

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year C, 22 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 4

Let us pray,

Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray.

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve –
Tuesday, 24 December
4.00pm, Wondai
6.00pm, Goomeri

Christmas Day –
Wednesday, 25 December
8.00am, Murgon
10.30am, Proston

**New Year's Day
(Mary the Holy Mother of God)**
Wednesday, 1 January
8.00am, Murgon



What is the story behind Our Lady of Guadalupe?

On 9 December, 1531, barely 10 years after the Spanish conquest of the Aztecs, Our Lady appeared to a native peasant named Juan Diego while he was crossing Tepeyac Hill, outside what is today Mexico City. After telling Juan that she was the "mother of the true God," she told him that she wanted a church to be built there in her honour.

Juan Diego then approached the bishop of the new diocese of Mexico, Fray Juan de Zumárraga, asking for a church to be built. Without any proof, the bishop did not believe him. The Blessed Virgin then appeared again to Juan Diego, asking him to approach the bishop again. Saint Juan obeyed her, and this time, the bishop requested a miraculous sign that would prove the story. When Our Lady appeared a third time to Saint Juan on 10 December, she said that she would provide a miracle the next day.

However, on 11 December, Juan Diego's uncle became seriously ill, and he took care of him instead of meeting the Blessed Virgin. When his uncle, Juan Bernardino, appeared to be in his final hours on the early morning of 12 December, Saint Juan left the house to find a priest.

Believing that he could avoid seeing the Blessed Virgin, he took another route.

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Sunday Mass Times

Murgon

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am

Wondai

every	Saturday	5.00pm
WEEK	DAY	TIME

Proston

every	Saturday	9.00am
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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 **Goomeri** on Sunday, 5 January 2025, and no bulletin published for the weekend of 5 January 2025.

Today's readings

Micah 5: 1-4; Hebrews 10: 5-10;
Luke 1: 39-44

Response:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alléluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

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However, not to be outsmarted, she still appeared to him.

The Blessed Virgin asked where he was going, and he explained that his uncle was ill. In response to Juan's lack of understanding of her great love for him, the Blessed Virgin asked him, "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" She then told him that his uncle had, in fact, recovered.

Then Our Lady asked Juan to collect some flowers from Tepeyac Hill, which is usually barren. He found Castilian roses, which are not native to Mexico, much less bloom in central Mexico in December.

The Blessed Mother arranged the roses in Juan Diego's tilma, before he proceeded to the bishop yet again. Upon opening his tilma before the bishop and other witnesses, the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was revealed as the roses fell to the ground.

The following day, Saint Juan returned to his uncle and found him completely recovered, as the Virgin had said. Juan Bernadino reported that Mary had appeared to him and requested to be known under the title of 'Guadalupe'.

Within seven years of this apparition, in which Our Lady manifested herself to the native peoples of Mexico as a sign of her maternal care, nine million accepted the Catholic faith. Remarkably, this amounts to an average of over 3,000 people a day, every day for the next seven years. This is the number who were converted on Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2:41.

Why is Our Lady of Guadalupe so important?

At the time of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the 16th century, the Protestant Reformation was resulting in millions of people in Europe leaving the Church. During this massive departure from the Old World, the image and story of Our Lady of Guadalupe helped to convert millions in the New World. To this day, Our Lady of Guadalupe is incredibly significant to the Mexican people. She is the patron of Mexico and is truly interwoven into Mexican culture.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is also revered throughout the Catholic world. In fact, the apparition site of Our Lady of Guadalupe has become the most visited Catholic pilgrimage destination on earth.

In which country did Our Lady of Guadalupe appear?

The Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac, a hill on the outskirts of Mexico, what is today Mexico City, the capital of the nation of Mexico. At the time of Our Lady's appearance, it was part of the Aztec city-states which occupied the Valley of Mexico, an ancient lakebed.

What are the miracles of the tilma?

The tilma defies the efforts of science to explain its creation, its survival, or its details.

Regarding its creation:

- No method of art or technology has been identified that could have produced the image.
- Like the Shroud of Turin, it is most like a photograph – the Shroud a negative image, the Tilma a positive image.

Regarding its survival:

- The tilma has survived for 500 years, despite being made of cactus fiber which typically disintegrates in 20-40 years.
- For much of that time, it was exposed uncovered to the heat, humidity, and sunlight of the church where it was displayed, as well as the veneration of the people.
- Nitric acid was spilled on the tilma in 1791, and it was repaired miraculously with no external aid.
- Unprotected, it survived unscathed a bomb attack in 1921, which damaged the altar and bent a brass crucifix upon it.

Regarding its details:

- The position of the stars on the image conforms to the constellations as they were on 12 December, 1521, when the image was created.
- Recent investigations have shown that when the tilma is enlarged 2,500 times, the Virgin Mary's eye has the reflection of all of the people who were present when the tilma was revealed to the archbishop.

These are just some of the unbelievable discoveries that have been made about the image.

Where is the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe?

Since 1531 the Tilma has been kept in a church at the foot of Tepeyac Hill, where the apparitions occurred. There it hangs above the main altar.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrity;
Rodney Euler; Dr Graham McAllister;
Kai Vera.



A farewell dinner for Fr John will be held on Friday, 10 January, 2025 at the Wondai Colonial Motel. Starting time, 6.00pm. People will order from the menu and pay own cost.

A card and envelope will be circulated at weekend Masses prior to the dinner. Please RSVP to Lyn Schuh by the 2 January, 2025.



A Piety Stall has been set up in the Murgon and Wondai Churches featuring some lovely Nativity items. Have a browse.