



Mother of Mercy Parish

Living and Growing in the Spirit

St John's church
688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate

Our Lady Help of Christians
9 Bowman St, Hendra

St Cecilia's church
30 College St, Hamilton

PARISH MISSION

To co-create a welcoming community where all can encounter and be transformed by Christ, realise their call to discipleship, be empowered to serve, and attract new disciples.

Parish Office Telephone: 07 3268 3040

Priest— Urgent After Hours Phone: 0403 743 874

PARISH PRIEST: REV MICHAEL GRACE

Email: pp.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR: TBA

Email: pmc.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR: TBA

Email: yc.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION Telephone: 07 3268 3040

Monica Johnson (Parish Secretary)

Email: hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

Helen Price (Finance Secretary)

Email: finance.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office - 9 Bowman St, Hendra Q 4011

Mail: PO Box 3109, Hendra Qld 4011

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:00am-12noon

Website: www.motherofmercyparish.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council: Neville Canham

Parish Finance Council: Max Walters

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:

◆ **Compliance Officer:** Mrs Kath Shaw

Email: safeguard.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

◆ **Incident reports:** Vicki Ward M: 0407 550 571

Workplace Health & Safety Officer: TBA

PARISH SCHOOL: Our Lady Help of Christians

23 Bowman St, Hendra 4011 **Telephone:** 07 3268 3070

PRINCIPAL: Mr Adam Bennie

AP-RE: Kym Waters

Email: phendra@bne.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses: See listing on back page

Weekday Mass: Friday 9:00am St John's, Northgate

Reconciliation/Confession: By appointment

What's happening in the Parish this week?

Sunday 28 Jan to Saturday 3 Feb 2024

Sun Morning tea after 9.30am Mass (OLHC)

Thur 9.00am Mass (St Agatha's, Clayfield)

Fri 9:00am Mass (St John's, Northgate)

Funeral/Memorial of Leo McCourt (OLHC)

Sat 6am-5pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament (OLHC)

Baptism of Raquel Forrest (St Cecilia's)



Have a great week ahead



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

28 JANUARY 2024

For some time now the church has been engaged in an ongoing conversation about the idea of celibacy, particularly as it relates to the priesthood. I don't wish to address that conversation directly; it will inevitably continue. What I do want to reflect upon however, is something that seems to get missed in this conversation, namely that celibacy, if it is lived authentically, is not something imposed but rather a gift which is discerned.



St Paul, in this weekend's second reading, speaks about celibacy. It is not priestly celibacy that he is speaking about - but celibacy in general. He recommends it to all the church but does not impose it on anyone. St Paul is not against marriage, but he sees in celibacy a higher gift. He invites all those who discern the gift, to follow the Lord with singleness of heart and so dedicate themselves to love of God and his Church, free from the necessary worries and distractions that come with family life.

A core part of my own journey towards the priesthood was the discernment of a call to celibacy. I found within me a powerful desire to dedicate myself to the work of the Gospel and to follow Christ in a life that closely imitated his own. I have lived that call imperfectly- yet it has defined my life and continues to bring me joy and consolation. Only having first discerned the gift of celibacy did I step forward to accept the priesthood. If the Church were to change its teaching on the topic of priestly celibacy, I still would not regret my commitment to it. Celibacy has been a gift in my life, one that has allowed me to live my own life more fully as a gift to others. Please pray for me as I continue to live a celibate life. Like all vocations, it has both joys and struggles.

Blessings

Fr. Michael.



Ash Wednesday Masses —14 February 2024


6.30am St John's, Northgate

5.00pm OLHC, Hendra
(Fr Richard Leonard,
Mass and talk) see page 2

6.00pm St Agatha's, Clayfield



Parish Messages.....

- ◆ **PRAYER ENGINE RECOMMENCES THIS WEEK:** Our Parish Prayer Engine will recommence meeting Tuesday each week from this week 30 January at **OLHC Church, Hendra from 1:00-2:30pm**. All are welcome to join in prayer!
- ◆ **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS—MORNING TEA:** This Sunday **28 January**, after the 9.30am Mass at OLHC, Hendra, we'll celebrate all parishioners who've had a birthday in January with birthday cake and coffee. Please join us! 
- ◆ **MUSIC BEFORE MASS:** As per last week's invitation, if you are interested in practising the songs for the Mass of the day or begin to learn new repertoire before Mass (and we hope you are), simply make yourself known to Jim, our wonderful organist, and he will do the rest. He is always there half an hour early and is very happy to provide this assistance to us. [This weekend, we will have live organ music at the 5.00pm OLHC Mass.](#)
- ◆ **DATE CLAIMER: FR RICHARD LEONARD TALK:** Fr Richard Leonard will be celebrating the **5.00pm Ash Wednesday Mass at OLHC, Hendra** and will follow this with a talk on Prayer....please see the notice below. All very welcome!

