



WHITSUNDAY CATHOLIC PARISH

St Catherine's - St Martin's - Whitsunday Islands

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 02 August 2026

GOD'S WORD

Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; Listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Romans 8:35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or

depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

REFLECTION

by *Dian Bergant* (LiturgyHelp)

Jesus nourishes us. In a world that is fraught with meaninglessness, he offers purpose; to a world that is



stumbling in darkness and confusion, he provides direction. He satisfies the hungry heart; he enlivens the drooping spirit. Those who follow Jesus will never be left to languish in the desert. If we but open our eyes, we will be amazed at the bountifulness of the nourishment that is provided for us. We will discover that God is magnanimous, even prodigal in giving, that God's generosity exceeds all of our expectations and also our understanding. Furthermore, we are nourished by God through the ministry of each other, through the simple things of life, (distributing bread and gathering up the fragments): visiting the sick and consoling the grieving; caring for a child and giving aid to an elder; bagging groceries and directing a choir. If we but open our eyes, we will be astounded at how ordinary actions can satisfy our hunger and the hunger of others. Most amazing of all is that this nourishment is given freely; there was no thought of requiring payment. God simply invites: Come! All we have to do is reach out our hands to receive and we will never be sent away to find nourishment for ourselves. We will discover that a bond is established that endures. Jesus is filled with compassion, a compassion that is not a fleeting emotion, but an enduring attitude. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Welcome to Visitors and New Parishioners

A warm welcome to all of you! Our community is built on faith, love, and service, and we are excited to have you with us. We would love to connect with you. Please feel free to visit us in the office during office hours.

Parish and Diocesan Notices

Successful Grandparents and Elderly Day Celebration

We'd like to thank everyone who made our World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly celebration last Sunday such a beautiful and meaningful occasion.

Thanks to all who joined us. We are deeply grateful to our generous catering sponsor, the Quota Ladies of the Whitsunday; speakers Fr Sibi and Isabella O'Sullivan; and Mommas & Poppas, Latin Dancers, Rock 'n Roll group and Isla Howse for the wonderful entertainment. Your contributions helped make this celebration possible and created a joyful experience for everyone.

To our dedicated organisers and volunteers, thank you for your hard work and commitment. Your behind-the-scenes service did not go unnoticed.

Thank you also to everyone who attended and celebrated with us. Your presence made the day even more special and reminded us of the importance of honouring and cherishing our grandparents and the elderly. To God be the glory.

V9: The Generous Single Life

In Week Eight we pray for those called to a generous single life. Some people serve Christ and the Church through a life of prayer, ministry and availability without entering marriage or religious life. This vocation offers a unique freedom to respond to the needs of the community and to witness that fulfilment is found first in Christ. Many single Catholics support parish ministries and outreach with remarkable dedication. May our parish recognise and honour the gifts they bring.

"To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone." Pope Francis

Thank You for Supporting the Bishop's Appeal for Diocesan Ministries

Bishop Tim Harris extends his sincere thanks to everyone who has generously supported the Bishop's Appeal for Diocesan Ministries. Your kindness and generosity enables the Church to continue its mission of sharing Christ's love and serving people throughout the Diocese of Townsville. Through your support, the Appeal helps sustain a wide range of important



Scan to donate

Last Sunday's Collection

1st Collect \$ 553.05 2nd Collect \$ 284.90 PG Env \$ 505.00

Planned Giving Program: For your contribution to the parish, you can direct deposit it to the parish account: Whitsunday Catholic Parish
BSB 034-207 ACCT 810014
Reference: PG_Name

You can also scan the QR code to make donations or payments.
Thank you for your generosity!



Scan to donate

This Week's Anniversaries

01 AUG- Clara Walsh, Augustus Grafini, Edward Anderson, Luigi De Andrea, Margaret Donnellon, Dennis Donnellon, Adam Peric

02 AUG- John Clancy, Barry Blackie, Philomena Defraene, Jim Tibaldi, Ruth Balma,

03 AUG— Vreni Chubb, Neville Lewis

04 AUG- Alan Gilmore, James Holcombe, William Helly

05 AUG- George Ferguson, Basil Busuttin, Giovanni Melita, Virgil Hodgkinson, Imaborg Bojtschuk, Rina Deambrogio

06 AUG- Protasio (Peter) Sala

07 AUG- John Lee

08 AUG- Catherine O'Brien, Catherine Campbell, Angela Angelino, Noel Robinson,



MASS ROSTER

	Saturday 01 AUG 2026 6pm St Catherine's Church	Sunday 02 AUG 2026 8am St Catherine's Church
	Mass	Liturgy
Welcomer	Peter O	Joan H
Sacristan	Christine O & Lane T	Joan M
Introduction & POF	Chris Lane	Mandy A
1st Reading	Cathy R	Alice H
2nd Reading	Hams J	Margaret A
Gospel	Fr Sibi	Alan W
Eucharistic Ministers	Chris D & Lane T	Joan M
PowerPoint	Aleena	Mandy A
Collection	Raymond & Brian	Dan & Miller
Offertory	Aaliyah C & Gabby M	
Altar Servers	Cedric & Oscar	

