



GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

South Brisbane & West End

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26th July 2026

Dear Reader

Thank you to all parishioners who have contributed to our discussions on Mass times across our community of Fairfield, Dutton Park, South Brisbane and West End.

This has been an important time for Good Shepherd Parish, and we have addressed the topic with the discernment that it deserves. We have considered the best way to allocate our services across the Mass centres and the Emmanuel Community with only one priest on hand.

I am grateful for all feedback during this discernment period. We have taken a lot from parish meetings, votes on proposals and through discussions with parishioners. We have aimed to make a decision that reflects the feedback we received and the logistics of spreading Masses across multiple communities with one priest. We have also factored in the relevant parts of Canon Law relating to how many Masses priests can celebrate. One of the challenges that our Church faces is the decline in the number of priests across Australia. While this tests the traditional structure of parishes it also presents opportunities to look at new ways of organising these parishes.

Starting from Sunday 6 September 2026, our new weekend Mass times will be:

8am St Francis of Assisi, West End

9.30am St Mary's, South Brisbane

5pm St Mary's, South Brisbane

In addition, we will hold a **quarterly Family Mass and Sacramental Celebrations at 5pm Saturdays at St Ita's, Dutton Park**. The Sunday celebration of Eucharist at the Emmanuel Community will continue

The allocation of these Masses means:

- We will have no Saturday Masses outside of the quarterly celebration at St Ita's.
 - The Sunday Mass time at St Francis of Assisi moves forward by one hour
 - The Sunday morning Mass time at St Mary's moves back by 30 minutes
 - The Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will end.
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We have not scheduled Masses at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour beyond Sunday 30 August. We realise that this news may be upsetting for the Fairfield community and we understand that disappointment. This is a strong faith community with a cherished history. Unfortunately, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour is not the only church in modern times to lose its regular service. This has been one of the realities of changing church life in Australia.

Over the next five weeks, we will ensure that we provide a fitting farewell for Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. The church will remain a part of the parish.

We will hold meetings beginning 28th July, then 4th and 11th of August to listen and understand your thoughts on the new Mass times. These meetings will be held at St Francis Hall, 6pm. Again, these sessions are not about changing the decision, but about listening to the concerns and worries, whilst looking towards implementation and practicalities. We would like to encourage all Parishioners to be part of these meetings, not just those most affected by the Mass Times, so that this might also be an opportunity to support each other along the way.

We only came to these decisions after a long period of reflection. We came up with a schedule that we believe best takes in the new reality for all members of our parishes. I thank the members of our Parish Council who have been very generous in providing their guidance, insight and counsel on the new Mass times.

Parishioners from across our Mass centres are invited to join the new celebrations from 6 September. The experience in other parishes in greater Brisbane is that people have been welcomed to new Masses. These communities have become more vibrant as the new Mass times have settled in.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you as we move into the future.



Reverend Father William Aupito Iuliano

Parish Priest

Good Shepherd Parish