NEWSLETTER

Catholic Parishes of Bulimba • Buranda • East Brisbane • Kangaroo Point

Fourth Sunday of Lent

15 March 2026 (Year A)

◆ FR PETER DILLON Administrator, Kangaroo Point East Brisbane and Buranda ◆ FR KEVIN SMITH Parish Priest, Bulimba

Are We Really Very Different?

Ask any Australian what is their favourite type of food and you may get any number of ethnic tastes. Indian, Thai, Italian, Korean and Chinese will probably top the list, but Google 'local restaurants near me' to see a vast number of specialty restaurants which give such variety to our local cuisine. Only 20 years ago we thought we were being very exotic ordering ravioli or fried rice. Now it's Pad Thai or Rogan Josh and these can be made at home. It is rather enlightening to see how many of us have our first introduction to other cultures through eating their food and sharing around their tables.

I think it should be obvious to all who attend Masses in our parish each week how many different cultures and races are represented. On any given Sunday up to 25 different cultural identities could be found, yet we use the same language and cultural symbols of just one ethnic group. This change of parishioner heritage has happened so subtly over the past decade that we really don't notice it until someone makes mention of it and there we see it clearly. Yet, like all subtle changes, we not only don't notice, we don't feel we have to adapt our community to become more inclusive of those who we now know to be our fellow parishioners.

March 21st this year is referred to as World Harmony Day, and while there are many ways for us to be harmonious, one important way is to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and richness that comes when we understand that we are the sum of all those differences. We, who sit around the table of the Lord each week, probably know very little about the people with whom we share this profound experience. What stops us from reaching out a hand of welcome or moving up a little in our seat to make room for people we have never met before?

As stewards of the Christian message, we should not simply be content to benignly acknowledge our Church has a variety of different races in our pews, we should feel enriched by their presence, their experiences and the myriad of ways other people understand God. In this we are not only talking about those who come to Australia from other lands, but those who come from our same street and suburb whom we've never met.

That means we actually have to greet and speak to each other, and we should be the first one to break the ice. Enquiring if someone is a visitor or regular parishioner, perhaps introducing yourself and your family, perhaps mentioning that your children attend the same school, or you see them at the supermarket. These are the potential beginnings of significant friendships, and if they don't blossom into anything more than a Sunday chat then nothing is lost and something significant has been gained.

This is called simply being hospitable. It's not as though you don't have some common ground. You are all baptised and initiated into the Catholic faith. It's treating others as you would like them to treat you. It's bringing harmony into a world thirsting for people to connect. Any suggestions as to how we might do this connecting better as a parish are welcome. Not just because it's harmony day, but because it is right and good for us to do so.

Fr Peter

Liturgy and Prayers This Week **16 March to 22 March 2026**

	Bulimba	Buranda	East Brisbane	Kangaroo Point
Wednesday	7pm (Mass)			
Friday	8am (Mass + Adoration + Benediction) 7pm Stations of the Cross	9am (Mass)		
Saturday	9am (Mass) 5.30pm (Mass)		5pm (Mass)	
Sunday	8am (Mass) 5.30pm (Mass)	8am (Mass)		9am (Mass)

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St Joseph's Church
26-36 Leopard Street
Kangaroo Point QLD 4169

St Benedict's Church
81 Mowbray Terrace
East Brisbane QLD 4169

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.

AROUND OUR PARISHES

BULIMBA

Prayer Requests
Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Peter Lyons, Hugh McCormick, Joan West, Marcus Randell ***recently deceased and also for*** Patricia Vieyra, Mary Hooper, Emma Moretto, Peggy Teache, Harold & Dulcie O'Connell, Robyn Illett, Bill Hanley, Patrick and Clare Dugger, Begley and Bourke families, Mal Thomson, Moira Dugera, Mick Shelton, Attilio and Ida Michieletto.
Please remember the sick in your prayers – Kay Bradnock, Luigia D'Allura, Hazel Langthorne, Pete Waldron, Margaret McLaughlin, Anita Xavier, Lance Tutanoa, Roy Hogan, Catherine Kearney, Madonna Lapez, Rita Zoch, Patrick Larkin, Robyn Britnell, Elma Wilkinson.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be celebrated in the church throughout Lent on Friday evenings commencing at 7pm. All welcome.

