

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

The Most Holy Body and Blood
of Christ (Corpus Christi)
Year B, 2 June, 2024

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



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

Corpus Christi

The festival of Corpus Christi celebrates the **Eucharist** as the body of **Christ**. The name 'Corpus Christi' is Latin for 'the body of Christ'.

This festival is celebrated by **Catholics** and other Christians to proclaim the truth of the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the actual body of Christ during Mass.

Catholics celebrate the festival, not only with a Mass, but also with a procession that carries the consecrated Host through the streets as a public statement that the sacrifice of Christ was for the salvation of the whole world.

The main feature of Corpus Christi celebrations is the triumphant liturgical procession in which the sacred host is carried out of the Church "for the Christian faithful to make public profession of faith and worship of the Most Blessed Sacrament".

During his papacy, **Pope John Paul II** led an annual Corpus Christi procession from Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican to the streets of Rome.

Catholics, reverence the host as the real presence of Christ, it is treated as Christ in human form would be treated, with ceremony and adoration.

The host is displayed on a 'monstrance' and protected from the sun by a canopy.

The procession moves through local streets, either to another church, or back to the church where it began.

Aquinas also wrote a powerful prayer for the festival, that encompasses many aspects of the doctrine of the Eucharist:

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament left us a memorial of your Passion: grant, we implore you, that we may so venerate the sacred mysteries of your body and blood, as always to be conscious of the fruit of your redemption.



A Walk With Mary

On Monday 20 May members of the Parish Council, Parishioners with the Students and Teachers of Saint Joseph's School assembled in the Church to 'Walk with Mary' on the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church.

After a brief introduction by Fr John, the entire group, led by Grade 6 students carrying Mary, all praying the Rosary, walked through the school grounds to each of the Mysteries that were chosen for our Walk. As we completed the prayers for each decade class by class the children laid the gifts they had made previously at the marker with the picture of the Mystery.

Our gentle meandering procession finished in the Church and the Pastoral Council once again thanks the Students, Teachers and Parishioners for joining us on our 'Walk with Mary'.

Sunday Mass Times

| Murgon | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| WEEK | DAY | TIME |
| every | Sunday | 8.00am |
| Wondai | | |
| WEEK | DAY | TIME |
| every | Saturday | 9.00am |
| Proston | | |
| WEEK | DAY | TIME |
| every | Sunday (except 5th 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 | 4.30pm |
| Weekday Mass Times | | |
| 12 noon, Wednesday, Gayndah | | |
| 5.00pm, Wednesday, Wondai | | |
| 9.00am, 2nd, 4th Thursdays, School/Parish Mass, Murgon | | |
| 9.00am, 1st, 3rd Thursdays, Castra | | |
| Holy Hour for Peace | | |
| Wondai, 4.00pm to 5.00pm, Wednesday, before Mass | | |

Today's readings

Exodus 24: 3-8; Hebrews 9: 11-15;
Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

Response:

I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread
of heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats
this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!



The Holy Spirit as a dove in the Annunciation by Rubens, 1628

The Holy Spirit is not a mere custodian – He is the Lord and Giver of Life

The Holy Spirit is the author of holiness and the principal agent of evangelisation, and we need some holiness and evangelisation in the Church today. We need the Holy Spirit to nurture holiness in our hearts and in the hearts of every man, woman and child baptised in Jesus Christ. We need the Holy Spirit to spur us on to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world.

By cooperating with the Holy Spirit, we receive the graces that bring forth our salvation and growth in holiness. It is precisely the holiness of the baptised that serves as the spiritual blood – the literal life force – of the Church.

“For the Church is compelled by the Holy Spirit to do her part that God’s plan may be fully realised, whereby He has constituted Christ as the source of salvation for the whole world. By the proclamation of the Gospel she prepares her hearers to receive and profess the faith.” Lumen Gentium II Vat. Council.

If the Church’s call to holiness is accepted and lived, then the Church is strong and her witness to the world is robust and credible. If the call to holiness, however, is not heeded or fanned into flame, then the work of

the Church in the midst of humanity is hindered and its evangelistic fruitfulness is diminished.

If there’s only a little blood, then a body is weak. If there’s no abundance of grace, then the Church is weak. When the Church is weak, the Spirit cannot move and work through her as he wants to, and the Church’s efforts in evangelisation are debilitated and made feeble.

The holiness of the Church’s members is lessened when there’s confusion, lack of clarity, purposeful ambiguity, needless concession, compromise, lack of accountability, corruption, scandal, and misplaced pastoral accommodation to sin and the ideologies of our fallen world.

As II Vatican Council, 'Lumen Gentium' teaches us: “When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that He might continually sanctify the Church... He is the Spirit of Life, a fountain of water springing up to life eternal. To men, dead in sin, the Father gives life through Him, until, in Christ, He brings to life their mortal bodies... By the power of the Gospel [the Holy Spirit] makes the Church keep the freshness of youth”.

Since the Holy Spirit chooses to work through us, as fallen human beings, he is hindered from enriching and enhancing the Church as its Sanctifier when he is left with cleaning up messes, correcting error, restoring order, tying millstones around the necks of unfaithful shepherds, and healing a weakened body.

The Holy Spirit wants to nurture faith and announce the kingdom of God to all humanity. If he must correct and discipline the hearts of wayward believers and misguided shepherds, then he cannot work through them for the conversion of the world to Jesus Christ. He cannot bring forth the Kingdom in the midst of the world.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph’s Parish

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We pray for those who are sick:
Renee Elliott; Orlando Dyrit;
Wendy Heidemann; David McIntosh.



How can the Church give the Gospel to the nations if her own members are not living an “obedience of faith” to the Gospel? How can the Holy Spirit bring the Gospel to the nations if he must work to bring that Gospel to the hearts of those who should already believe and who should be his instruments in bringing the world to Jesus Christ?

The Holy Spirit would prefer not to clean up messes. He wants to build up the Church with holiness and strengthen her to fulfill her vocation to announce the Good News to all people. As Saint Paul teaches us, the Holy Spirit groans in the hearts of believers as he anticipates the final consummation of all things in Jesus Christ. Our responsibility is to open our hearts, avoid compromises to the teachings of the Lord Jesus, and so make the Church strong, allowing the Holy Spirit to be unleashed for the proclamation of the Gospel to all the nations.

Father Jeffrey Kirby is the pastor of Our Lady of Grace parish, South Carolina.