

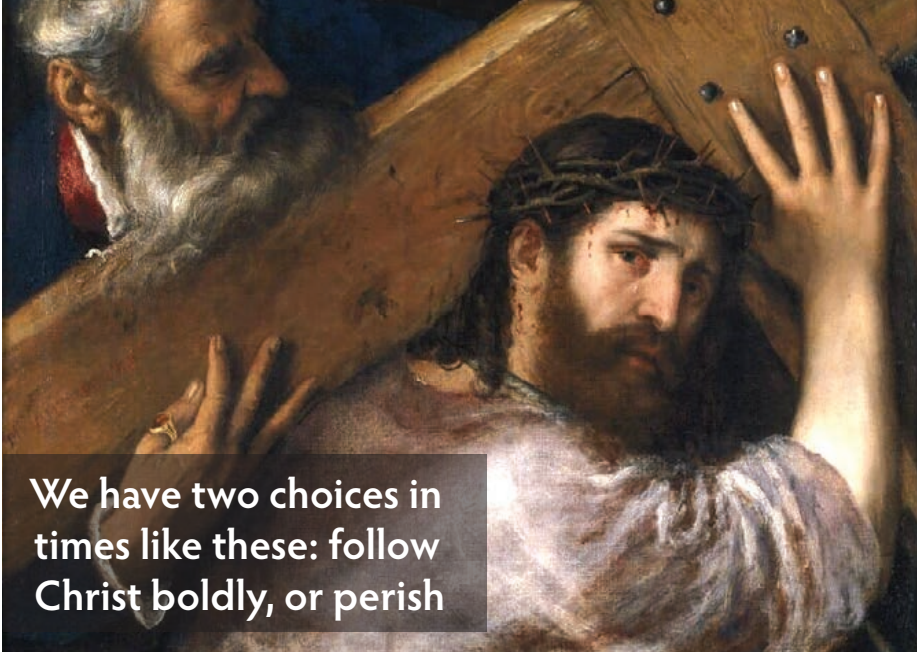
St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ord. Time
Year B, 1 September, 2024

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



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



We have two choices in times like these: follow Christ boldly, or perish

In the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Luke unapologetically narrates the unwavering zeal of the early Christian evangelists. One such courageous figure, Saint Paul, throws caution to the wind and stakes everything, including his life, on the Gospel. His fervor knows no bounds as he traverses dangerous lands, driven by an unyielding missionary spirit to proclaim the name of Christ to the farthest reaches of the Earth.

Indeed, the saints, those luminaries who have indelibly shaped the contours of the Christian ethos, stand as towering exemplars of audacity in the face of adversity and pessimism.

Consider the intrepid journey of Saint Francis Xavier, traversing continents to spread the Gospel, forsaking a life of privilege for the service of humanity. Ponder the selfless dedication of Saint Damien of Molokai, whose withered hand bore witness to his unwavering commitment to the afflicted. Think of the radical simplicity of Saint Francis of Assisi, who embraced poverty in

his quest to rebuild the Church. And who can overlook the courageous footsteps of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and her Missionaries of Charity, treading fearlessly into the most perilous corners of the world to offer solace to the suffering?

In the tapestry of Christian history, we find countless examples of individuals who embraced risk as an essential component of their faith journey. Consider the early Desert Fathers and mothers who abandoned the comforts of civilisation to seek God in the solitude of the wilderness. Their radical choice to embrace the uncertainties of the desert landscape reflects a profound trust in Divine Providence and a willingness to confront the unknown. Likewise, the martyrs of the early Church, who faced persecution and death rather than renounce their faith, embody the courageous spirit of adventure that distinguishes authentic discipleship. Their steadfast commitment to Christ in the face

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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	4.30pm

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

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8; James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27; Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

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of mortal danger challenges us to reevaluate our willingness to take risks for the sake of the Gospel.

Moreover, the narrative of risk in the Christian tradition extends beyond individual acts of heroism to encompass collective endeavours that have shaped the course of history. The monastic movement, for example, emerged as a radical response to the decadence and materialism of society, beckoning men and women to forsake worldly security in pursuit of a deeper spiritual reality.

Through their commitment to poverty, chastity and obedience, the monks and nuns of antiquity embraced a lifestyle characterised by profound simplicity and reliance on Divine Providence. Their willingness to embark on this communal adventure of faith not only transformed their own lives but also left an indelible mark on the broader culture, inspiring countless souls to follow in their footsteps and seek God above all else.

As Bishop Robert Barron poignantly remarked in his recent dialogue with D.C. Schindler, "The Christian religion is not primarily about safety. The Crucified Christ's paramount virtue is love, not safety. For the Christian soul, the call to adventure in mission holds primacy".

In the evocative canvas of the recent movie *Cabrini*, the theme of adventure and unwavering trust in the Divine orchestrates a riveting dance, juxtaposed against the backdrop of bureaucratic apprehension. Archbishop Michael Corrigan of New York City emerges as a symbol of caution, a functionary ensnared in the labyrinth of safety protocols and risk mitigation strategies, while the indomitable spirit of Mother Frances Cabrini surges forth, unshackled by fear or timidity. Amid this clash of ideologies, Mother Cabrini's words resonate with

prophetic clarity: "Either we are bold, or we perish".

This spirit of derring-do should propel us to embrace discomfort and occasionally take substantial risks. By stepping outside of our comfort zones and confronting the unknown, we not only expand our horizons but also contribute to the collective advancement of humanity.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said to his followers in the Civil Rights Movement, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase". Whether it means departing from a secure job, relocating to unfamiliar territory, expanding your family and opening your heart to another child, or disrupting a comfortable routine to aid the less fortunate, now is the moment to challenge the status quo and live with courage.

As we journey through Ordinary Time, the Catholic Church is wisely challenging us to rediscover the spirit of risk and adventure that was a hallmark of the earliest Christian apologists and those saints who have changed the world up and down the centuries. The Christian call beckons us to transcend the confines of safety and embark on a daring odyssey of service and evangelisation. For in the crucible of risk and adventure, we discover the true essence of our calling – to boldly proclaim the Gospel, to embrace the unknown with unwavering trust, and to navigate the tumultuous seas of life with the fearlessness befitting heirs of a Crucified King.

Mark Kalpakgian, Journalist



Holy Mary pray for us



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:

Orlando Dyrit; Glenda Geragherty;
David McIntosh.

 If you know anyone in need, please contact Lindsay Poilly, President, Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, on 0437 864 667 or 5459 5234



Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph,
an earthly father.
Bless all fathers as they care
for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
support them in the work
they have to do,
protecting those who look to them,
as we look to you for love and
salvation,
through Jesus Christ our rock
and defender.

Amen