

Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish

50 FAIRWAY DRIVE, CLEAR ISLAND WATERS, QLD 4226

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8.30am-5pm. Tuesday 8.30am-4.30pm

PHONE: (07) 5572 5433 MASS TIMES: (07) 5595 8466 FAX: (07) 5572 5262

EMAIL: surfers@bne.catholic.net.au WEB: www.surfersparadiseparish.com.au

ONE PARISH
three churches

Sacred Heart

50 Fairway Drive,
Clear Island Waters

St Vincent's

40 Hamilton Avenue,
Surfers Paradise

Stella Maris

254 Hedges Avenue,
Broadbeach

PASTORAL

Fr Peter Dillon

Parish Priest

Fr Nicholas Okafor

Associate Pastor

Fr Paul Kelly

Associate Pastor

Helen Goldsmith

Pastoral Ministry
Coordinator

PARISH STAFF

Sonya Slater

Parish Manager

Marylou Ayres

Parish Secretary

Pat Kelly

Parish Assistant

Stephanie Santos

Youth Coordinator

SCHOOLS

St Vincent's School

Clear Island Waters

Phone: 5572 1746

P: Kerry Rowlands

St Kevin's School

Benowa

Phone: 5539 4522

P: Peter Anderson

St Kevin's Kindergarten

Phone: 5564 5910

Director: Michelle Nelson

St Michael's College

Merrimac

Phone: 5530 2722

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD **27TH / 28TH MAY 2017—YEAR A**

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

From My Mouth to God's Ear

I've always liked the Jewish expression of support for someone who asks a friend for a prayerful intercession: "From my mouth to God's ear." **It creates an intimate image of whispering something personal and important to God.** I can almost see God bending to listen in a parental pose, pleased to be included in the chain of support. Ironically the need to pray has never been more evident while the form and nature of prayer has never been more diverse. As we become more exposed to the prayerful and submissive gestures of those who follow the Muslim faith, kneeling with foreheads pressed to the floor facing the East, we of the Christian tradition could do well to look again not just at what we pray for and about, but how we position ourselves for prayer. Although we know we can pray at any time, place and situation, when we gather in community we adhere to a common practice so as not to distinguish or isolate ourselves from others in the community.

From our childhood days we were taught to join our hands when praying. Yet you will notice that during the prayers of the Mass the priest opens his hands and stretches them out. Both ways are good and have their place. But what do the different gestures mean?

To join one's hands means that for a while we stop our normal activities and take time out to pray to God. This is more suited to private prayer. To pray with one's hands open is more suited to public prayer. **To pray like this is to acknowledge to God and to ourselves that we are poor and that we need God to fill our emptiness.**

The gesture of praying with open hands is a sermon in itself. The gesture is as old as the Bible itself, and although it is not a common practice in Australia, it is becoming more popular in certain communities, particularly with children praying the Our Father.

When the priest says the prayers of the Mass with outstretched hands, he is not praying in his own name but in the name of the worshipping community. Even if you don't feel comfortable praying this way yourselves, you could try to have the same attitude before God as the gesture suggests – an attitude of humility and trust.

Perhaps the most important perspective is that we should pray honestly and often. Like the development of any great friendship, our relationship with God needs to be fostered by sincere conversation, not simply a recitation of someone else's words (although traditional prayers can bring great comfort when our own words desert us), but words from our heart, that won't surprise or disappoint God, but may open us to new opportunities to hear God through our voice. Speaking with God each day will offer a familiarity that will bring the presence of God to every situation. I am quite sure that God must get a little frustrated only being remembered at the difficult and demanding times of our life. Our prayers of celebration and gratitude will surely bring God the same joy that they bring us.

Father Peter Dillon

THE GOD OF SURPRISES This week we received the surprising news that **Fr. Nicholas Okafor, our popular Associate Pastor, has been appointed Assistant Priest at Ipswich Catholic Community, beginning on the weekend of June 17th.** Fr. Nicholas has been with us for nearly three years and has been a valuable part of the pastoral team of the parish, always generous in his readiness to take on whatever duties are required of him. He has been particularly generous in the work that he has done at Saint Michael's College and visitation to hospitals, and nursing homes as well as the sick in their private homes.

