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

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 inter-dependence 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 not withstanding 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

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

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

Upcoming Events

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

KEEPING OUR PARISH SAFE

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10:14)

At Holy Spirit Parish, every person who walks through our doors, young or old, deserves to feel safe, welcome and respected. Safeguarding is not just a policy: it is how we live the Gospel together.

How you can help:

- Speak up. If something doesn't feel right, tell someone. No concern is too small.
- Volunteers: please keep your Blue Card and Arch e-Learn training up to date. If you're unsure whether yours is current, the Parish Office can check for you.
- Look out for each other, especially children and anyone who may be vulnerable.

Who to contact:

- Parish Safeguarding Representatives (confidential): lsr.braypark@bne.catholic.net.au
- Office for Safeguarding Services: 07 3324 3752 · safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au
- STOPline (independent and confidential, can be anonymous): 1300 304 550 · bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com
- In an emergency, always dial 000.

Thank you to our many volunteers who already make our parish a safe and caring place.

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3 (JB)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 1:14, 12 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God. 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