PROJECT COMPASSION —this Lent season we are called to ***Unite Against Poverty.***
Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education. Your generosity will enable Caritas to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes or envelopes or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Lenten **Mass of Reconciliation** will be offered on Wednesday 1 April at 7pm. All welcome.

At **ADORATION**, there is a place for everyone in the stillness before the Sacramental Presence of Christ Risen. Come for peace and renewal. Friday mornings after the 8am Mass.

ST PATRICKS DAY MASS 2026—will be celebrated in the Cathedral of St Stephen at 10am on Tuesday 17 March. All are invited to attend. Morning tea will follow afterwards in the Hanly Room.

LITTLE STEPS SJ INITIATIVE
THIS WEEK'S ACTION
Living Laudato Si ' through everyday actions at home
Begin and end the day with gratitude for creation.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2026

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION
(for children Year 4+ who have completed Sacrament of Confirmation)

Parents wishing to enrol their child in the Sacrament of First Communion are invited to attend one of the following information sessions :
Thursday 19 March 7pm *OR* Friday 20 March 9:30am
Information on the program will be explained at these sessions with resources available to enrol your child.

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SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
(for children Year 3+ who have completed Sacrament of Baptism)

Parents wishing to enrol their child in the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to attend one of the following information sessions :
Thursday 20 August 7pm *OR* Friday 21 August 9:30am
Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Thursday 29 October across two sessions
Information on the program will be explained at these sessions with resources available to enrol your child

KANGAROO POINT/EAST BRISBANE • BURANDA

Prayer Requests
We ask you to pray for the recently deceased *Angelina Erba* ***and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time*** *Brian Healy* ***Please remember the sick in your prayers*** *- Yolande Yorke, Anne Bardwell, Michael Mulligan, Leo Rawlings, Tony*

PARISH LUCKY NUMBER (KPEB)
Last week's winner: **DAVID SHETTY**
Any parishioners interested in being part of the Lucky Number Draw see with Isobel at the foyer of St Benedict's Church on Saturday evening. Proceeds of the lucky number draw go to support St Vincent de Paul and other social needs in the Parish. ***GOOD LUCK!!!***

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026—PLEASE SEE ABOVE DETAILS. UPCOMING PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR THOSE FAMILIES WISHING TO ENROL THEIR CHILDREN FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

PARISH LENTEN GROUP continues each Wednesday at 7pm at St Benedict's, East Brisbane. All welcome.

PLEASE JOIN our St Joseph's parish community this Sunday 15 March @ 9am Mass to acknowledge and celebrate the **Feast Day of St Joseph.** Morning tea will be served in the Coolock Room after Mass. All welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD….

Monday 16 March	St Vincent de Paul meet @ 6pm
Wednesday 18 March	NO 8am Mass @ St Benedict's
Thursday 19 March	Feast of St Joseph
Sunday 22 March	Enrolment @ 9am Mass for First Communion candidates

ANNUAL CHRISM MASS will be celebrated on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7pm in the Cathedral of St Stephen with Archbishop Shane. This is a celebration for the entire Archdiocese. All are welcome. Undercover carpark will be open from 6pm.

ST LUKE'S GREEN—visitors are advised that carpark access to under the building is not accessible for parking between 23 February—30 March due to ongoing essential works being conducted. Please see Reception during this time should you require assistance.

This weekend we welcome Fr David Pascoe to celebrate 9am Mass at St Joseph's while Fr Peter is on leave. Please make him feel welcome.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISHES

As a Catholic community, we are deeply grateful for the goodwill and generosity that sustain our mission and service to others.
Your continued support is vital to our work, helping us to live out Christ's love in Bulimba, Buranda, and Kangaroo Point/East Brisbane.
To arrange planned giving for your parish, we invite you to reach out to the parish office for more information.
Thank you for being a cherished part of our faith journey.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

A VOCATION VIEW: If we cannot see where we are going, we will never get there. The Good Shepherd leads us to green pastures, refreshes our souls and brings light to a darkened world. Scan the QR code to find out more or contact the vocation office on 1300 133 544 or www.vocationbrisbane.com Follow us on @vocationbrisbane

TWO MINUTE HOMILY by priests from across the Archdiocese of Brisbane. You are able to watch this week's homily here.

THE ORDER OF THE MASS

◆ FIRST Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-11 ◆ SECOND Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 ◆ GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you,
my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-11

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:
Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL John 9:1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

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