This appointment has become necessary because of the low numbers of priests available for appointments in the Archdiocese. Several parishes are still waiting for a Parish Priest. An unfortunate consequence of Fr. Nicholas's transfer is that we have no other priest available to replace him, so it will be Frs. Peter and Paul who will continue to minister, with the help of whatever weekend supply priests might be available. All attempts will be made to continue with the sacramental opportunities we have at present, adjustments may have to be made to suit supply availability. **Prayerful support and consideration would be a great help at this difficult time.**

READINGS THIS WEEKEND:

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11;

Ephesians 1:17-23;

Matthew 28:16-20

FEASTS:

Wed 31st The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Thurs 1st June** St Justin, martyr; **Sat 3rd** Charles Lwanga & companions, martyrs

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Pentecost Sunday;

Acts 2:1-11;

1Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13;

John 20:19-23

REFLECTION:

The theology and the deep spirituality of the feast of the Ascension is not on the surface of the readings but beneath. The Gospel text is a narrative on the final appearance of Jesus. Jesus has called the disciples to a mountain, a place where the physical geography echoes the spiritual geography. From the mountain he shares his divine authority with three salient features. Firstly, the missionary nature of the Church; secondly, the integration of discipleship and baptism, with the use of the most ancient baptismal sentence continued across the entire ecumenical church, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"; thirdly, the ongoing presence of Christ.

The reading from Acts gives us similarities to the Gospel. Luke emphasizes the centrality of baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit. What happens belongs to God but within this framework is the promise that Christ will return and all history belongs to him.

The final point is made more eloquently in the Letter to the Ephesians. The future is a future of hope, rich in the glory of God. Christ is above all history and all time, yet Christ is in all history and all time through his body, the church. Christ is present to the world, present in the church and present to the Father.

The sense of the feast is that as Christ recedes from sight, we more clearly see the hope and glory he offers.

IF AT FIRST . . .

While the first two attempts weren't very successful, we shall try yet again to seek some generous parishioners to operate the computer and screen at the Sacred Heart Sunday masses. This important ministry allows us to show the words of hymns and other messages at each of the masses so that we can eliminate the need for hymn books. While it might sound a daunting task for some, it is an ideal ministry for some young person, all of whom seem very familiar with computers and technology. Training is available and, depending on replies to this request, you may only be needed once a month. Please consider.

4TH TIME LUCKY

This week Archbishop Coleridge appointed our parish priest, Father Dillon to be the **Dean of the South Coast Deanery**, a role previously held by Bishop Tim Harris. (This is in addition to being Parish Priest of Surfers Paradise parish, not instead of). This is the 4th time Fr. Peter has been a Dean, so he is rather familiar with the role. The duties of the Dean are generally to provide pastoral and administrative support to the priests of the deanery, as well as advise the Archbishop on a range of needs in the local area. There are other occasions when the Dean is required to represent the Archbishop at events that he is not able to attend. ***Our deanery is one of the largest in the Archdiocese stretching from Coolangatta to Coomera, seven parishes, 18 churches and almost 18 priests, including those living in retirement.***

Coming Up at Venire...

Summit for Young Adults

All young adults (18-35) are welcome at Summit for a time of fellowship, discussion, Eucharistic Adoration and dessert! Join us this month as we hear from Fr Warren Kinne, who has spent the last 20 years teaching and ministering in China. Hear about his experiences and let's reflect on how we can be missionaries in our daily lives today.

Friday 2nd of June

7pm in the Hospitality Centre

Venire for High Schoolers

We're starting a new series at Venire and going in depth into St Paul's letters. Each night over the next few weeks, we'll be looking at a different letter.

Come along to Venire for a night of fun games, free dinner, talks, discussion and prayer.

Thursday nights

6-8:30pm in the Hospitality Centre

Parish Trivia Night

The youth are hosting a great night of trivia open to the Parish. Come along for a great night!

SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND DRINKS FOR SALE

8 TRIVIA ROUNDS: FOR ALL AGES: TEAMS OF 8: PRIZES TO BE WON!

6pm, FRIDAY 9TH OF JUNE in Casey Hall

\$15 per person

RSVP your team by purchasing a ticket at the Parish office or emailing hello@venireyouth.com



FEAST OF ST KEVIN WHOLE SCHOOL MASS: Parents and Parishioners are invited to attend this special Feast Day Mass to be held at **9am on Thursday 1st June in Chalahn Hall, St Kevin's School, 312 Benowa Rd, Benowa**. A Morning Tea will follow the Mass. All Welcome. **Please RSVP: 5539 4522**

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM 2017-2018

The Children's Sacramental Program for **2017-2018** will commence in August 2017. Enrolments are now being taken for children who are baptised Catholic and have turned 8 by August 2017. Information brochures and enrolment forms are available in all churches, on the parish website and the school offices of St Vincent's and St Kevin's primary schools.

Completed enrolment forms, along with copies of the birth certificate and baptismal certificate are required to be submitted to the parish office by **10 July, 2017**. If you have any enquiries please phone Helen Goldsmith 5572 5433 (Wed-Fri) or you can email helenpastoral@bne.catholic.net.au

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



We are very excited to be attending Formation this week-end in Brisbane about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

We are looking forward to bringing back new ideas to implement in our Parish Atrium.

We are so blessed with our volunteers, Monika, Marina, Jennifer, Maree and Shannon and we would like to thank them for their commitment to our Atrium.

Monday and Friday sessions run from 9:30am to 11:00am.

Baptism Preparation (3-8 year old)

9:00am to 10:00am on Saturday.

To learn more, please email atrium.surfers@bne.catholic.net.au

ALL NIGHT ADORATION: All night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this **1st Friday** at Sacred Heart Church from **7pm Friday 2nd June to 7am Saturday 3rd June**. All welcome. Enquiries: Jim **0424 381 069** or Helen **0421 935 678**.

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" Mt 26:40

**Ascension of the Lord - Year A
A VOCATION VIEW:**

Through His death, resurrection and ascension, Christ showed us the path to eternal life.

Know that the Lord is with you always, through your struggles and triumphs, and that he will hear your prayers.



vocation

50th ANNIVERSARY Sr Brigid Frawley will celebrate her 50th Anniversary of being a Sister of Mercy at the **6pm Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 10th June**. You are most welcome to mark this wonderful occasion with Sr Brigid. There will be a time of hospitality immediately afterwards. Sr Brigid has spent 30 years as part of our Parish and would love to welcome you to her celebration.

PRAYING THE ROSARY: The statue of Our Lady will be at the home of Roula Ayoub of Mudgeeraba for the week of **MONDAY 29th May 2017**. There is no need to invite anyone else into your home unless you wish to do so. Please phone **Maxine or Pat Sela on 5539 9539**.

THE CHURCH RELIGIOUS GOODS SHOPS have lots of cards and gifts for First Communions. The children of the Parish will celebrate their First Communions in June so you can start shopping now for a gift for them to remember this important time in their lives.



STELLA MARIS CHURCH-GOERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE **GOLD COAST MARATHON** WILL TAKE PLACE ON **SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2017**. **HEDGES AVENUE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 3.30AM UNTIL 12NOON ON THAT SUNDAY**. NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED ON TO HEDGES AVENUE DURING THAT TIME. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND MASS ON **SATURDAY EVENING AT 5PM** OR TO WALK TO MASS ON THE **SUNDAY MORNING**. **SUNDAY MASS TIMES: 7AM & 8.30AM**

NEWS FROM THE GOLD COAST CATHOLIC LIBRARY

Christianity - the story continues.... Is not only the theme of our Liturgies post-Easter, but also the current display in the Library. **History** and the **development of the Catholic traditions**, and our **Christian mission** are featured. Also we take a look at the Church of our time and place. Michael Gilchrist says we are "Lost", but Daniel O'Leary has an equally realistic yet more hopeful view in "Lost Soul?" "Reclaiming the Catholic Traditions" is recommended - a book of essays which unwraps the "treasures old and new" of our faith. All available to borrow now!

It was **National Volunteer Week** recently; have you thought about volunteering in our Library?



