

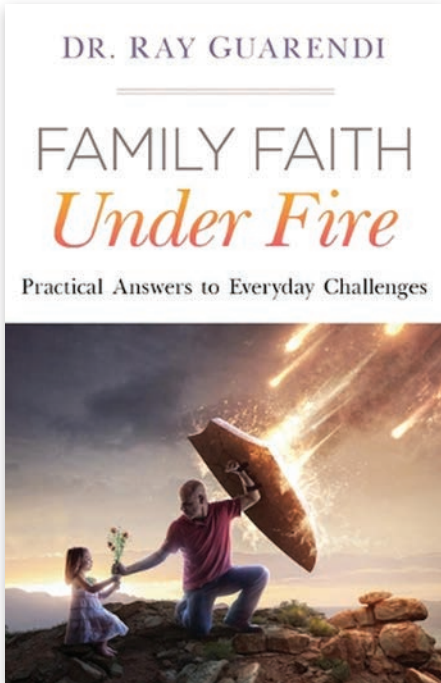
St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Thirty-First Sunday in Ord. Time
Year B, 3 November, 2024

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



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



Cover of 'Family Faith Under Fire: Practical Answers to Everyday Challenges' by Dr. Ray Guarendi

Talk the walk: How to keep your children in the Catholic faith

Your actions matter, but so do your words. Here's why it's essential to talk openly about your faith with your children.

A paramount desire of faith-filled parents is to pass the Faith on to their children. Their hope is that their children will embrace that Faith throughout childhood and beyond.

So it is with deep distress and no little guilt that a parent watches her child suspect, neglect, or reject much or most of his childhood beliefs. The self-doubt and second-guessing disrupt not only her inner peace but her relationship with her now young adults.

While all things church may not be unfolding as Mom or Dad expected, that doesn't mean they are at fault. It also doesn't mean the story is over.

Talk the Walk

Dear Dr. Ray: I've always believed that my actions speak louder than my words. So, as the saying goes, rather than talk religion, I've chosen to walk religion. My kids are nine and thirteen, and I'm not sure they're walking behind me. – *Speechless*

The following saying has long been attributed to Saint Francis: "Preach the gospel always, and if necessary, use words". In fact, Saint Francis never said that. He was a preeminent preacher. The power of his words derived from the power of his actions. The two moved in inseparable tandem. One reinforced the other. Alone, each would not have carried the same weight.

Practice what you preach; walk your talk; values are caught, not taught; children learn what they live. These are all worthy phrases, with a large measure of truth. But they don't speak the full truth. Most people – 'people' includes kids here – are indeed more influenced by another's behaviour than by that person's speech. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then images of good living are worth many thousands of words. Actions that don't match my words, to be sure, hollow out those words.

Yet actions alone are not necessarily sufficient. Words reinforce actions.

First assumption: You are older than your children. Thus, your moral conduct may be more obvious to you than to them. It takes maturity to draw moral lessons from what one sees in others. A nine year old and a thirteen year old are still growing into moral maturity. For that matter, so are many adults.

Second assumption: Your kids are human. As such, their nature is fallen, bent toward self-interest. Yes, they can observe your example, assuming

continued on next page ...

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		
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		
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

Deuteronomy 6: 2-6; Hebrews 7: 23-28;
Mark 12: 28-34

Response:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them. Alleluia!

...continued from previous page

they are paying attention. Interest in your example, however, collides with their self-interest. While pulled toward emulating you, they are also pulled toward their own wants.

Third assumption: You are human. You, too, have a fallen nature, which can sabotage your best intentions to be a bright moral light. Even the holiest of saints know their light can flicker. Acting with moral consistency is a lifelong journey.

Fourth assumption: Your behaviour is overall quite admirable. But does it ever resemble that of a nine year old or, worse, a thirteen year old? Try as you might, your fallen nature intrudes and sends your kids, as psychologists term it, "mixed messages." Meaning, they aren't likely to think, "Gee, Mom is so good almost all the time. But she's only human, and every so often she slips. I understand. I, too, have that trouble".

