

Good Shepherd Parish South Brisbane West End Newsletter

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9th August 2026



Command me to come to you over the water

I must admit, I still cringe when the priest or pastor calls out from the pulpit: "God is where?" and everyone responds with an "EVERYWHERE!" The priest then goes on to say, "And everywhere?" finally the people respond with "God is there!"

Although this is true, and for some, a comforting reality, it's difficult to remember this truth in those moments of chaos. We've all been there. When the stress of work makes you cold and detached, you just want to go home, and you don't want to talk to your colleagues anymore. Maybe something your spouse has done made you flip, and you've ended up in a shouting battle, forgetting what triggered the argument in the first place. Perhaps it's worse, and you're at rock bottom. It feels like one thing has led to another and now my life is undone in rhythms of sin, abuse, self-loathing and shame.

Where is God in these moments?

In our first reading this weekend, we hear about Elijah at Mount Horeb. The moment is familiar to many, where Elijah hears a sound of a gentle breeze. Scholars have called this the 'whisper of God.' The point of the story is that God is not where we would expect. There's no flash, explosion or grand entrance, but God subtly, quietly, and unexpectedly appears. It almost seems as if God never left – as if God was always there. Maybe that's the reminder we need to reiterate to ourselves. Elijah himself didn't just go to a random mountain; the scripture says he went to the 'mountain of God', which means the whole place belonged to God. We live in a world that was created by God, who is omniscient, so as much as I might cringe to admit the truth of our call and response phrase from the beginning, God is truly everywhere, because everywhere belongs to God.

The Incarnation of Christ shows us that every moment also belongs to God. Now I don't mean that the sin, violence and abuse moments belong to God. Still, I mean that the Incarnate Son, who experienced all the human moments of life, including the most excruciating, is still Sovereign as these horrific moments occur.

The wisdom we're meant to appreciate and apply is that, although these moments are horrible, and it feels like God is distant, not there, not supporting us or not on our side, the truth of the matter is greater. God indeed is there because God is Lord of the here, there and everywhere. We might not see God or feel God, but if we're attentive, we might hear God. Whatever life throws at you this week, I pray you remember who is in charge, who owns the playing field and trust that in time, all things will come together in the Author and the Creator's hands. God's got this and God's got you!

Fr William

Parish Administration

47 Dornoch Terrace, West End, 4101
Monday - Friday | 9am-2pm

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Connect with us 

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Parish Staff

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Welcome to new Parishioners

We welcome any new Parishioners among us. Take the time to meet with our priests and get connected to the broader community.



Embracing the communities of:
St Mary's, South Brisbane,
St Francis of Assisi, West End
St Ita's, Dutton Park
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Fairfield

The Good Shepherd Parish acknowledges the traditional
custodians of the land on which our Churches stand.

Readings at Mass

First Reading

1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84 (85): 9-14

R/ Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R/**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R/**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R/**

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 129: 5

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



Next Sunday Readings:

Is 56: 1,6-7
Ps 66: 2-3, 5-6, 8
Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32
Mt 15: 21-28



Upcoming Events & News



MULTICULTURAL MASS

**2PM SUNDAY
30 AUGUST 2026**

Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church,
54 Flint St, Inala

// Even just one of these children //
Pope Leo

CELEBRATED BY ARCHBISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY
Mass will be followed by refreshments, cultural performances and activities.

Archdiocesan MINISTRIES DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND Queensland Government The Archdiocese of Brisbane

For more info contact email ortizl@bne.catholic.net.au

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Here is what's coming up—mark your calendars!



- **Aug 10 | How to Grow Bonsai (Part 2)**
- Bring your own Bonsai to work on!
- **Aug 17 | Feast of the Assumption:**
Join us for the Angelus, Marian songs, and the Rosary.
- **Sept 7 | Father's Day Special:**
* **Guest Speaker:**
Dr. Grace (Gastroenterologist)
sharing tips on gut health.
* **Raffle: Support our Youth Ignite fundraiser**

NEW MASS TIMES SCHEDULE

A reminder that our New Mass Times will begin **6th Sept 2026**

Sunday

St Francis - 8am
St Mary's - 9:30am
St Mary's - 5pm

TRUTH TELLING

Implementing the RAP

Honouring Country:
History, Culture and Connection

Reconciliation Action Plan Networking Workshop
SAT 22 August 2026 | 10am-12pm
Our Lady of Lourdes, 121 Mains Rd, Sunnybank



GUEST SPEAKER
Bundamabah Yah



Scan the QR code or visit
tinyurl.com/rapnetaug26
for info and to register.



Presented by Archdiocesan Ministries

Called by Name

National Vocation Awareness Week

2-9 August 2026



SCAN TO
DISCERN
YOUR CALL



Join our Flock!

Scan the QR code:



Cancellation of Confessions

There will no longer be confessions after Mass on Fridays from:
7:30am - 8am St Mary's because
Fr William will be at School
Masses/Liturgies most Fridays.

Community News

A few notes:

IGNITE CONFERENCE 26

LET US GO UP OF THE LORD
COME, TO THE MOUNTAIN ISAIAH 2:3



IGNITE CONFERENCE 26

24 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

Thursday afternoon to Sunday lunchtime
ST LAURENCE'S COLLEGE

82 Stephens Rd, South Brisbane QLD 4101

BRISBANE
Our home city will see its biggest ever Ignite Conference this year

Expression of Interest: Scan QR Code →




Our Prearrangements are easy to put in place and let you get on with enjoying life.

K.M.SMITH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS since 1883

Phone 3252 2031 anytime for details or visit kmsmith.com.au

Mass Times

ST MARY'S**20 Merivale St, South Brisbane**

- Mon-Fri: 7am | Sat: 8am (Rosary after Mass)
- Sun: 9am & 5pm

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**47 Dornoch Tce, West End**

- Sun: 9am

ST ITA'S**247 Gladstone Rd, Dutton Park**

- Sat(Vigil): 5pm
- Sun: 9:30am (Indonesian)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR**72 Victoria St Fairfield**

- Sun: 7am

CONFESSIONS**St Mary's**

Sat 8:30am-9am

Sun: 4:15pm-4:45pm

Mon: 7:30am-8am

PARISH ACTIVITIES**BAPTISMS**

- Sat: 9:30am

Booking is essential

Contact Parish Office 07 3324 3736

PRAYER & ADORATION

- Tue: 6:30pm - St Mary's Church
- Sun: 4pm - St Mary's Church

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Sat: after 8am Mass until Sundays 8:30am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

- 1st Fri - 7am - St Mary's Church
- 1st Sat - 5pm - St Ita's Church
- 1st Sun - 7am - OLPS Fairfield

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (SCHOOL TERM ONLY)

- Sun: 9am - St Mary's Church

ST FRANCIS TABLE - MINISTRY TO THE ELDERLY

- 1st and 3rd Monday: 9am - 1pm

Have you considered Planned Giving?

Many parishioners use Direct Debit for 'Planned Giving' to support the upkeep of Good Shepherd Parish. We ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to our planned giving program.

To obtain the **Direct Debit Form** Please Contact the Parish 07 3324 3734, Or see your Church Co-ordinator if you are interested.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Respect & Protect.



Zero tolerance.
No excuse for abuse

Good Shepherd Parish has zero tolerance for abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in any of its activities, ministries and service. The safety of children and adults at risk is paramount.

To make an anonymous report call 1300 304 550

For more information visit:

www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding