



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FAMILY WEEKLY NEWS



Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
16 AUGUST 2026**

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28
NEXT WEEK (21st Sunday of Year A) Is 22:19-23; Ps 137; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20



A woman of great faith Boundaries – geographical, cultural, religious and gender – are crossed in today's gospel. In fact, it's one of the few stories in Matthew's Gospel that takes place outside Jewish territory. Matthew understands the ministry of Jesus being directed firstly to the house of Israel. Only when the good news of the Kingdom of God has been offered to them, will it be offered to "all nations". (Matt 28:19)

Jesus enters the pagan regions of Tyre and Sidon. Both towns were located on the coast north of Israel, and were historically hostile to the Israelites. It's here, in foreign territory, that Jesus is boldly confronted by a Canaanite woman; a descendant of one of Israel's ancient enemies. She symbolises all those who are regarded as 'unclean' by Jesus' own people.

As a mother, she is 'beside herself' with worry and fear for her precious daughter, whom she says is "tormented by a demon". There is no doubt that they would have been subjected to exclusion, suspicion and rejection, based on the false understanding of the time, that such an affliction was a result of sin.

Despite the fact that she is a woman, and an 'outsider', out of desperation and driven by a strong and unrelenting mother's love for her child in need, she calls out to Jesus, declaring him to be, "Lord, Son of David" – a remarkable confession of faith for a non-Jew.

Perhaps surprisingly to us, Jesus initially remains silent; seemingly ignoring the woman and excluding her from his ministry. The disciples are impatient and don't want to get involved with her, and they ask Jesus to "send her away".

By way of a further rebuke, Jesus declares that his mission is only to "the house of Israel". But the woman is not deterred. Her daughter's life is at stake, and she draws on deep courage and raw nerve to plead with Jesus a second time: "Lord, help me". Jesus' reply seems insensitive: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs".

This seeming harsh 'put down' of the woman, strengthens her resolve further, and she seizes her opportunity with both hands to challenge Jesus on 'who' are to be the recipients of his ministry. Pet dogs are allowed to eat the crumbs that fall from table, and she is simply asking for one such crumb for her daughter and herself.

The Canaanite woman's single-mindedness, tenacity and persistence, lead Jesus to praise her great faith, and heal her daughter. In doing so, Jesus moves into new territory of understanding himself and his mission. He demonstrates who he really is – the Saviour; and he acknowledges their rightful place among the saved.

The encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman reveals the unconditional and unrestricted mercy of Jesus, the power of faith and the promise of salvation for all who believe. David J Hore, CSsR © Majellan Media 2026

PARISH NEWS

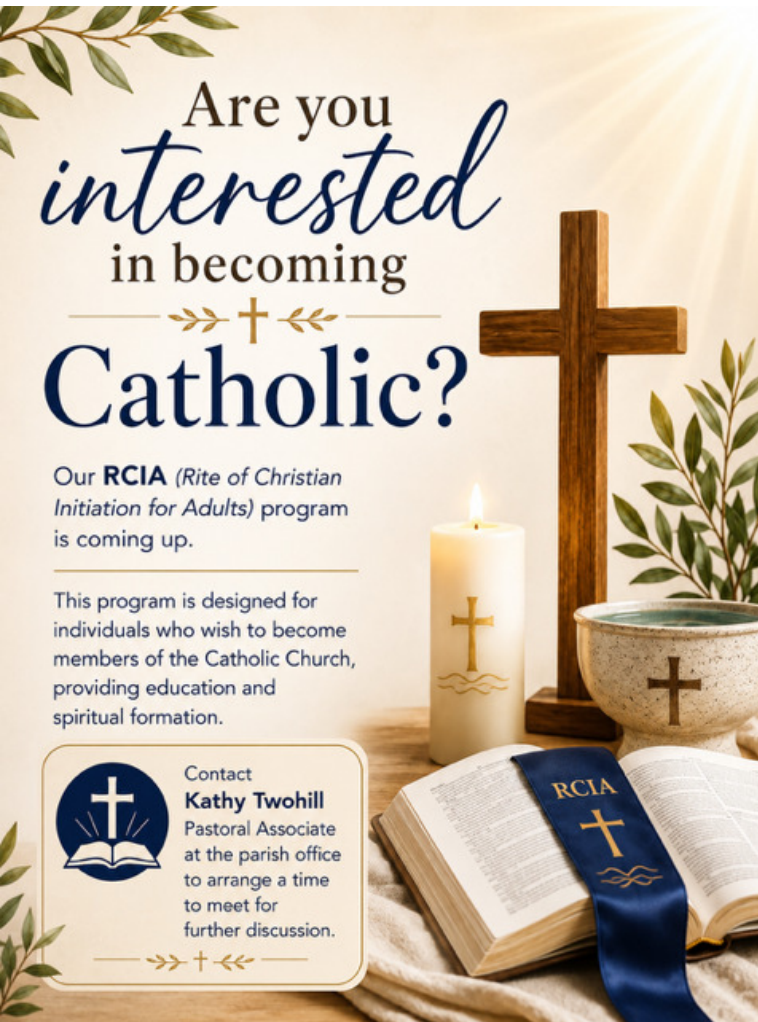
An Update on Celebrating Fr Michael Alcock's Silver Jubilee

