

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Seventh Sunday in Ord. Time
Year C, 23 February, 2025

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



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

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings to each of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Year of Mercy 2025, coinciding with the Jubilee Year of Hope marks the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord. Jubilee Year is a time to see our life as a journey towards God, as a pilgrimage, a pilgrimage we make with our eyes set on the Cross, drawing on the love of Christ for us. A pilgrim is someone on a journey to meet God in a holy place, someone who now has a goal and a purpose in life. This is a time to recover a focus, to review and re-orientate our lives, to respond to the onward, upward, forward call of God.

'Pilgrims of Hope' is the rich theme chosen by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year. This Jubilee is a gift and a calling, a time to renew our faith, rekindle our hope, and deepen our love for God and one another. The theme of hope resonates deeply in our hearts as we face the challenges and uncertainties of the world. We stand as a people anchored in Christ, the unshakable hope of our lives.

The Jubilee calls for renewal of faith, hope, and love for God and others, which is essential to constantly nurture our spiritual journey. It encourages reflection on God's boundless mercy and our commitment to living as Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis selected the motto 'Pilgrims of Hope', inspired by the verse "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom. 5:5). Christian hope, grounded in the certainty of God's love (Rom 8:35-39), offers unshakable hope in Christ and eternal life amidst all trials.

Pope Francis encourages deepening faith during the Jubilee year through pilgrimage, prayer, reconciliation, and works of mercy, embodying themes of mercy, healing, and renewal.

Pilgrimage symbolises conversion and commitment to following Christ. The Jubilee Year is a journey towards God, focusing on the Cross and Christ's love. It is a time to re-orientate our lives and respond to God's call. Participating in pilgrimages, retreats, and special liturgies supports transformative experiences.

Prayer, a conversation between God and us draws us closer to God, seeking forgiveness, renewal, and a deeper relationship. We must pray without ceasing by faith and trust in God's timing.

The sacrament of Reconciliation helps rediscover confession's value and God's forgiveness, mending broken relationships with God, family, and community. It reinforces us to reconcile with God for our sins and forgive others for their iniquities. Because God forgave us, we must forgive others. To forgive someone, a merciful act, is a choice that we make with God's help to enable healing of the hurt caused by others. **Works of mercy** encourage charitable acts, bringing Christ's compassion and justice to life. Together, these practices invite a renewed commitment to faith, love, and service.

We must actively nurture our hope by reading the Word of God and spiritual discipline. In this Jubilee Year, let's become agents of hope by fostering love, understanding, and encouragement in our families, building unity and faith in our parishes and communities, and advocating for justice and showing compassion in society. Open your hearts to God's mercy and be instruments of His mercy in the world. Reach out to those in need, offer forgiveness, and be a source of hope and encouragement for the struggling. By doing so, we

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Sunday Mass Schedule

Fr Geo Francis will be in the parish until Easter to say Mass for us.

Murgon

8.00am, Sunday, 23 February

9.00am, Ash Wednesday, 5 March

8.00am, Sunday, 9 March

8.00am, Sunday, 16 March

8.00am, Sunday 23 March

Wondai

5.00pm, Saturday, 1 March

5.00pm, Saturday, 8 March

5.00pm, Saturday, 15 March

5.00pm, Saturday, 29 March

Gayndah

10.30am, Sunday, 23 February

10.30am, Sunday, 2 March

10.30am, Sunday, 16 March

10.30am Sunday, 23 March

Proston

9.00am, Saturday 1 March

9.00am, Saturday, 8 March,
Liturgy/Communion

9.00am, Saturday 15 March

9.00am, Saturday 29 March,
Liturgy/Communion

Goomeri

6.00pm, Sunday, 23 February

6.00pm, Sunday, 9 March

6.00pm, Sunday, 23 March

Cherbourg

10.30am, Sunday, 9 March

Mundubbera

8.30am, Sunday, 2 March

8.30am, Sunday 30 March

Eidsvold

10.30am, Sunday, 30 March

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will enrich our lives and build a more compassionate community. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us on this journey, and help us to make our Jubilee year special with merciful acts and blessings.

With prayers and blessings,
Fr Geo Francis MCBS



The Jubilee Logo

The logo shows four stylised figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings

alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Peregrinantes in Spem* (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord," (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

Excerpt from the Letter of Pope Francis for the jubilee year Pilgrims of Hope

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, "The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food" (Lev 25:6-7).

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We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrity;

Rodney Euler; Pope Francis;

Dr Graham McAllister; Kai Vera.



For Project Compassion, let's become a profound force for change. A force that partners with the world's most vulnerable to stand against poverty. As individuals we can have a powerful impact – but when we come together as a community through Project Compassion, our good becomes great. Our combined kindness becomes amplified. And when we unite with each other – and with people living in poverty – we can create BIG, lasting change.

Project Compassion Sunday is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, 1 and 2 March 2025. Donation boxes and envelopes have been sent to all churches in the Parish, and also to Saint Joseph's School.