ART and CRAFT GROUP NEWS: The **Crafty Art Show** at Robina Art Gallery, was opened by Fr Peter Dillon last Wednesday. It was a lovely event and we are grateful to all those who contributed socially as well as financially. If you weren't able to attend on that day **the Show will continue till 5th June**. The proceeds from this 10 day event will go to the St Vincent de Paul organisation.

You are invited to the **Teams Oceania Conference** on 1st & 2nd July 2017 Marist College, Ashgrove: **MARRIAGE BEYOND THE WEDDING - You're not alone on this journey**

For the full program, flyer & prices go to Teams Oceania website: www.teamsoceania.com.au and click on **upcoming events +**. You can also go to www.trybooking.com/256672 to book.

Early Bird price for 2 day conference is only \$75/person! (Ends 31st May) Everyone is welcome!

DAY OF PRAYER: The Canossian Sisters are running a day of prayer and reflection for young women and men from 18-40 years. **Saturday 10th June 9am-5pm at Lay Centre, Canossa Complex, 169 Seventeen Mile Rocks Rd, Oxley. Cost: \$10 (Includes lunch)**. For more information or to **RSVP contact Sr. Melissa 0484 007 508**

The Australian Christian Meditation Community Queensland: 9.30am Sat, 10th June at Uniting Church Werner Hall, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm. Contact Gabby - toga@bigpond.net.au; **3711-4227 or 0488 592 770**.

YOGA: Enjoy the health benefits of an hour-long yoga lesson in a friendly environment on **Tuesdays at 10.45am in the Parish Hospitality Centre, 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters**. Come and join a lovely group of women of all ages, nurtured by an experienced and caring **International Yoga Teacher Association accredited teacher Ruth**, in the traditional stretching, breathing and relaxation for **\$10 a session**. **For more information please call 0421338110**.

Children's **IRISH DANCING CLASS Mondays 3.30pm to 4.30pm** in **Casey Hall, Clear Island Waters**. Ages 3+ yrs. For further information, call **Linda on 0407 370 047**.

COFFEE CULTURE CAFÉ 7:00am—3:30pm
Monday to Friday

Catering options are available for your function.

Phone: **Parish Office 557505433**

MONDAY 29th May	TUESDAY 30th May	WEDNESDAY 31st May	THURSDAY 1st June	FRIDAY 2nd June	SATURDAY 3rd June
7.00am ST VINCENT'S	9.00AM SACRED HEART Next Anointing Mass 10am 6th June	9AM STELLA MARIS	9.00AM STELLA MARIS	7AM ST VINCENT'S 9AM SACRED HEART	<u>RECONCILIATION</u> 4.15pm STELLA MARIS 5.00pm SACRED HEART 5.15pm ST VINCENT'S
NORMAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES	STELLA MARIS CHURCH Saturday evening 5.00pm AND Sunday 7.00am & 8.30am SACRED HEART CHURCH Saturday evening 6.00pm AND Sunday 9.00am & 6.00pm ST VINCENT'S CHURCH Saturday evening 6.00pm AND Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am				

MIGRANT CHAPLAINS / COMMUNITIES:

Polish: Sunday 11.30am Sacred Heart Church
Fr Bernard Bednarz C/- 3252 2200

Italian: Sunday 4.00pm Sacred Heart Church
Fr Michele Cagna CS 0432110468—Pastoral Support
and General Information - Connie 5575 8882

Filipino: Next Mass in our Parish is on 1st October 2017 at
12noon in Casey Hall. Fr Terence Nueva 3277 2252

Hispanic: 1st & 3rd Sundays 5—7pm St Vincent's Church
Fr Ignacio Gutierrez 0481 118 521
Email: paterignacio@yahoo.com

Maronite Rite: Saturday 7.15pm Sacred Heart
Phone: 3394 4994 St Maroun's Church, Brisbane.

