

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year B, 22 September, 2024

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



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



The Littlest General: Newspaper clipping of Dr Susan Bane at her high school basketball game. (photo: Courtesy of Dr Susan Bane)

Fighting the good fight requires teamwork — and hope

Many days, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by pro-abortion attacks on common sense protections for babies and moms. Thankfully, a recent conversation I had with a priest and a powerful moment in Eucharistic adoration helped me refocus on the larger picture that each of us has a vital role to play in achieving a culture of life. We may feel like the underdogs, but this is the time to out-play those that treat life like a game.

I recently stumbled upon a 1982 newspaper clipping describing a high school basketball game where I, at 5-3, played against a 6-2 All-America center. A picture of me dribbling the basketball titled 'The Littlest General' was included, and the article asked "if there's anything in this world which ruffles her feathers."

As I read those words, I wondered where that girl had gone. My feathers have definitely been ruffled just a few times lately. My work fighting to

ensure women and their preborn children receive exceptional health care has left me feeling like an underdog.

As a certified obstetrician/gynecologist who has devoted the past 25 years to advocating for both my maternal and fetal patients, I have been discouraged to see so many attacks on common-sense protections for babies and moms.

Pro-abortion policies deny basic scientific truth like the existence of the early development of the heart, and the use of the term baby by doctors before delivery. It even misleadingly refers to miscarriage care as abortions.

This effective and harmful misinformation campaign and pro-abortion attacks have lately made me feel as though my own efforts to protect women and children are akin to the painstaking efforts I once made on the basketball court.

Yet while sharing these concerns with a priest recently, I quickly realised that no single person is a 'star' in this battle for life. Indeed, it's not even our battle at all, the priest reminded me. It's His.

As I prayed the 'Litany of Trust' per the priest's instruction, I felt peace and strength return in the knowledge that God is in charge, and that he would reward our noble efforts with victory in the long run.

"From the false security that I have what it takes ... deliver me, Jesus," I prayed, "From anxiety about the future ... deliver me Jesus."

Once again, I remembered how I refused to quit or lose hope despite
continued on next page ...

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

Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20;
Saint James 3: 16-4:3; Mark 9: 30-37

Response:

The Lord upholds my life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

...continued from previous page

the impressive skills and size of my opponents. I felt that Jesus was calling me to reflect on the game, and reminding me to "just keep making assists – that is all I need you to do."

Creating a culture where abortion is unthinkable is in God's hands. He is simply asking all of us to do our part, keep making assists and realise that there are many of us who can put the ball in the basket – say a prayer, have a conversation, stand up for our faith, and vote sacred, not scared.

We may feel like the underdogs, but if we see this time culturally as an opportunity to out-play, out-think, and out-hustle our opponent, it doesn't matter whether we win or lose a particular 'game', because there is another day to keep playing tomorrow.

Susan Bane, MD, PhD, is a board-certified OB/GYN and holds a certificate in theology and health care.

its major hub. Heartbreakingly, an estimated third of the slaves did not survive the harrowing journey from West Africa. Despite papal condemnations of this trade by Pope Paul III, and its denouncement as "supreme villainy" by Pius IX, it sadly thrived.

Saint Peter Claver dedicated himself to continuing the compassionate work of his predecessor, Jesuit Father Alfonso de Sandoval. With a heart full of love, Claver called himself "the slave of the Negroes forever".

Whenever a slave ship anchored in the port, Claver immediately set to work. Venturing into its depths, he ministered to the anguished souls aboard. Once the slaves were forcibly moved from the ships, Claver was there, providing them with food, medicine, and comforting words. Through the use of interpreters, he reminded them of their inherent worth and God's unending love.



Saint Peter Claver

Born in Spain, the young Jesuit Saint Peter Claver journeyed to the New World in 1610, never to return to his homeland. He found himself in the bustling port city of Cartagena, present-day Colombia, where he was ordained in 1615.

By then, the vile transatlantic slave trade had been active for almost a century, with Cartagena being

During his 40-year tenure, it's believed that Claver baptised and educated around 300,000 slaves.

But Claver's efforts were not limited to aiding the enslaved. He preached publicly, reached out to sailors, traders, and even conducted missions in the countryside. Notably, he often chose to stay with slaves during these missions, rather than with their wealthy owners.



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

The last four years of his life were marked by illness, rendering him inactive. Sadly, he was largely overlooked and neglected during this time. He passed away on 8 September, 1654. Though once critical of his advocacy for the slaves, the city's leaders recognised his impact, ensuring he was honored with a grand public funeral.

In 1888, Saint Peter Claver was canonised. Later, Pope Leo XIII named him the patron saint of missionary work for black slaves.

Safeguarding

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