

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ord. Time  
Year B, 15 September, 2024

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



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



Pope John Paul II

## 'Witness to Hope' – 25 years later

My hands were shaky a quarter-century ago as I carried the heavy box from the front door of our house into my study. Inside were my author's copies of 'Witness to Hope', the first volume of my biography of Pope John Paul II, and my mind was racing: Did the editors catch the last corrections I sent?

Steadying myself to open the box without cutting into the beautiful dust covers of a work that had absorbed three years of my life. So, after a prayer of thanks that calmed my nerves, I managed to get the box open without damaging any of its contents.

And there it was. I had kept the promise I made to John Paul II in 1996: that I would finish his biography in time for the Great Jubilee of 2000. It now remained to give the book to its subject.

A Vatican policeman stopped us as another car sped past on the road to the papal villa: It was John Paul II, returning from an evening swim in the pool he had built. (Some had quibbled about its cost; John Paul replied that he had to get some exercise and that a pool cost less than another conclave.)

I had three copies of Witness to Hope with me in a briefcase, one for the Pope and the others for his secretaries. But as I sat down at the dinner table and wondered: What does a biographer say to his subject when giving him his life, so to speak?

I walked around the table, gave the book to the Pope, said something anodyne, like "Well, here it is."

We went through the villa's chapel, and before kneeling at his prie-dieu for prayer, John Paul II drew me into an embrace that lasted at least a minute and a half. No words were spoken between us, but I heard Bishop Dziwisz say quietly to Bishop Ryłko, "Un grande lavoro" (...a great effort), to which Ryłko replied, "Un lavoro d'amore" (A labor of love).

A quarter-century later, the memory of that silent embrace remains. So does my gratitude that Witness to Hope continues to strengthen the faith of Catholics and lead seekers to Christ and his Church.

*Author George Weigel is the distinguished senior fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Centre in Washington.*

## Venerable Fulton Sheen: three attacks of Satan, and three weapons to battle him

The devil wants to convince us to reject the cross. It was the tactic he used against Jesus in the desert and one that Venerable Fulton Sheen (1895-1979) often warned people about. Sheen was not one to dwell on the devil, but he felt it was vitally important for us to recognise his ploys and to shield ourselves against them.

In 1952, Sheen warned that "moving throughout the world at a furious hellish pace is what might be called the force of the demonic, and by 1970 he suggested that we might be in a demonic age." Realising that Sheen never followed through on writing a book on the demonic, Father Tomaszycski dove into the project for his thesis in 2020, gleaning Sheen's teachings from his talks and writings.

*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	4.30pm

### 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

Isaiah 50: 5-9; Saint James 2: 14-18;  
Mark 8: 27-35

*Response:*

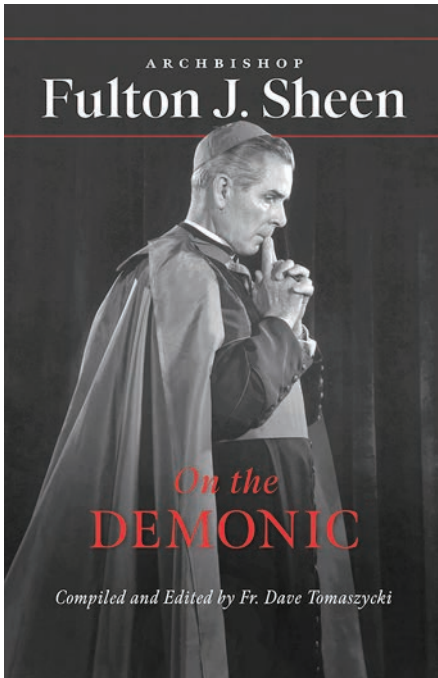
I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the  
cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which  
crucifies the world to me and me  
to the world. Alleluia!

...continued from previous page

"Though most of this material was produced some 50 years ago, one will notice that it resonates with more truth today than at the time of its origin," Father Tomaszycski explained. "Sheen was prophetic, and many of his prophecies have come true."



Book cover of a new book offering never released writings by the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, 'On the Demonic'.

### Three Temptations

Sheen often argued that what the world needs most is holiness, which comes from the cross. In the desert, the devil attempted to lure Christ away from the cross with promises of an easier way. "The essence of the demonic from a biblical point of view is hatred of the cross," he explained, "and the temptations offered three shortcuts from the cross."

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread. Jesus was hungry but also a social reformer, Sheen explained. Turning stones into bread offered a way to give bread to the masses while satisfying his own hunger. "Jesus rejected it as one who says, 'I reject any plan which promises to make men richer without making them holier,'" Sheen said.

A second temptation followed. "Cast Thyself down to earth. For it is written, 'He has given charge to his angels concerning Thee, and they will hold Thee up with their hands, lest through should chance to trip on a stone' (Matthew 4:6)."

Sheen explained that the second temptation was to replace the cross with a display of power. "Our Lord might say, 'You repeat this temptation whenever you admire the wonders of science and forget that I am the Author of the Universe and its science. ... I refuse to perform stunts to win them, for they would not really be won that way. It is only when I am seen on the Cross that I really draw men to Myself; it is by sacrifice and not by marvels that I must make My Appeal.'"

For the third and final temptation, the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and offered to give him command over them if Christ would fall and worship him (Luke 4:5-7).

"It's the temptation of co-existence of good and evil," Sheen revealed. "Find a quicker easier way. The kingdom Satan offered was the world, not the spirit, and to serve the world is slavery. Jesus came to conquer hearts first, then the world follows."

### Weapons Against Satan

It is the cross that saves us, Sheen taught, and yet, even while dying on the cross Jesus was told: "Come down from that cross, if you are the Son of God" (Matthew 27:40). "It's human to come down; it's divine to hang there," Sheen stated. "The demonic, very simply, is the anti-cross, the anti-disciplined life, the anti-Christ."

Father Tomaszycski then quoted Sheen's identification of three powerful weapons against Satan: First, the Holy Name of Jesus, which Satan cannot stand because "at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

Second, the invocation of the Blood of Christ: "We are saved by the Blood of Christ; therefore, in temptation, call upon his Blood, 'for without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin'" (Hebrews 9:22).

Third, devotion to our Blessed Mother: "For at the beginning in the Book of Genesis it was the seed of a woman that would crush the seed of Satan" (Genesis 3:15).

Sheen noted the ebb and flow of the Church, beginning with the Fall of Rome and including Muslim invasions, schisms and corruptions when reformers were needed to breathe life back into the Church. Even in his day, Sheen described a Church that is "rotting and spoiled, lacking zeal, learning, and fire



### 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](mailto:murgon@bne.catholic.net.au)  
24 Angel Avenue, MURGON  
PO Box 60 Murgon 4605

Parish website:  
[murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au](http://murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au)

Safeguarding contacts :  
[safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au)  
[brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding](http://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding)

**We pray for those who are sick:**  
Orlando Dyrit; Glenda Geragherty;  
David McIntosh.

within. The Church is being declared dead."

He warned that our enemy today is the spirit of the world, which pressures us to conform lest we become branded. "We have to go into the world but not to be worldly. There are no fires. We have become broadminded and indifferent. ... Calvary was more endurable than the indifference of our day."

Strong advice that Sheen implored everyone to do was to make a Holy Hour, spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration. The test, ultimately, according to him, is the choice between the spirit and the world. Time spent in adoration strengthens our spirit, leading us to holiness.

"He is training us," Sheen explained. "The only argument left to convince others is holiness. The world has heard every other argument and is ready to reject them all, except holiness." *Patti Maguire Armstrong.*

### Safeguarding

If you have experienced abuse or misconduct, you can ring the help line, 1300 304 550. Information can be shared anonymously.