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

SAT 01	SUN 02	MON 03	TUE 04	WED 05	THU 06	FRI 07	SAT 08	SUN 09
	8am Liturgy St Catherine's Proserpine (8am Confirmation & Communion Mass in Bowen)		930am Liturgy Nursing Home (8am Mass in Bowen)	730am Rosary, Novena & Liturgy St Catherine's Proserpine (8am Mass in Bowen)	8am Mass St Catherine's Proserpine	8am Mass St Catherine's Proserpine	10.00am Reconciliation Bowen	8am Mass St Catherine's Proserpine 8am Liturgy St Marys Bowen
6pm Vigil Mass + Baptism St Catherine's Proserpine	(5pm Mass in Collinsville) 6pm Liturgy St Martins Cannovale						6pm Liturgy St Catherine's Proserpine 6pm Mass in Bowen	6pm Mass St Martins Cannovale



August 2, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:1-3 | Rom 8:35, 37-39 | Mt 14:13-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In one of the best homilies I ever heard on today's Gospel, the homilist pointed out that the Lord had seemingly "over-multiplied" the loaves and fish. The crowds had eaten to the point of satisfaction, and yet there were twelve baskets of leftovers remaining. "Why so many leftovers? Did the Lord not know how to count?" He asked jokingly, of course. But the point the homilist went on to share that day was that with God, there is always abundance. God doesn't simply provide the bare minimum of what we need for survival; the Scriptures tell us that he provides "rich fare" that will "satisfy the desire of every living thing." As we reflect on today's readings, let us not question the Lord's ways, but trust in the abundant generosity of God that satisfies all our needs.

ACCOMPANIMENT

In the Gospel, God shows his loving care by providing for the needs of his people in practical ways. Consider one way you might be able to accompany others going through periods of challenge or trial by providing practical help. This might look like preparing a meal for a new mom in the throes of postpartum, helping with yardwork for a fellow parishioner recovering from surgery, or helping gather classroom supplies for a teacher serving in an impoverished district. In these simple yet concrete ways, we manifest the abundance of God's care and concern for each and every person.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Moments in which God provides for our every need strengthen our faith in him. Yet when difficulties come, we know that God never abandons us. Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans speaks about the unshakable confidence Paul has in God's love for us, despite the difficulties (including shipwreck, beatings, and imprisonment) he endured: "What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?" "No," he says. Nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Take stock of times in your life when God's providence has carried you through difficult times. Consider ways you can share these moments with others as part of your testimony. When our faith rests on a deep awareness of God's faithful love in our lives, we will be able to bear a compelling witness of his goodness to others.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly Celebration



Parish Groups

Catholic Women's League

Fourth Thursday of the month at 09:40am in the Parish Hall.

Care and Concern

A group reaching out to the lonely, grieving and most in need, needs communion, offering friendship and support. If you'd like to help and join the group. Please see the office.

Marian Devotees

Wednesdays at 7.30am, St. Catherine's Church. A group of people say a Novena to Miraculous Medal and pray a Rosary .

When I was a Stranger

Every last Sunday of the month, we gather after the 6pm mass St Martins Church. Please bring a plate to share.

Young Family Group

Each first Sunday of the month for the Eucharist Celebration, followed by the Parish Hall.

Our Team

Administrator:

Fr Sibichan Kaippanplackal

Secretary: Mariz Fletcher

Mission Leadership Team Chair:

Jill Farinelli

Mission Council Chair:

Mandy Ayers

Mission Finance Council Chair:

Chris Lane

St. Martin's Committee Chair:

Lynne Erricker

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<https://www.facebook.com/StCatherinesCatholicCollege>

Principal: Sam Hinton

THE HOLY SEE

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

ON SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON
IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

What must not be lost

113. In reality, elevating any single dimension of human existence to an absolute is always a mistake. Indeed, disorder does not arise only from scarcity; even unchecked growth can give rise to impoverishment. In an ecosystem, balance is disrupted when one species expands at the expense of others; in human life, something similar occurs when one faculty claims to be the measure of everything. Thus, intelligence, when absolutized, overshadows other essential dimensions of life, such as affection, the will, commitment and relationships. Similarly, technical power, if left unbalanced, does not make us more capable; it makes us more isolated and more vulnerable to being dominated and excluded. This critical point does not oppose intelligence, but serves as a reminder that when intelligence becomes self-referential, its true purpose of serving life and the human person is lost.

114. The quality of a civilization is measured not by the power of its means, but by the care it is able to offer, by its ability to recognize the other as a face not merely as a function. The ability to care for one another is a fundamental dimension of our humanity, one that is learned and mastered through lived experience. Reading stories to a child, offering company to an elderly person and arranging a home so that it is welcoming are simple gestures often rooted in family life. They teach us to value care at a societal level and train us to recognize others as persons worthy of attention. Technology can also support this mutual care between people, for example, by providing tools that help us anticipate and organize things, without undermining human freedom and judgment. After all, human beings are the subjects of relationships and responsible for their own decisions.

© <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

Some Common Mistakes When Praying During the Mass

1 Rushing through the prayers like it's a race:

We treat the Rosary like a task to "finish" quickly instead of a loving conversation with God. Speeding often means we miss the whole point: meditating slowly and have intimate talk with Him.

Fix: Slow down. Let each word sink in.

2 Out of focus

We say the vocal prayers perfectly but our mind wanders, and eyes look everywhere around you.

Fix: Before the mass begins, pray to help you stay focused.

3 Praying without any specific intention:

Most of the time you just say the prayer without offering it for anything in particular. We don't just memorize and say the words.

Fix: Always begin with an intention: for a loved one, for peace in the world, for souls in Purgatory, for your own conversion, etc. Give it to Jesus through Mary!

Which of these do you often notice in yourself or in other Catholics when praying the Rosary? Share your experiences...
We'd love to hear from you!