



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

Sun 5:30pm (during Advent & Lent)

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION

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

braypark@bne.catholic.net.au

22nd March 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

Theme: Christ our Resurrection and Life

My brothers and sisters, on this fifth Sunday of Lent, the mother Church presents us with a physiological condition called death and what happens after death. Day in, day out, families and friends undergo traumatic experiences at the death of loved ones. Death is often announced as sad news even when the deceased had lived a long life. Death claims its victim indiscriminately; when it uproots the prop of a family or the only growing bud, people often wonder why such a tragedy?

In the Gospel of today, a family friend of Jesus experienced the loss of a loved one. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were his friends whom he visited at home while in their vicinity. The Gospel presented us with the frustration, disappointment and anguish that goes with losing loved ones especially when they are young. Both Martha and Mary lamented to Jesus that, “if you were here, our brother would not have died”, but the presence of Jesus had given Martha some hope to add, “but I know that, even now whatever you ask God, he will grant you.” When Jesus said to Martha that her brother “will rise again”, Martha’s thought did not go to Jesus resuscitating him but the resurrection of her brother at the end of time, for she said, “I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus resuscitated Lazarus after sharing in the sorrow of Lazarus’ family by mourning their loss. However, the central message in today’s Gospel is not the resuscitation of Lazarus, but that life has a purpose, and death is not the end of life but only a transition to eternal life. Jesus said that “I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live”. Here Jesus is saying that life does not come to an end through physical death, but it opens the way to eternal glory. Similarly, Jesus is assuring us of our eternal salvation when he said that anyone who lives and believes in him will not know death. Here, death refers to our estrangement from God forever.

The preface for the dead affirms that, “... for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven”. The Book of Wisdom brings it to our consciousness that it is not only the longevity of life, that is the yardstick to measure the hallmark of life, but how life was spent. Hence its declaration that, “the souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them. In eyes of the unwise they appear to be dead. Their going is held as a disaster; it seems that they lose everything by departing us, but they are in peace. Though seemly they have been punished, immortality was the soul of their hope.... For God has tried them and found them worthy to be with him....” (Wis 3:1-6).

Jesus died young, yet he is still remembered after two thousand years. We should not delay the Last Rites of our loved ones until they have lost consciousness.

Indeed, it is the responsibility of every believer to ask for the Last Rites when still conscious. For Last Rites include opportunity for reconciliation, re-affirming one’s Baptismal Promises, anointing with the Oil of the Sick (if one has not yet been anointed), and receiving Holy Communion. The most essential of all these is receiving Holy Communion as Viaticum (food for the Journey). In most cases the dying person is unable to receive the food for the journey because Priests were called in too late. The history of reserving Holy Communion in the tabernacle after Mass which was decreed by the 13th Canon of the Council of Nicaea in 325AD was to bring Communion to the sick and the dying.

Jesus Christ is our resurrection and our life who would not abandon us at the hour of our passing from this world.

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

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 21 st	8:00am	Maria Auxiliadora Bustos
	6:00pm	Michelè Loffredo (RIP 1 st Anniv.)
Sun 22nd	7.00am	Fred Ventura (RIP)
	9.00am	Linden & Shirley Rees (RIP)
	5:30pm	Randolph Limeta
Mon 23rd	7.00am	Jacinto Alba (1 month RIP Anniv.)
Tue 24th	7.30pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed 25th	7.00am	Tiny Van Meygaarden (Anniversary of Birthday)
Thu 26th	9.00am	Dom Limeta
Fri 27th	7.00am	Michelè Silvestro (RIP Anniv.)
Sat 28th	8.00am	Eugenia Limeta (RIP)

Upcoming Events

Mar 25 th	Annunciation of the Lord
Mar 25 th	Easter Reconciliation 7:00pm
Mar 26th	Chrism Mass, St Stephen's Cathedral 7:00pm
Mar 29 th	Palm Sunday
Apr 2 nd	Holy Thursday
Apr 3 rd	Good Friday
Apr 4 th	Easter Vigil
Apr 5th	Easter Sunday
Apr 30 th	Readers' Workshop @ 7.00pm
May 7 th	Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Workshop @ 7.00pm
May 9 th	Parish Picnic - Bullocky's Rest 12 Noon
May 15 th -23 rd	Pentecost Novena
May 18 th -21 st	Pentecost Seminar 7:00pm
May 24 th	Pentecost Sunday
May 30 th	Public Rosary 8:45am
Aug 30 th	Multicultural Mass

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

Bryan Doyle, Dorcas Leema, Carolyn Tanner, Vincent Stufano and family, Sr Lina Vaschina, Anna Maria Vaschina, Christina Grace Hambling, Josie Longo, Marco Polo Tanzi, Gerry Demenzes & Maria Stufano,, Joe Barrett, Genevieve Marie, Lameka Eketi, Sa Tamalii, Brendan Drury, Stephen Thompson, 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, People in Nursing Homes.