This September, Fr Michael Alcock celebrates 25 years of priestly ministry. Ordained in Murwillumbah on 14 September 2001, we look forward to giving thanks for his faithful service and celebrating this wonderful milestone together.

**Please join us for
9.00am Mass on Sunday, 13 September
followed by a Parish Morning Tea.**

A celebration cake will be provided, and parishioners are warmly invited to bring a plate to share for our morning tea.

Parishioners who would like to contribute towards Fr Michael's new electric bicycle are invited to use the Special Appeal envelopes available from the



Are you
interested
in becoming
Catholic?

Our **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program is coming up.

This program is designed for individuals who wish to become members of the Catholic Church, providing education and spiritual formation.

Contact
Kathy Twohill
Pastoral Associate
at the parish office
to arrange a time
to meet for
further discussion.

Welcome Table. Envelopes may be placed on the collection plate or returned to the parish office. You are also welcome to include a personal message or good wishes, which will be presented to Fr Michael on the day.

Please keep Fr Michael in your prayers as he approaches this special anniversary. P.S. We'd love to keep the celebration a surprise, so please keep our plans a parish secret! We'll continue to share updates before Fr Michael returns from leave.
Kathy Twohill—Pastoral Associate



**We are
HIRING**

Make a
difference
in our parish
community

Parish Secretary Position

- Located in Tweed Heads
Work close to our beautiful parish community.
- Supporting St Joseph's Parish
Be part of a welcoming and faith-filled team.
- Permanent, part time role
A stable role with flexibility.
- Work hours negotiable
Options to suit your lifestyle and family.

For full job description and
to apply go to
SEEK.COM

St Joseph's Parish
TWEED HEADS



Murwillumbah
LEGION OF MARY
would like to extend an
Invitation
to Parishioners
to come along on a
BUS TRIP
to
Marian Valley
Saturday 5 September
Leaving Sacred Heart Church
Murwillumbah
approx. 7.45am
Enquiries
EVELYN 0423 394 622

PARISH NEWS

PASTORAL CORNER NOTICE TO ALL MUSICIANS

A meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19th August at 2.30pm** at the parish office.

This invitation is also open to anyone wishing to join the music ministry.

Kathy Twohill Pastoral Associate



FATIMA ROSARY

You are invited to join the Fatima Rosary on **Wednesday 19 August** after Mass

On 13 August 1917, the Mayor imprisoned Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in order to force them to tell the Secret. Therefore, Our Lady appeared to them, after their release, at their uncle's property on 9 August 1917. She asked for their continued prayers for sinners.



A very *happy birthday* to parishioner **Frances Garland** who recently celebrated her **90th Birthday**

Many happy returns from your parish family at **St Joseph's**



REQUIEM MASS
for the late Michael Allen –much loved husband of Diana, will be held at **St Joseph's Catholic Church** on **Tuesday 18 August at 11am**
May he rest in peace.



