

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Thirtieth Sunday in Ord. Time  
Year B, 27 October, 2024

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



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



## Pray, hope and don't worry: Padre Pio's guidance for times like ours

Saint Pio's life of holiness stands as a powerful testimony to the redemptive nature of suffering.

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, better known as Padre Pio (photo: Padre Pio / EWTN)

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, born Francesco Forgione on 25 May, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy, is one of the most revered saints of the Catholic Church. From a young age, he demonstrated a deep devotion to God, often experiencing visions and spiritual phenomena that set him apart from his peers. He joined the Capuchins at 15 and took the name Pio in honor of Pope Pius I.

In 1910, he was ordained a priest, but it was in 1918 that he received the stigmata, a rare phenomenon where one bears the wounds of Christ. This event marked the beginning of his extraordinary life as a mystic and healer. He once said, "Jesus himself wants my sufferings; he needs them for souls". Over the next decades, he became known for his spiritual gifts and miracles, including bilocation. He also had the ability to 'read souls' and perceive unconfessed sins.

Padre Pio dedicated his life to the sacrament of confession and widely promoted its prominence in the life of

the believer, famously stating, "God runs after the most stubborn souls. They cost him too much to abandon them". His confessional ministry drew thousands to his side, where they sought spiritual guidance and healing. After a lifetime of suffering and spiritual warfare, he died on 23 September, 1968. He was canonised by Pope Saint John Paul II on 16 June, 2002, a testament to his enduring legacy within the Church.

Padre Pio's impact on the Catholic Church was recognised by several saints and popes throughout his life and after his death. Pope John Paul II had a particularly profound admiration for him, describing Padre Pio as "a man of prayer and suffering," and highlighting his role in

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## 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. To this end we invite you to share your family ancestry by joining in this Mass and bringing your cultural heritage through prayer and expressed in language of your forebears. If people would like to wear clothes to reflect your cultural traditions this would be most welcome.

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

Please assist our Parish Council by contacting a PC member, either: Elaine Thompson, Lyn Schuh, Miriam Colley, Brendan Theodore, Rebecca Gair and Coral Tebbutt by informing them of the cultural tradition you will be representing. Further to this, we invite any voluntary help you can provide for occasion.

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.**

## Sunday Mass Times

### Murgon

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am

### Wondai

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Saturday	5.00pm

### Proston

WEEK	DAY	TIME
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

Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Hebrews 5: 1-6;  
Mark 10: 46-52

*Response:*

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia! Our Saviour Jesus  
Christ has done away with death, and  
brought us life through his gospel.  
Alleluia!

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the Church as a spiritual guide. He often noted the importance of Padre Pio's emphasis on confession and spiritual renewal, stating, "He spoke of love and forgiveness with an extraordinary intensity". His ability to guide souls toward God's mercy was revered by many, and his life serves as a reminder of the transformative power of faith.

The legacy of Padre Pio extends far beyond his miraculous life and the phenomena attributed to him. His teachings and example continue to inspire Catholics around the world almost a quarter way into the 21st century.

One of the most significant aspects of his legacy is his emphasis on the importance of confession. In a time when many Catholics were drifting away from the sacramental life, Padre Pio became a beacon for those seeking spiritual renewal. He preached that confession was not a mere religious ritual, but a profound encounter with God's mercy. His confession lines often stretched for hours, with countless individuals experiencing life-changing moments of reconciliation. His famous quote, "Pray, hope, and don't worry", encapsulates his approach to life, encouraging the faithful to trust in God's plan amid challenges.

Padre Pio's spirituality also emphasised the importance of suffering. He viewed pain as a pathway to holiness, teaching that embracing suffering can lead to a deeper relationship with God. This perspective resonated particularly in the modern era, where many grapple with physical and emotional hardships. His ability to relate to human suffering made him a compassionate figure who offered hope to the distressed.

His legacy is not just about the miracles he performed or the stigmata he bore; it is about his profound love for God and humanity. In a world often marked by chaos and uncertainty, his teachings on prayer, suffering and the sacraments serve as a guiding light for many. As we continue to navigate our faith in the modern age, we can look to Padre Pio as an example of holiness and resilience, reminding us of the eternal hope found in a life devoted to Christ.

Padre Pio, pray for us!

*Shaun McAfee, O.P. is the author of 'Reform Yourself!' and other books.*



## In the storm of earthly pursuits, anchor your identity in Christ

True peace and purpose come only when we place our identity in our Lord above all worldly identities.

Rembrandt, "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee," 1633 (photo: Public Domain)

Father Benedict Groeschel and Mother Teresa were once walking into a large gathering for the perpetual vows of some of her sisters. The crowd cheered for them as they walked down the aisle. While the applause surrounded them, Mother Teresa leaned over to Father Benedict and said, "Don't inhale." Even Mother Teresa guarded herself against "breathing in" the praise of her fellow Christians.

**Saint Paul, too, seeks to break down barriers** by identifying all members of the Church first and foremost as Christians. Aligning ourselves with this or that group and seeing ourselves as someone who does this or that job will fail us and prevent us from the kind of unity Jesus intended for us, that we might all be one in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

This is a challenge for all of us no matter what our vocation is. Whether we are priests, religious, professional athletes, spouses, parents, teachers, writers or anything else, there is always a temptation to place our identity in those vocations instead of seeing ourselves primarily and always as children of the Father. There is nothing wrong with those vocations. Just the opposite. They are good and necessary, and we must live them well. But they cannot be the thing first and foremost in our hearts and minds.

**The greatest thing is to love God** with all our hearts. My identity as a father faces challenges every day as I fail to keep my patience, my children fail to make good



## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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

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decisions, and I can never spend enough time with them. Finding my primary identity there is like building a house on a foundation of sand. However, God's love never changes, and his mercy is always new; my identity in Christ is the bedrock foundation for my soul.

Once again, it is the old lesson of putting first things first and second things second. If we put first things first, then all the other things will fall into their proper order. If we put second things first then we will miss out on the first things and the second things. We must constantly strive to rightly order our loves. The First Commandment is to love God, and the second is like it.

A rightly ordered life is a unified life. The life of rightly ordered identities is a beautiful life, as in the life of the saint.

And so whatever our earthly vocation is, we have to strive to remember our heavenly vocation, our ultimate destination, and our number one priority. Nothing in life is more important than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

*Matt D'Antuono October 16, 2024*

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## THE LIGHT Advent Program 2024

If you would like reflection booklet please get your order into Fr John.

**Cost \$6.**