We Remember

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially:
Kathleen O'Leary, Felix Bazeley, Ray Welham, Noel Robinson, Florence Horne, Clare Tiley, Leslie Britt, Connie Douglas, Thomas Dowling, Margaretha Schoonder Warmerdam, Iese Henry, William Montgomery, Joe Foley, Igazno 'Gino' Musumeci, Helen Buckley, Maurice Cleary; Pauline Hackett; Patrick O'Sullivan. May their souls rest in peace.

*** Easter Reconciliation ***

Parishioners are invited to participate in Easter Reconciliation this Wednesday, March 25th at 7:00pm

*** Chrism Mass ***

Parishioners are invited to participate at the Mass of the Blessing of the Oils (Chrism Mass) at St Stephen's Cathedral this Thursday at 7.00pm.

Holy Week & Easter Programme

Palm Sunday – 28th/29th March

Sunday Vigil 6.00 pm (Saturday evening, Procession)
Sunday 7.00 am, (Procession)
Sunday 9.00 am, (Solemn Procession)
Sunday 5.30 am, (Procession)

Holy Thursday -- 2nd April

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm
Watch & Pray with Jesus 8:30pm to Midnight

Good Friday -- 3rd April

Stations of Cross 10.00 am
Passion of the Lord 3.00 pm

Easter Vigil Mass -- 4th April

7:00 pm (Awaiting the Resurrection of the Lord)

Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord) -- 5th April

7.00 am, 9.00 am, No evening Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday – 12th April

Reconciliation available from 12:30pm
1:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary
2:00pm Eucharistic Procession
2:30pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy
2:45pm Benediction
3:00pm Three O' Clock Prayer followed by Mass

WORKING BEE

You are invited to join us for our Working Bee, held straight after the 8am Mass on Saturday 28th March, as we prepare our church for Palm Sunday.

PALM FRONDS OR BOOK PALM LEAVES

If you have any palm fronds or book palm leaves, we were wondering if you could kindly bring them to the church this Friday evening or Saturday morning. If you have palm fronts but are unable to bring them, please contact the office to arrange for someone to come and help collect them.

REGIONAL LENTEN RETREAT – "From Darkness to Light" Saturday, 28 March 2026 | 9am – 3pm
St Eugene de Mazonod Church, 91 Springfield Drive, Burpengary. Reflect and pray with Scripture, including the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Woman at the Well. Reconciliation and Mass included. Morning tea and lunch provided. Cost: \$10 per person | RSVP by Sunday, 22 March 2026. Register at: <https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/BurpengaryRegionalRetreat26> All are welcome!

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:12-14 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 129 (Year A) (JB)

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING Romans 8:8-11 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 11:25, 26 (Year A) (JB)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 11:1-45 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he

heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus

said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SALUBONG, a traditional Filipino Easter Dawn Celebration, will be held on 5 April 2026 at St. Flannan's

Church, 194 Handford Rd, Zillmere, starting at 4:30am with a procession, re-enactment of the Resurrection, and Holy Mass at 5:00am celebrated by Rev. Fr. Marce Singson. After Mass, enjoy Fellowship, Easter Egg Hunt, and Games — kindly bring a plate to share. For inquiries, contact Jima on 0432 374 239.

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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 – Fifth Sunday of Lent 21st/22nd March 2026 (4th Sunday of the Month)

	6pm Saturday	7am Sunday	9am Sunday
Readers	Wendy Greasley Dylan Marsh	Sania Kunau Remigia Muller	Beverley Halangoda Zoraida Requina
Special Ministers	Yanery Ventura, Marian Brooks, Peter Greasley, Tony Martin	Lito De La Vega, Vicki Norris, Laurie Conlon, Marie Hird	Susan Lu, Pele Pese, Joyce Cubillan, Alvin Cubillan, Juliet Kumar, Japar Kumar
Altar Servers	Shaun Perera, Faith D'Souza	–	Sophia Moody, Janelle Bose, Christian Dahms
Data Projection	Michael Heyne	Paul Ferris	–
Music	–	Emmanuel Choir	Young Adults
Hospitality		Knights of the Southern Cross	Knights of the Southern Cross