned."

It was significant that Jesus began his ministry in this region that had people from other nationalities leaving in it. It showed that Jesus' mission though it had the Jewish religion and culture as a springboard, has a universal outlook. Jesus will not only send the twelve apostles to the Jewish territories (Mt 10:5), but will also send seventy-two disciples to the nations (Lk 10:1-24), and after his death and resurrection commanded his disciples to make disciples of all the nations and to baptise them "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Jesus' message at the onset of his ministry was to call humanity to a conversion of heart, "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." Jesus is calling humanity back to her innocence at creation. The mission entrusted to Jesus by his Father was to show humanity how to be truly human. To be truly human is to acknowledge through words and deeds that we were created in the image of God, and created male and female – that is, in a community. Hence the need for interdependence and solidarity.

Every individual is unique and must be treated with dignity. Our human dignity is not based on our status in the society or wealth or educational achievement, or race, but on the spirit of God in us.

The call to repentance is a call to conversion of manners, to purge out envy, jealousy, licentiousness, greed, injustice and hatred from our hearts. I acknowledge that at times notwithstanding our genuine efforts to eliminate some bad habits in our lives we still struggle with them. In those circumstances, do not give up hope, remain focus in prayer, fasting, almsgiving and taking concrete steps to avoid the occasions of sin, the Lord will see you through and one day you may realise that a miracle has happened in your life. You are now relieved of that vice!

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

THANKSGIVING VIA DIRECT DEBIT

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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: John Gleeson, Peter Marrinan, Malachy Wallace, Margaret Flohr, Ted Brooks, Elliot McCausland,

Murrian McMahon, Rod Dowling, Martha Frainey, Charles Haines, Paul Davies. *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:

Genevieve Marie, 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.

Mass Intentions

Sat 24 th	6:00pm	K.C Fernando (RIP) Celine Jeremiah (Recently Deceased)
Sun 25 th	7.00am	Thanksgiving for January Blanche & Trevor Anthony (39 th Wedding Anniversary)
	9.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Mon 26 th	7.00am	
Tue 27 th	7.30pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed 28 th	7.00pm	Teresa Khaemba (Healing. Mother of Fr Edward)
Sat 31 st	8.00am	Benedict Pentony (RIP Anniversary)

Upcoming Events

Jan 26 th	Australia Day
Jan 28 th	Holy Spirit Primary School resumes
Jan 31 st	Parish Pastoral Council Reflection/ Planning day
Feb 2 nd	Presentation of the Lord; Venerable Francis Liebermann
Feb 11 th	World day for the sick
Feb 18 th	Ash Wednesday
Feb 19 th	Start of Lenten Programme

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

The Parish Office has reopened with reduced hours until January 30th. (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays). Regular office hours will resume from Monday February 2nd.

CHILDREN'S MASS – SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY (9AM)

Families are warmly invited to our **Children's Mass** at **9am on Sunday 1st February**. Children are encouraged to take part in the celebration in a variety of ways, including joining the choir.

Children who are interested in singing are invited to attend choir practice on **Saturday 24th January** and **Saturday 31st January** at **2:30pm in the Church**.

We look forward to welcoming our children and families as we celebrate together.

LENTEN PROGRAM – THE JOURNEY HOME

This Lent, join our parish community in reflection and prayer. Beginning mid-February, we will offer small group discussions both in-person and online.

If you are interested in joining or leading a group, please write your name on the sheet at the front of the Church, or contact the Parish Office.

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special jubilee year to commemorate the 800th year since the death of St. Francis of Assisi. This Jubilee Year of St. Francis will run from January 10, 2026, through January 10, 2027. More details to follow.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Our parish extends its deepest sympathy to Rob Van Meygaarden and family on the passing of his beloved wife, Catharina (Tiny), on December 27. We join Rob in heartfelt thanks to all who provided comfort and support through prayers, presence, and assistance with the funeral and reception. Please continue to pray for the peaceful repose of Catharina's soul and for God's consoling grace for Rob and all who mourn her.

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14 (JB)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,

to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,

to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4:23 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-17 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

*Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;*

*on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.*

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents Information meetings will be held on:

- Thursday 12 March @ 6:30pm in the church
- Sunday 15 March @ 10:00am after Mass

CONFIRMATION: Parents Information Meeting will be held on.

- 11 June 6:30pm
- 14 June 10:00am

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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 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th/25th January 2026 (4th Sunday of the Month)

	6pm Saturday	7am Sunday	9am Sunday
Readers	Wendy Greasley Dylan Marsh	Sania Taukeve Remigia Muller	Beverley Halangoda Sandra Glaties
Special Ministers	Marian Brooks Peter Greasley Tony Martin	Vicki Norris Agimary Joseph Marie Hird	Bryan Irvine, Joyce Cubillan, Alvin Cubillan, One more please
Altar Servers	Shaun Perera Faith D'Souza		Sophia Moody Janelle Bose Christian Dahms
Data Projection	Michael Heyne	Paul Ferris	
Music	Jennifer Marsh	Emmanuel Choir	Couples for Christ Australia
Hospitality		Knights of the Southern Cross	Knights of the Southern Cross

Roster for next Sunday – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 31st/1st February 2026 (1st Sunday of the Month)

	6pm Saturday	7am Sunday	9am Sunday
Readers	Alan Brooks Marian Brooks	Rob Van Meygaarden Terry O'Donnell	Children's Mass
Special Ministers	Marian Brooks Carleen Augustus Pat Casey	Laurie Conlon Vicki Norris Lito De La Vega	Susan Lu, Juliet Kumar, Japar Kumar, Bryan Irvine
Altar Servers		Maria Kunau	Klara Pacl Sandra Glaties Alana Bijomon
Data Projection	Michael Heyne	Paul Ferris	
Music	Glen Edmonds	Emmanuel Choir	"Spirit Alive" Choir
Hospitality			Indian Community