

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Sixth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year B, 11 February, 2024

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



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

If You Want Peace, Plant an Olive Tree

The slow growth of olive trees forces us to look to the future and consider what kind of world we are leaving our descendants.

The olive tree – the tree of peace, a symbol so desperately needed in these times of war and diaspora. It was an olive branch the dove brought to Noah in Genesis. Two olive trees flank a gold lampstand in Zechariah 4. "I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God," David marvels in Palms. Anointing oil continues to be honoured in sacred rites and rituals.

References to the olive tree, its fruit and its oil abound in Scripture, and take on heightened significance in the life of Jesus, particularly as he undergoes his Passion. The Garden of Gethsemane is at the foot of the Mount of Olives, where Jesus and the apostles went on the night he was betrayed (Matthew 26:30). It was there where the Ascension took place (Acts 1:9-12). And it is there where olive trees continue to grow, some nearly a millennia old.

It is not a simple task to produce oil from olives, but a process of great pressure and strength. In the time of Jesus, a millstone crushed the olives in a press. Then oil was extricated from the pulp. Beyond the physical location of the Mount of Olives, then, the olive press reflects the great suffering endured by Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane: "He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground" (Luke 22:44).



Pope Benedict XVI plants an olive tree with Israeli President Shimon Peres.

In Hebrew, after all, Gethsemane means 'olive press'.

A gentile from Rome, might not at first glance understand or appreciate the deep meaning of a tree whose physical appearance is rather unremarkable. And yet, Italy eventually became one of the world's largest producers of olive oil in modern times.

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ASH WEDNESDAY Mass Schedule

14 February, 9.00am, Murgon,
(parish and school)

14 February, 12 noon, Gayndah,
(parish and school)

14 February, 5.00pm, Wondai,
(no Holy Hour)

REMINDER

**Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 15 February at
3.30pm at Parish Office**

Sunday Mass Times

Murgon

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am

Wondai

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Saturday	5.00pm

Proston

every	Saturday	9.00am
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Goomeri

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday (except 5th Sunday)	6.00pm

Gayndah

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	1st, 3rd, 5th	10.30am
every	2nd, 4th	9.00am

Cherbourg

WEEK	DAY	TIME
5	Sunday	4.30pm

Weekday Mass Times

12 noon, Wednesday, Gayndah

5.00pm, Wednesday, Wondai

9.00am, Thursday, Murgon

9.00am, Friday, Castra

Eucharistic Adoration

Wondai, 4.00pm to 5.00pm,
every Wednesday,
before Mass

El Shaddi Fellowship

Saint Joseph's Parish Hall, Murgon
Saturday, 24 February 2024, 11.00am

Today's readings

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; Corinthians
10:31-11: 1; Mark 1: 40-45

Response:

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has
appeared among us; God has visited
his people. Alleluia!

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In addition to peace, the olive branch suggests recovery, reconciliation and healing.

Is it too naive to suggest a joint effort among Christians and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis, to plant an olive tree together?

If for no other reason than to look beyond the immediate and towards a hopeful future?

Olive trees are known for their long growth period, so much so that one who plants a tree will never live to sit underneath it and enjoy its shade. Rather, its planters throughout the centuries were thinking not of themselves, but of future generations.

Olive trees, then, can help us renew our memory and identity while their slow growth forces us to look to the end: What kind of world are we leaving our descendants? Pope Francis once recalled meeting a farmer who talked about pruning his olive trees with obvious love, like a father has for his family. The farmer was the father, and the trees were his children.

Perhaps the olive trees planted now will survive long past today's wars and conflicts, sending people from their homes, their lives upside down. And perhaps children caught in today's crossfire and trapped in today's warzones will one day sit under those same trees, feel the summer breeze and rustling leaves, and climb their gnarled branches, unburdened by the inhumane threats that so distract us today.

James Day, California



**February
2024**

For the terminally ill.

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



On February 11, 1858, Mary appeared to a young girl named Bernadette. Bernadette and her family lived near the town of Lourdes in France. They were very poor and so Bernadette wasn't able to go to school all the time and sometimes they weren't able to go to Church. One day when her father had sent Bernadette out to collect wood for the fire, Mary, the Mother of Jesus appeared to Bernadette. She would appear to Bernadette 18 times, each time Bernadette would pray the rosary. One day Mary told Bernadette to wash in the spring of water, but there was no spring. Bernadette started digging in the dirt and some water started coming up out of the dirt, until there was a stream of water flowing out. Today this spring fills the baths at the Shrine of our Lady in Lourdes. Many people make the pilgrimage to Lourdes to bath in the water and be healed. There have been more than 60 miracles approved by the church, although many more people have claimed to have been healed. On one of the last visits with Bernadette, Mary told Bernadette that she was the Immaculate Conception, which means that she never had any sin from the moment her life started in Saint Anne's womb.

Get the Saint of the Day for Kids App at <http://saintofthedayforkids.com/>



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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Parish website:

murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au

We pray for those who are sick:
Annette Duff; Renee Elliott; Glenda Geraghty; David & Trish McIntosh; Gregory Marrinan ; Bob Ricketts.

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

2024 LENT REFLECTION GROUP

We are calling for an expression of interest for the 2024 Lent Reflection Group of Saint Joseph's Parish.

All parishioners in the Wondai, Murgon, Proston and Goomeri Churches who are interested in attending a Reflection group and share our faith experience this liturgical season, please confirm your interest by contacting

Jamie on 0491 191 524 or email, murgon@bne.catholic.net.au

If you would like a Lenten book please see Fr John and he will order a copy for you.