

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ord. Time  
Year B, 20 October, 2024

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



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

## What Jesus has to say about marriage

The Gospel opens with the Pharisees approaching Jesus and asking, somewhat rhetorically, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"

Jesus, aware of their hypocrisy, asks them in return, "What did Moses command you?" They gleefully respond, in essence, that Moses permitted a husband to divorce his wife as long as he "filled out the paperwork".

Jesus, having encountered their hardened hearts, announces a restoration, a return to God's original plan for marriage. The Lord quotes the Book of Genesis, saying, "But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. And for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

In other words, anything that may have happened in the aftermath of original sin, any compromises or arrangements that have emerged during the reign of sin, are now to be done away with in the reign of grace that will come as the result of Jesus' saving death and resurrection.

The disciples are somewhat troubled by what Jesus says and ask him about it again later. Jesus does not back down. He even intensifies his language, saying, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."



'The Marriage of the Virgin' a fresco in Saint Augustine Church

There will be no apology from Jesus: Divorce and remarriage is adultery. Marriage is a work of God; it has a reality and an existence that flows from God's work. All of humanity's attempts to redefine, obfuscate or alter marriage as God has set it forth are not recognised by God.

Next comes an interesting twist, which includes a reminder of one of the most essential purposes of marriage: "And people were bringing their little children to Jesus that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ... Jesus saw this, became indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

Because children are marriage's most fundamental fruit, it makes sense that marriage is based on what is best for them: a stable, lasting environment in which their parents have committed to each other in mutual support and partnership in raising them. There are things that a father can teach a child that a mother cannot; there are things that a mother can teach a child that a father cannot.

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## Sunday Mass Times

### Murgon

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am

### Wondai

every	Saturday	5.00pm
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WEEK	DAY	TIME
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### Proston

every	Saturday	9.00am
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### 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

Isaiah 53: 10-11; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Mark 10: 35-45

*Response:*

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia! The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all. Alleluia!

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Note how the Lord embraces the child in this Gospel: He is willing to embrace us as well, in our failures and our difficulties. If we have failed, we should be like a young child – and run to the Father.

*Msgr. Charles Pope*



## Now, more than ever, Catholic physicians and nurses need the patronage of Saints Cosmas and Damian

They were doctors. They were born in Arabia. They seemed to have practiced their medical profession somewhere on the southern coast of Turkey. They were said to have taken no fee for their services. They took as their mandate Jesus' words when sending his Apostles out on mission: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; give freely". (Matt 10:8).

They lived around the year AD 300, because the one dated biographical fact we have about them is that they

were martyred during the Diocletian Persecution, and that happened from 302-305. The Diocletian Persecution was one of the most intense faced by early Christians. Tradition has it that Cosmas and Damian were arraigned before Lysias, a local prefect, who ordered them to renounce Christianity. They refused, despite multiple tortures (including crucifixion) before being beheaded. Three of their other brothers died with them.

Saints Cosmas and Damian came to the attention of the Roman prefect because of their success and renown as physicians. That fact is highly relevant today. Both saints were tortured, then killed, for whom they believed in.

Today, many Catholic physicians and medical professionals face persecution for whom and what they believe in, too. It may not be personally lethal but, in many cases, it borders on the professionally lethal. Doctors and other healthcare personnel who will not go along with the culture of death are increasingly under pressure.

Medical professionals increasingly are turned from professionals exercising conscientious specialist judgment into wish fulfillment providers. And this mentality especially comes down on practicing Catholics in the healthcare professions. Now, more than ever, the Catholic doctor today needs the patronage of Saint. Cosmas and Damian. *John Grondelski*

This weekend is **Mission Sunday** and you are invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence.

Envelopes will be available at the back of the Church.

or donate by calling **1800 257 296** or visit

[catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](http://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia)



## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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[brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding](http://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding)

**We pray for those who are sick:**

Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrit.

### CHANGE OF DATE

Mass of All Nations and Multicultural Meal at Saint Joseph's Church Murgon has been changed to Sunday, **24 November**.

## THE LIGHT

Advent Program 2024

Embark on a spiritual journey of illumination this Advent and Christmas with 'The Light: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2024 – a comprehensive 88-page book of daily reflections designed to deepen your spiritual journey from the beginning of Advent (1 December 2024) through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 January 2025), offering profound insights and contemplative thoughts that invite you to explore



the depths of your faith and anticipate the joy of God's presence in the world. The Light Advent and Christmas reflection booklets will be available at each of the churches soon.

Cost \$6.