Art & Craft: Each Wednesday 9am to 12noon in PHC

Book Club: 3rd Tuesday of Month at 12 noon in PHC

Bridge: Mondays at 12noon Parish Hospitality Centre

SPCL: Tuesday 6th June 2017

Friendship Day Thursday 15th June 2017

Parish Choir Practice: 8.30am Saturdays SH

Playgroup: Wednesdays 9.30am Casey Hall, Fairway Drive,
Clear Island Waters - Sarah 0410 701 515

**Playgroup is Volunteer Based— Each parent needs to sign
an attendee sheet at each session.**

Yoga: Tuesday 10.45am \$10/Session.

Zumba Gold: Friday 9.15am Casey Hall. Beginners and
Intermediate. Susana Pozzi 0421 607 397

FOR MORE PARISH GROUPS, PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE

Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office 5572 5433 to register.

Marriages: Contact Parish Office 5572 5433 (Min 6mths notice required)

Benediction: 1st Friday 7.30am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise

Children's Liturgy: Sunday @ 9am Mass Sacred Heart Church (during
School Term only).

Stella Maris Church @ 8.30am Mass every 2nd Sunday of the Month.

Christian Meditation: Tuesday 10am (Youth Room) Pam Egberts
0428090703.

Christian Meditation Tuesday 6pm (Youth Room). Contact Parish Office

Couples For Christ FFL: Phone Butch & Mini 0424 583 168/9

Exposition: Monday & Friday 6am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise
Tuesday 9.30am Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters
Thursday 9.45am St Vincent's Church, Surfers Paradise
Friday 7pm—9pm Sacred Heart Church,
1st Friday - 7pm Friday 2nd June to 7am Saturday 3rd June.

Carmelite Spirituality: 3rd Sunday of each month 10.30am PHC, CIW
Contact: Norm Harding 0421 125 575. **Meeting Sunday 21st May.**

Rosary: Sunday 7.15am St Vincent's Church
Monday & Friday 6.25am St Vincent's Church
Tuesday & Friday 8.25am Sacred Heart Church, before Mass
Wednesday 8.25am Stella Maris Church, before 9.00am Mass

Venire Youth Mass—6.00pm Sunday 30th July 2017

RECENTLY DECEASED: Andreas Lunandi, Irmgard (Joan) Graz, Deris Howell, Baby Beni Lukacs (Hungary), Giovanni Pascquale Marmina, Elier Pacheco, Lucille Lumbres, Antonio Chagas, Kevin Kealy (Melb.), Mary Tobone (Malta), Josephine Tansey, Ross Patrick Hickey, Monica Horn (Sth Africa), Nancy Mary Denaro, Imre (Henry) Masa.

ANNIVERSARIES: Veronica Bond, Douglas Widdoson, Arthur, Dean, Shirley, Joan & Jonathan Swift, Mary Crowhurst, Antonette Martin, Aurora Violeta, Juanito Violeta Sr, Walter Sisam, James McElwaine, John Hopkins, Margarita Paraon, Emily Pena.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Annette Anning, John Thomas, Baby Savannah Mary Ayoub, Kelly Haddad, Eunice & Geoff Harrison, Edwin Ware, Nalin Sena, Patricia Ceravolo, Kevin McCormack, Raymond Bridge (Syd), Theresa Curran (UK), Tony Bui, Helen Lindsay, Patricia Sulzberger, Rachel Raines, Fr John Milliken, Brandon Watson, John Ashby, Paul Kiely, Sean Weldon, David Weldon, Paul Beck, David Long (Vic), Dr Michael Tracey, John Lofthouse, Daniel Farrugia, Michelle Coyle, Monica Bailey, Ray Balkin, Steve Wayt, Anne Zappa.

Please note: All names will be removed from the sick list at the end of each month. Please call us if you wish to renew names on this list.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING A LEGACY?
Phone the Parish Office
5572 5433

**Would you like to receive the Parish Newsletter each week via email?
If so, please contact the Parish Office and advise your current email address for our Parish Data Base.**



CONTACT FORM: Family Name: _____

Other Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW?

REGISTERING IN PARISH SACRAMENT ENQUIRY YOUTH

PRAYER REQUEST ROSTER AVAILABILITY

OTHER: _____

to commence Parish Planned Giving Program

Please place this completed form on the collection plate, or contact the Parish Office on 5572 5433 for further info.