LITURGY & LECTOR FORMATION

SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

In collaboration with Kingscliff and Murwillumbah Parishes, join us for a morning of **Liturgical Formation** with

Dr Clare Schwantes & Michael Mangan



THE MORNING WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ Foundational liturgical principles for all liturgical ministers, no matter their role.
- ✓ Formation specific to the role of Lector (Reader).



MICHAEL MANGAN
Chair of the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and liturgist



DR CLARE SCHWANTES
Director of Liturgy Brisbane and Chair of the National Liturgical Council



WHERE:
St Anthony's Church
Kingscliff



WHEN:
Saturday
12 September



TIME:
9.00am –
12.30pm



Morning tea provided.

All are welcome!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

The recently deceased: Michael Allen, Dulcie Maynard, Margaret Smith, Cyril Connor, Maria Annecca, Denise Dixon, **Anniversaries:** Rogelio Garcia, Fe G Taguibao, Giovinni Kastelein, and those occurring at this time **AND For those who are sick:** Clarrie Williams, Fr Anthony Lemon, Elaine Thill, John Rushbrook, Denis Pommer, Rae Bliss, Jonathon Muro, Derek Chapman, Cathy Morgan, Donovan Searle, Kay Young, Candice Weir



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Michael Alcock
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Nicolas Maurice & Fr MX Rego SM
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Kathy Twohill - ktwohill@stjosephs.org.au
PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Parish Business Manager: Mary-Ann Thackray - pbm@stjosephs.org.au
Parish Secretary: tweedadmin@stjosephs.org.au
Phone: 07 5536 7522 PO Box 25, Tweed Heads 2485

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

*All parish Mass times are
NSW time.*

**SATURDAY VIGIL
@5.30PM**

**SUNDAY
@7AM @9AM**

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Monday to Friday
9.10AM
Saturday 9AM**

ROSARY

Before Mass Monday to Friday
Commencing at 8.40am
Saturday 8.30am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4.30 - 5.00PM
and 1st Friday 9.40 – 10am

BAPTISM

Please contact the parish
office with any Baptism
enquiries.

SACRAMENTS AND VISITS TO THE SICK

Please contact the parish
office

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive the
weekly news or any upcoming
events and information via email
please contact the parish office
on 0755367522
Or email
tweedadmin@stjosephs.org.au

ROSTERS 22/23 AUGUST 2026

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

5.30PM FR NICOLAS MAURICE

Sacristan: Len Searle
Adult Server: Len Searle
Liturgy Coordinators: Jenny Williams
Commentator: Patricia Cummins
Readers: Jeannette Leach, Una Murphy
Communion: John Leach, Jenny Williams

7AM NICOLAS MAURICE

Sacristan: Vern Burton
Adult Servers: Sally Engle
Liturgy Coordinator: Maree Laarhoven
Commentator: Tina Lewis
Readers: Patricia Bolster, Paul Bolster
Communion: Margaret Harvey, Iris Nathan

9AM FR MX REGO SM

Sacristan: Kurian Vaghese
Adult Server: Beena Kurian
Liturgy Coordinators: Frances Garland
Commentator: Sara Wilkinson
Readers: Janita Thomson, Scott Thomson
Communion: Colleen Blake, Pam Sullivan

The banner features the Diocese of Lismore logo on the left. The main text reads "Commitment in Recruitment Advertising" in a large, elegant font. Below this, a paragraph states: "The Catholic Diocese of Lismore is committed to safeguarding practices, including the ongoing protection and safety of children, young people and adults at risk, and an accessible process to advise of concerns or make disclosures of harm". To the right, there is a graphic of a hand pointing at a circular icon containing a person silhouette. At the bottom left, there are four circular icons representing different aspects of safeguarding: two children holding hands, a group of people, a person with a heart, and a person with a shield. A large cross is centered at the bottom. In the bottom right corner, there is a box with an envelope icon and the text "For enquiries CONTACT: hr@lismore.catholic.org.au". The banner also includes the text "Standard 5.1.1" at the bottom left.