

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twentieth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 16 August, 2020

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



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

An Enigma

In 1999, when the international community responded to the crisis in East Timor a diversity of nations responded; the principle one being Australia. At that stage I had only been out of the army for four years. As I moved around Timor I meet soldiers I had served with and class mates from Duntroon. As a religious and INGO worker I was involved in the humanitarian community.

From the outside I was watching an organisation I had served in for about fifteen years and how the other nations interacted with the people of East Timor. Some nations were welcomed, some not and some were not liked.

A contingent of Jordanians arrived and were not welcome. Their government was harbouring and gave citizenship to one of the key figures involved in human rights abuse and massacres. These soldiers treated the locals with contempt because of their race and that they were Christians. The Filipino soldiers and the Thais had trouble initially. They were sexually predatory and caused scandal in the community. This was solved by moving the Thais out of Dili and bringing in some Catholic chaplains for the Filipinos. The Portuguese came in as colonial masters and the Italians kept their distance from the people, treating them as hostile threats.

MSF (Holland) arrived very early and helped provide medical support to the people. In the transition from InterFET to the UN, the Dutch handed over to the French MSF. During this transition the Dutch

wrote a paper on their experience in ET and this was used to brief the French. In this report was a conundrum. MSF could not work out the Australian soldiers in ET. In their many deployments over the years they could not work out the Aussie diggers.

Their experience with the military was of distrust and disgust. They had witnessed abuse by the military and the violation of human rights. As such MSF will not work with the military or collaborate with their mission in humanitarian crises. The Australians were beyond their experience or imagination.

As an organisation the ADF was initiating and sponsoring rebuilding programmes. Across the nation diggers were building and repairing clinics and schools. When off duty they were voluntarily doing community support projects. It seemed where ever there were Australians community projects were thriving. They were also running sporting activities and outreach. Many orphanages were receiving food from the military kitchens and stores. There was an energy of engagement. Not just as a calculated "winning of the hearts and minds", but an expression of the heart.

MSF complained in their report that the Australian Army had more resources than the NGOs. These were being used in remote areas to run medical clinics. The soldiers were doing this in their own time and off their own initiative. Such compassion and solidarity was not how the military was supposed to work.

This basic humanity and connection spoke deeply to the people in ET and to the NGOs. It spoke volumes of the Australian culture ethos and values. This dislocation of expectation bewildered MSF. What it did was to show the deep shared value of our human condition and Christian love in action. Too often we place labels on people and judge them before we know them. In today's Gospel Jesus moves beyond stereo types to see the woman and not the Canaanite.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Masses 19 to 23 August

Wondai, Wednesday, 5.30pm

Murgon, Thursday, 5.30pm

Castra, Friday, 9.00am

Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Murgon, Saturday, 5.00pm

Wondai, Sunday, 8.00am

Cherbourg, Sunday, 10.00am

Today's readings

Isaiah 56:1.6-7; Romans 11:13-15.29-32;
Matthew 15:21-28

Response:

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Next week: Isaiah 22:19-23;
Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

All Nations – Update

Time moves forward and is fluid in nature. That said we have some **changes for the All Nations Mass**. Because of the pandemic, we cannot have a shared meal in the hall. Instead we will have a morning tea and observe the required social distancing norms. Please bring a plate to share.

The nature and make up of our parish keeps changing and evolving. As such there is not the linguistic diversity that we once had in the parish. As such all the prayers and readings will be in English (sub-titles for Queenslanders may be necessary). The readers will be invited from the different cultural backgrounds.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ



Saint Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga – 18th August

He was born Luis Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga on 22 January, 1901 in Viña del Mar, Chile, popularly known in Chile as Padre Hurtado. He was a Chilean Jesuit priest, lawyer, social worker, and writer, of Basque ancestry. He founded the Hogar de Cristo foundation in 1944. He was canonised on October 23, 2005, by Pope Benedict XVI, becoming his country's second saint.

In 1940, Hurtado was appointed diocesan director of the Catholic Action youth movement. Also in 1941, Hurtado authored *Is Chile a Catholic Country?* The book published statistics demonstrating a lack of priests assigned to the working class and rural populations, and it reported on parishes that had one priest assigned to 10,000 lay people spread across huge geographic areas. He advocated an increase in the number of priests and better education for them. Almost half of Chile's clergy were foreigners,

including missionaries from the United States and Canada, who rode circuits of towns to administer the sacraments. Most Chileans regarded devotion to the Virgin and the saints as more important than attending Mass or receiving the Eucharist, which they could not do regularly.

In the book Hurtado published the results of a 1939 survey of Chilean religious practices and reported that only 9% of Chilean women and 3.5% of Chilean men regularly attended Mass. The book was heavily criticised by more conservative Catholics, who accused Hurtado of being a Communist.

Keeping in mind his own origins, and ever grateful for the help he and his family had received when they were in great difficulties, Hurtado was led to active social involvement. His strong faith was transformed into action with his founding of an organisation similar to 'Boys Town' in the United States. His shelters, called Hogar de Cristo (Home of Christ), took in all children in need of food and shelter, abandoned or not. He also purchased a 1946 green pickup truck and monitored the streets at night to help those in need that he could reach. His own charisma brought him many collaborators and benefactors. The movement was a huge success. The shelters multiplied throughout Chile and it is estimated that between 1945 and 1951 more than 850,000 children received some help from the movement.

In 1947, Hurtado entered the labour movement. Inspired by the social teaching of the Church he founded the Chilean Trade Union Association, meant to train leaders and instil Christian values in the labour unions. He wrote three books: *Social Humanism* (1947), *The Christian Social Order* (1947) and *Trade Unions* (1950). He published numerous articles and books on labour issues in relation to the Catholic faith. Deeply spiritual, Hurtado was untiring in his work for the workers and the youth combining intellectual reflection and practical actions. Ever optimistic and joyful he had also an attractive personality that brought many people to Christ and the Church, young and old, intellectuals and manual workers.

In 1952, Hurtado was stricken with intense pain and rushed to hospital. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Day after day the media kept the country informed of Hurtado's state of health. Before his death he had become a national hero. After a brief battle with the illness, he died in Santiago.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Sr Carmel, 3
Shonae Walker, 5
Aiden Shailer, 7
Beryl Sempf, 8
Peter Hoult, 11
Rita Pratt, 11
Bridie Prendergast, 12
Scott Prendergast, 19
Lori Hayden, 21
Brian Hodson, 25
Leann Burgess, 27
John Walker, 28
Keeley Walker, 31

Wedding Anniversaries

Edward and Lucia Anning, 5
Kevin and Cecily Fry, 7
Lyn and Peter Schuh, 31

Death Anniversaries

Sister Vianney, 5
Estelle Veronica Bray (Naomi Gormly Sister), 8
Tony Elliott, 8
Margaret Burns, 8
Mary D'Arcy, 10
Tom Burns, 16
Verna Heidemann, 24
Kathleen Sarroff, 28
Dan D'Arcy, 29
Christopher Thompson, 30
Olive Cranitch, 31
Tom Kemp, 31

We pray for those who are sick:

Cathy Carter; Fr Joe McGeehan;
Dianne Pour; Earl Pratt; Lee Seargent
and Paul Stanton.

Collection for 9/8/2020

Loose..... \$467.00
Planned Giving..... \$441.10
Total..... \$908.10