

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Second Sunday of Advent
Year C, 8 December, 2024

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



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

Second Sunday of Advent: God's promised future

By Sr. Mary M. Mcglone

Today, we hear some of Isaiah's most famous lines, "Prepare the way of the Lord! ... The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All people shall see it together".

The beginning of Mark's Gospel offers us a perspective on preparing the way of the Lord. Mark tells us that John the Baptist proclaimed a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin."

Believe it or not, John and his message of conversion were immensely popular! Great joy doesn't sound exactly like the emotion brought forth by a call to "repentance" and acknowledgement of sin. What's going on?

John's call to "repentance" wasn't an invitation to penance. He was inviting people to see everything in life from a new perspective. Instead of concentrating on the past, on what they had done wrong or lost, John, like Isaiah, invited people to focus on God's promised future – a future he told them was about to dawn.

What would that future be like? Not even John could really envision it – he sent disciples to ask Jesus if he was the "one to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus didn't fit the typical expectations for messiahs. To understand him, people had to return to Isaiah and ask about the servant he described.

Isaiah wrote to people who imagined their lives as a desert wasteland. Life

was dry, and arduous the road that led to unscalable mountains. Isaiah invited people under this depressing spell to listen to glad tidings, to discern the presence of God's alluring love among them.

It was not that mountains and valleys would actually disappear from their way, but the energy of divine grace would open their eyes to a future that would come into reality with each step they took toward it.

The repentance of which John and Jesus spoke did not look backward. It was a vision of an unimaginable different future so attractive that nobody need remain stuck or freeze another in their former ways. The 'strong arm' of the Lord is not coercive; the rule of God is a hand up to those who desire the grace to move forward into the type of future for which we were created.

Today, between two major feasts of the Virgin Mary, we can look to her for inspiration. Her prayer, "Let it happen through me according to your word," came not so much from a vision, but from trust that God had more in mind for her than she could imagine.

continued on next page ...

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

Sunday Mass Times

Murgon		
WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am
Wondai		
every	Saturday	5.00pm
WEEK	DAY	TIME
Proston		
every	Saturday	9.00am
Goomeri		
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		



Today's readings

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11;
Luke 3: 1-6

Response:

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the
Lord, make straight his paths: all people
shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Elizabeth proclaimed that in one simple phrase that could be translated as "Blessed are you who believed that God's promise would be fulfilled" (Luke 1:45).

The Second Letter of Saint Peter says it this way: "Conduct yourselves in holiness and devotion ... hastening the coming of the day of our God."

The Second Sunday of Advent calls us into the sort of waiting that actually hastens the fulfillment of God's reign among us. Like Mary – the Christian Scriptures' counterpart of Abraham who forged into the unknown at God's invitation – we are invited to believe so strongly in God's future that we will not hesitate to risk what it takes for it to come about. Our daily prayer is simple and straightforward, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done".

Will those words direct our lives or simply be rote phrases to which we can say, "Amen," without feeling their power?

Conference on Legacy of Saint John Paul II

The talks will include the compatibility of faith and reason; the 1981-1992 pontifical study commission on the Galileo case; and the significance of intergenerational dialogue in the development of culture.

In 1984, Pope John Paul II met in Rome with 300,000 young people from all over the world in a meeting that laid the foundations for today's World Youth Day.

Twenty years into his pontificate, John Paul II released 'Fides et Ratio' – 'Faith and Reason' – on the 14 September, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in 1998.

Describing faith and reason as "two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the truth," the pope emphasised that the human heart ultimately seeks to know and love God.

The talks will include the compatibility of faith and reason; the 1981-1992 pontifical study commission on the

Galileo case; and the significance of intergenerational dialogue in the development of culture.

Sister Mary Angela Woelkers, who works at the Angelicum, said this year's inaugural event will be the first of annual conferences hosted by pontifical universities in Rome dedicated to the legacy of the great pope saint.

"We hope to be able to bring to university students here in the city, and also a larger audience, renewed reflection – not only to rediscover the gift of this document and this theme (Fides et Ratio) which was so present throughout the teaching of John Paul the Second – but also to think together with him to address so many challenging situations that we confront in our current moment".

"John Paul knew that the youth had a powerful potential to not only live the faith but be witnesses of the faith in a generation where there is an eclipse of God".

Recognising John Paul II as the "most distinguished alumnus" of the Angelicum, Father Benedict Croell OP, said he hopes this year's conference will inspire many young students to follow in the saint's footsteps by using faith and reason to face the challenges of our times.

"We know that he (John Paul II) walked the same halls that our students walked today, and he studied the same fundamental truths that our students study today."

"It's incredibly important to not only remember his story and his legacy, but know that he walks with us, and he has so much to say to us today."

"It's a great joy to recognise the importance that he still has for the Church and for everybody."

Kristina Millare, 27 November 2024

"By your patience you will possess your souls."

By your endurance you will gain your souls." We hear it used in a different context, where the seed bore fruit "through endurance".



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Administrator: Rev Fr John Fowles

Tel: Parish Office, **0428 471 848**

Parish e-mail: murgon@bne.catholic.net.au

24 Angel Avenue, MURGON

PO Box 60 Murgon 4605

Parish website:

murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au

Safeguarding contacts :

safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding

+ 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 Dyrty; Rodney Euler.

The term endurance is today expressed by 'hanging in there' and simply means perseverance, consistency, dependability.

In challenging times we must show loyalty to God by our endurance. We are helped in this, for Jesus promises, "I will give you a wisdom which none of your opponents can contradict". During hard times his love and fidelity will sustain us, so that our efforts can bear good fruit.

Those who endure will, join in the victorious song of the people who crossed the Red Sea. Like those who followed Moses over sea and desert, we too may find it hard going at times. Yet the Lord inspires us to push onward and persevere. "Mighty are your works ... and true are your ways, O King of the nations!"

The quality of 'endurance' that helps us onward towards the promised land, is expressed succinctly by Saint Jerome: "By your patience you will possess your souls."

