

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

First Sunday of Advent
Year C, 1 December, 2024

Embracing the communities of
Cherbourg, Goomeri, Murgon,
Proston and Wondai



Unity in diversity ... being one in Christ through Baptism!



Advent Wreath Prayer: Week 1

Let us pray,

We praise you, O Lord our God, for giving us every spiritual blessing through your beloved Son. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may shine as lights in this dark world, to the praise of your glorious grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

May the wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor direct us, the strength of the Mighty God protect us, the love of the Everlasting Father embrace us, the peace of the Prince of Peace surround us. **Amen.**

Advent wreaths and Christmas Crib should now be introduced into each community of our churches in the usual way.



Advent Reflection:

Reflect, today, upon this promise from Jesus. Some will encounter little persecution in their lives at various times. But others will encounter severe persecution in various ways, even from their family. Reflect upon any ways that you have experienced the unjust treatment of another and then reflect upon your response.

Were you able to immediately forgive? Were you able to set aside your anger, wounded pride and desire for revenge? Were you able to keep your eyes on Christ and rejoice that you have been found worthy to share in the ridicule, persecutions and sufferings that Jesus endured? Pray that you will always be open to the grace of this promise of Jesus so that you will always respond to everyone in accord with the wisdom of God.

*My persecuted Lord, though
You were perfect in every way,
You endured much cruelty in
Your earthly life. The injustice
You endured is beyond our
comprehension. But Your
response to such persecution
was perfect. You were able to
transform all ill-treatment
into grace and mercy, offered
especially for those who
mistreated You. Give me the
grace I need to imitate Your
perfect response and to always
rely upon Your wisdom and
guidance alone.
Jesus, I trust in You.*

Sunday Mass Times

Murgon		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am
Wondai		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Saturday	5.00pm
Proston		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Saturday	9.00am
Goomeri		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	6.00pm
Gayndah		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays	10.30am
every	2nd, 4th Sundays	9.00am
Cherbourg		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
5	Sunday	4.00pm
Weekday Mass Times		
12 noon, Wednesday, Gayndah		
9.00am, 2nd, 4th Thursdays, School/Parish Mass, Murgon		
9.00am, 1st, 3rd Thursdays, Castra		

There will be **no Mass** at **Proston** on Saturday, 7 December.

Today's readings

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2; Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Response:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!



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Crucifix, Rosary, Rule: The life and legacy of Saint John Berchmans.

The 17th-century Jesuit, Saint John Berchmans inspires us with his devotion and sacrifice.

Saint John Berchmans was a 17th century Jesuit scholastic from the Low Countries who died at age 22. Born in 1599 in Diest in today's Belgium, Berchmans was the son of a shoemaker. He discerned a vocation early, having been an altar server at seven. At age nine, his mother became seriously ill and he spent long hours at her bedside.

It seems that after her death he began studies for the priesthood but, after a while, his father pressed him to return home to work to augment the family's financial situation. Berchmans decided he wanted to become a Jesuit, a decision initially opposed by his father who eventually relented.

He entered the Jesuits in 1616 and then his mother died. When she died, Berchmans father entered the diocesan seminary. Berchmans began his philosophical studies in Antwerp and then was then sent to Rome to continue them. In Rome, he distinguished himself as a student but his fragile health gave in and he died on 13 August, 1621, holding (at his request) a crucifix, a rosary and the Ignatian Rule. He was canonised in 1888.

Early on and to this day, Saint John Berchmans was regarded as the patron saint of altar servers and students.

Berchmans was also devoted to the English martyrs, those Catholics – including secular and Jesuit priests – martyred for trying to keep the Faith alive in Tudor England of the 1500s. Remember that what is today Belgium was the place of the Catholic resistance and mission to England.

No doubt the time spent at his mother's bedside as she declined over the years impressed Berchmans with a keen appreciation of human mortality. In November, as the Church remembers and prays for the Holy Souls, it is also a wholesome time to remember that death is the one appointment none of us will reschedule or cancel.

I would also argue for the value of Berchmans' example: contemporary people, even adults, are unfamiliar with sickness and dying, things that used to be normal to previous generations. As a result, both are unreal and stoke a desire for their evasion. One sometimes hears parents debate whether a child should accompany them to a relative's funeral, contending the event may be 'traumatic'.

Well, death itself is traumatic – the separation of our souls and bodies is generally not experienced without some note of fear. It is also inevitable, and parents do children no favours

✝ If you know anyone in need, please contact Lindsay Poilly President, Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, on 0437 864 667 or 5459 5234

We pray for those who are sick:
Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrit.

by shielding them from life ... and death, especially when it is an opportunity for them to share the Christian vision of the meaning of both with them at a stage in life they are receptive to parental guidance.

Berchmans is depicted holding the three items he asked for on his deathbed: a crucifix, a rosary and the Jesuit Rule. Attired in the Jesuit cassock, he looks toward heaven with a smile, an image of our Lady with the Child Jesus on the wall. He kneels beside an open grave reminding the viewer of human mortality of which the saint, by the gesture of his pointing finger, is aware.

On the altar stands an hourglass, whose sands remind those who see it of the significance of the passage of time. That we contrast the open grave with the youth kneeling beside it reminds us of the medieval adage, "Time and tide wait for no man".