



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
39-49 McLAREN ROAD, NERANG
POSTAL: PO Box 196 NERANG, QLD 4211
PHONE: (07) 5596 2632 FAX: (07) 5596 3669
WEBSITE: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au
OFFICE HOURS: During January only: Tuesday & Friday 9.00 am—1.30pm
Please note: the Office will be closed between Christmas & New Years.

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Parish Administrator: Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE
Ph: 0402 001266 / wasniowskia@bne.catholic.net.au Ph: 0418877906 / santosoj@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Lenette Evans Office Email: nerang@bne.catholic.net.au
Administration Assistant: Gurli Pennings Parish WHS & Safeguarding Officer: Tim Horvat

Who was Saint Paul the First Hermit?

St Paul the Hermit should not be confused with St Paul the Apostle. St Paul the Hermit is traditionally considered as the first saint living the solitary life. He was born around the year 228 in Alexandria, Egypt, of wealthy and noble parents.

During the persecution of the Christians by Caesar Decius in 250, young Paul fled to the Desert in Thebes by the Red Sea and learned to enjoy his solitary life "alone with God alone" so much, that he remained there for the rest of his life. He lived nearly ninety years in prayerful solitude, constant penance, and contemplation of God. Before he died he was discovered by St Anthony the Abbot who spread the news about his holiness.

It is believed that St Paul was kept alive by the fruit of a palm tree and by a raven which daily brought him a piece of bread. He died at the age of 113, at which time, as related by St Anthony, two lions dug a grave for him.

This story is captured in the coat-of-arms of the Order, showing the palm tree, two lions and a raven. The Pauline Order chose St. Paul the First Hermit as its Patron and Patriarch and thus took the name "Order of St. Paul the First Hermit".



The feast of St. Paul is solemnly observed by the Order on January 15th.

In a spirit of appreciation, the Pauline Fathers offer each year a novena of prayers in honour of St. Paul the Hermit for all their benefactors, friends and supporters.

Next Sunday—22nd January will be Fr. Jeremy's last Sunday with us. Please bring a plate to share after the 8.30am Mass as we farewell Father and thank him for his service to our parish.

St Paul The First Hermit, Father of the Order—15th January 2023

FIRST READING *A reading from the first book of Kings* 17:2-6

The word of the Lord came to him, 'Go away from here, go eastwards, and hide yourself in the wadi Cherith which lies east of Jordan. You can drink from the stream, and I have ordered the ravens to bring you food there.' He did as the Lord had said; he went and stayed in the wadi Cherith which lies east of Jordan. The ravens brought him bread in the morning and meat in the evening, and he quenched his thirst at the stream.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33 (34): 1-3,5,8,11,13-14

(R.) I will bless the Lord at all times.

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| 1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.) | 3. Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.
Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. (R.) |
| 2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
Look towards him and be radiant;
Let your faces not be abashed. (R.) | 4. Then keep your tongue from evil
And your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace. (R.) |

SECOND READING *A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians* 2:19-20; 5:24-25; 6:14-17

Through the Law I am dead to the Law, so that now I can live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, and I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live in faith: faith in the Son of God who loved me and who sacrificed himself for my sake. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit. As for me, the only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God. I want no more trouble from anybody after this: the marks on my body are those of Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 11:25

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew* 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