FR RICHARD LEONARD SJ

*Guest Celebrant and Speaker
at Mother of Mercy Parish*



Time: **Mass at 5.00pm then 6.00pm talk**
(Topic: *Why Bother Praying?*)

Date: **Ash Wednesday 14 Feb 2024**

Place: **OLHC Church, Hendra**

Fr Richard is a wonderful speaker, author and YouTuber and has written many books (eg *Where the Hell is God?*) that are relevant and engaging.

Transport can be provided for those requiring assistance to attend.

Gold Coin Donation.

Open to all, family and friends most welcome!



Special Lenten Women's Retreat

With Lisa McKerr from Evangelisation Brisbane

Tuesday 6th Feb from 9.00—11.30am

Parish Centre Meeting Room, Hendra

The session will have a Lenten Preparation theme. Lisa's sessions are prayerful, reflective and a great start for our Lenten Season.



RSVP Kate McLean 0422 575 546 or please contact the Parish Office on 3268 3040.

HEALING OF THE FAMILY MASS

Where: **St John's Church, 688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate**

When: **11am on Saturday 3 Feb 2024**

Mass celebrant: **Fr Ihemelandu Uzuegbu**

Enquiries: **Rose or Audrey**

(0435 558 390 or secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au)

Prayer Support Teams available after Mass.

Followed by **BYO Lunch.**

Parish Activities

Parish School Playgroup: Currently operating each week (in school terms). Held in the OLHC OSHC, 23 Bowman St, Hendra, every Friday 9:00am-11:30am (babies to Prep). All welcome. **For enquiries, call School Office 3268 3070.**

Parish Spirituality Group: The group meets at 9.30am on the first Tues of the month in the Parish Centre to discuss the gospel reading for the next Sunday.

Mother of Mercy Parish Prayer Engine of the Parish: This prayer group prays for the intentions of the parish and the personal intentions of parishioners. Prayer intentions can be placed in the special baskets at each of the churches and Parish Office. **The Prayer Engine will meet at OLHC Church, Hendra every Tuesday, from 1:00-2:30pm.** All are welcome to join in prayer!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: First Friday of the month after the 9:00am Mass at St John's, Northgate. All welcome.

Anointing and Healing Mass: Second Friday of the month at 9:00am at St John's, Northgate. All welcome.

Portofino Mass: Fourth Wed of the month at 11am. Due to safety and security reasons, only residents of Portofino attend. Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion distribute Holy Communion to residents every Sunday.

SATURDAY ADORATION: The Blessed Sacrament is exposed every Saturday, including holiday times, from 6am—5pm at OLHC Hendra for personal prayer. Entry to the Church is via the Bowman St side door. Please sign in and out. **For enquiries, please contact Julie Anne on 0418 193 235 or Pat on 0411 597 781.**



ALPHA Have you been involved with Alpha? Are you curious to know more about Alpha?



We're planning for our next Alpha to begin in **May 2024**. Please consider inviting yourself and/or someone else. All are welcome. For more information please go to: www.alpha.org.au/try

POSITIONS VACANT IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Sacramental Program Co-ordinator—St Therese & St Anthony Parish, Kedron

The Sacramental Program Coordinator assists the parish priest in the organisation and delivery of the parish sacramental program and other liturgical ministries. The Coordinator will prepare and deliver information sessions, learning resources and liturgy materials for the sacraments of Confirmation, First Communion and Reconciliation. This is a casual position (approximately 10 hours a week) with flexible hours.

For information and to apply for the position, please follow the link below: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/?ja-job=828745>

For more information about the position or a copy of the position description please email Mrs Sandra Di Francesco (Parish Manager) at kedron@bne.catholic.net.au.

Administrator - Holy Spirit Seminary

The role of the Administrator is to provide effective and efficient administrative and secretarial support primarily to the Rector and subsequently all others working at the Seminary. This is a full-time role working 38 hours per week, Monday to Friday. The position will be remunerated under the Clerks – Private Sector Award 2020.

For information and to apply for the position, please follow the link below: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/?ja-job=832702>

Parish Birthdays

Have you entered your birthday in our Parish Birthday Book?

Each last Sunday of the month, we celebrate the birthdays of our Parish family members with a Birthday cake after the 9.30am Mass at Hendra. The next celebration is **this Sunday 28 January**, so please come along to join us!

The Birthday Book is at the Coffee Spot in the Parish Centre Courtyard—please add your name!



NEWS FROM OUR PARISH SCHOOL

School resumed on **Tuesday 23 January 2024.**

Every blessing for a wonderful new school year.

Warm regards, **Adam Bennie** Principal

Observe in Faith, Reflect with Courage, Improve through Action



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

4 FEBRUARY 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Second Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mk 1:29-39

Commemoration of Saints January 2024

Wed 24 St John Bosco, priest MEMORIAL

Fri 26 The Presentation of the Lord FEAST

Sat 27 St Ansgar, bishop

St Blaise, *bishop, martyr*

Saturday Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary



PRAY FOR US....