A child's bias is to interpret a parent's moral inconsistencies in his favour. Just ask any parent who – after forty straight days of unrattled demeanor in the face of adolescent eye rolls and "Yeah, rights" – finally erupts. Will she be rewarded with, "Oh, Mother, I'm so sorry I've pushed you to your limit these past forty days. You are a walking, talking saint to have endured so long"? Or will she be charged with, "See, you're always telling me to show you respect, but you don't show me any. If you want respect, you have to give respect"?

Some twenty years ago, I returned to the Church, determined to act in moral concert with my beliefs. I don't know if people haven't been paying attention or if I'm not as obviously holy as I think. Either way, I'm still waiting to hear, "Ray, I've been watching you for some time now, and I've been so moved by your moral witness. Can you please tell me the basis for it?"

When the opportunity presents itself, I must be ready to talk my faith too. Without a willingness to offer the reasons underlying my conduct, I could be viewed, at best, as a nice guy. God wouldn't get any of the credit.

Speak openly with your kids about why you live the way you do. It's not

that you're merely trying to be a good mom. It goes far deeper than that. It all flows from your relationship with Christ. Words by themselves don't teach durably. Actions by themselves are more potent than words. For maximum teaching, however, one needs words and actions, both moving in the same direction. To rephrase whoever said it: Preach the gospel always, and make sure your walk matches your talk.

Dr. Ray Guarendi is the father of 10, a clinical psychologist, an author, a public speaker and a nationally syndicated radio and television host. His radio show, 'The Doctor Is In', can be heard weekdays on EWTN Radio and Sirius/XM satellite radio. Dr. Ray's national television show, Living Right with Dr. Ray, is entering its 14th season. His many books include 'Raising Upright Kids in an Upside-Down World', 'Living Calm', and Thinking Jesus: The Psychology of a Faithful Disciple!

The Law of Love

Love is the only law we are to live by. And love is the fulfillment of the Law that God reveals through Moses in today's First Reading (see Romans 13:8–10; Matthew 5:43–48).

The unity of God – the truth that He is one God, Father, Son, and Spirit— means that we must love Him with one love, a love that serves Him with all our hearts and minds, souls and strength.

We love Him because He has loved us first. We love our neighbour because we can't love the God we haven't seen unless we love those made in His image and likeness, whom we have seen (see 1 John 4:19–21).

And we are called to imitate the love that Christ showed us in laying His life down on the Cross (see 1 John 3:16). As we hear in today's Epistle, by His perfect sacrifice on the Cross, He once and for all makes it possible for us to approach God.

There is no greater love than to lay down your life (see John 15:13). This is perhaps why Jesus tells the scribe in today's Gospel that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

The scribe recognises that the burnt offerings and sacrifices of the old Law were meant to teach Israel that it is love that God desires (see Hosea 6:6). The animals offered in sacrifice were symbols of the self-sacrifice, the total gift of our selves, that God truly desires.



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

We pray for those who are sick:
Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrirt.

We are called today to examine our hearts. Do we have other loves that get in the way of our love for God? Do we love others as Jesus has loved us (see John 13:34–35)? Do we love our enemies and pray for those who oppose and persecute us (see Matthew 5:44)?

Let us tell the Lord we love Him, as we do in today's Psalm. And let us take His Word to heart, that we might prosper and have life eternal in His kingdom, the heavenly homeland flowing with

Mass of All Nations

We invite you to recall your heritage for this occasion by participating in a thanksgiving Mass for all the cultures that have come together to advance our national identity. If people would like to wear clothes to reflect your cultural traditions this would be most welcome.

We invite you to share food and refreshments together after the Mass in Saint Joseph's Hall and we ask that each family assist with the catering by bringing a shared traditional dish.

Please contact a Parish Council member and inform them of the cultural tradition you will be representing.

There will be no other Masses in the parish that weekend, apart from the one parish mass at Saint Joseph's Murgon at 10.00am on Sunday, 24 November.