2024 FAITH AND FATHERHOOD

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY NIGHTS - 5:30 - 6:30

STARTING TUESDAY 30 JAN 2024

CONTACT ANDY 0435 426 388 OR JUSTIN 0416 007 289

In 2024 Married men in their 30s and 40s are invited to gather at the Chermide Tavern every second Tuesday Night at 5:30-6:30pm to enjoy a beverage and read a gospel passage with the purpose of discussing and applying spiritual truths to their everyday lives. Look forward to seeing you there. (We ask you to respect the demographic.)

Chermide Tavern

Northern end of

Westfield Chermide Shopping Centre

395 Hamilton Road,
Chermide, QLD, 4032



Information Day for prospective guides and welcomers at the Cathedral of St. Stephen

The guides and welcomers' group at The Cathedral of St. Stephen warmly invite anyone interested to attend an Information Day on becoming a tour guide and/or a welcomer at the Cathedral.

Thursday 1st February from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

The Hanly room, Francis Rush Centre, Cathedral of St. Stephen, Elizabeth St.

Refreshments will be provided. We'd love to welcome you. Please register your interest with Carmel Devery at the Cathedral Office on 07 3324 3006 or by email cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au.



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

We ask all parishioners to please make themselves familiar with the Emergency Evacuation Plans that are located at the Church doors. In the unlikely event of the need for an emergency evacuation of the Church, please immediately and calmly proceed to the nearest exit and gather at the meeting point as outlined in the plan.



WE PRAY FOR... *Prayer Request*

The Recently Deceased: Bernard (Bernie) Larkin, Leo McCourt

Anniversaries: Rupert Maxwell Joseph Martinz, Colomba Porcaro, Patricia Veronica Anderson

The Sick: Matthew Hand, Maria Ward, Stan Janssen, Hadge Banks, Paddy "Peter" Ryan, Lyn Smith, Linda Farrell, Tina Watson, Mary Gilmer, Rosaria Fazio, Monica Johnson, Alison Leis, Val Walsh, Carole and Gordon Hodge, Frank McHugh, Trevor Gozzard, Nick Newton, Salustia Zavaleta, Brenda Gueizelar, Robert Montalegre, Gloria Morris (sister of Elaine Eneberg), Charlie Richards, Naomi Garden, Carmel Bates, Heather Skinner, Fiona Brogan, May Donaldson, Keith Wiskar, Leanne Gracie, John Conroy, Anthony Hallin, Br Tom Dempsey, Michael Hardy, David Edmunds, Betty Mahony, Michael Hand, June Thompson, Jan O'Donoghue, Peta Ziegenfusz, Andrew Price, Angela Krista, Megan Stuart

ITEMS WANTED—OLD/WORN/UNUSED STATUES:

If anyone has old/worn/unused statues, I am happy to collect them. During the floods in Lismore a lot of people lost statues. These will be given to the Carmelite Nuns, Goonellabah, Lismore who will restore/paint them. Contact Annette 0404 247 958.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded.



VOCATION VIEW: Jesus speaks as one having authority. As we follow God's call, we remember the same authority passed down to the Church that she might guide us closer to Christ and help us discern our vocation.



To talk to someone about your vocation, please make contact with Vocation Brisbane: 1300 133 544

vocation@bne.catholic.net.au vocationbrisbane.com



We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationships of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Items for inclusion in this Newsletter

Please email or write out to: hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

Cut Off Deadline - 1:00pm Tuesday.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH: We very much appreciate your continued financial assistance and donations to the Parish are most warmly welcomed. This can be best achieved by direct debit to the following account:

Mother of Mercy Parish Account BSB 064 786 Acc—100007977

Please note "Donation" and your name as a reference. Please your receipt to: finance.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au after your payment has been made.

Another way to donate easily is via the **PARISH GIVING APP**: Scan the QR code below, or the code attached to the church collection plates, to your mobile telephone and follow the prompts to complete your giving donation.

<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>



Do you have a Family Trust? Did you know that making your weekly gift to the Parish through dividend income from your trust reduces your tax obligations? Additionally, these gifts are not counted against your family tax benefit payments. Contact your financial advisor for details on how you can save taxes and help build our Parish community at the same time.

MASS TIMES

- Saturday 5:00pm Vigil:** Our Lady Help of Christians Hendra
- Sunday 8:00am Mass:** St Agatha's Clayfield (Families Mass)
- Sunday 9:30am Mass:** Our Lady Help of Christians Hendra (Families Mass)
- Sunday 5:30pm Mass:** St Agatha's Clayfield (Youth Mass)

Further Masses continue at present as follows:

- Saturday 4:30pm** St Cecilia's Hamilton
- Sunday 7:30am** St John's Northgate

WEEKDAY MASSES

- Thursday 9:00am** St Agatha's Clayfield
- Friday 9:00am** St John's Northgate

Please be considerate of mask wearing at this time.
Please DO NOT attend Mass if you are UNWELL

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROSTER OLHC 9:30am

Date	Reader	Eucharistic Minister
28 January	Paul McLean and Kathryn Bourke	Lorelei Gozzard and Pat Shine
4 February	George, Clara and Sylvie Shillington	Barbara Nelson and Louise Nott

These advertisers support us, please support them.

2024

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