

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-First Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 23 August, 2020

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



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

Upon this Rock

There is a small town in the Gilbert Valley called Port Stockton. By the name you would expect the town to be by the sea or on a mighty river, but no it is inland and on a small stream. This was the old dray road from the Burra mines to Adelaide. The sign on the road once read (19th Century) – Stockton Port (ie turn left to Stockton).

Like many country Australian areas it is picturesque. There are rolling hills and copse of river gums. The farmland is for pulse and wheat, with a very rich and deep topsoil. While I was in the parish we had a man from Adelaide who bought a beautiful piece of land outside of the town. He was a wealthy city dweller and wanted to build a country retreat. So after buying the land he submitted plans to build a house. The council rejected the plan because the land was a flood plain. So he appealed and failed. He appealed higher and failed. This continued through the courts. Eventually an appellate judge in the city granted the building permit. So the house was built. Six months later we had heavy rains and the house was destroyed in flood waters. The man claimed insurance and because he had a permit he was compensated. The insurance premiums sky rocketed for the whole district. The man did not rebuild.

From the earliest times people have known that we can only build on a firm foundation. That the strength on which a house is built will determine whether it can survive the trail of weather and time. Either we look for nature's support or dig foundations.

This understanding has crept into our language. In English we speak about the substance of a person. Literally, what stand beneath (our foundation).

As it is with our character it is also true of our faith. We must look to our foundation. What lies beneath the person who professes Christian faith? Are they imbued with Christian virtues? Like Christ are we humble, honest and compassionate? Even though we are flawed with human weakness, do we seek perfection and love? God calls us not in our strength but in the fragility of our humanity.

If our foundation, the substance of our life, is God and our personal relationship with Jesus then when storms arise and age condemns we can stand firm in our integrity and faith.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ



"You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Today's Mass

Peter's confession of faith in Jesus draws forth Jesus' confession of faith in Peter, and the choice of him as the firm rock on which to build his Church. We know from the gospels of Peter's human weakness, yet he is Jesus' choice. We know from history up to the present day the human weakness of the Church in its members – you and I. Yet Jesus' promise remains.

Masses 26 August to 6 September

Wondai, Wednesday, 5.30pm

Murgon, Thursday, 5.30pm

Castra, Friday, 9.00am

Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Wondai, Saturday, 5.00pm

Mass of All Nations:

Murgon, Sunday, 10.00am –
please bring a plate to share for
morning tea, after Mass.

No Mass at Goomeri

Today's readings

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

Response:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not
forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock
on which I will build my Church the
gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Next week: Jeremiah 20:7-9;
Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

Saint Rose of Lima

Patron of South America and the Philippines. She was a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic in Lima, Peru, who became known for both her life of severe asceticism and her care of the needy of the city through her own private efforts. A lay member of the Dominican Order, she was declared a saint by the Catholic Church, being the first person born in the Americas to be canonised as such.

Historians remember Saint Rose of Lima for her piety and chastity. Born in 1586 in Lima, Peru to Spanish colonists, and named Isabel Flores de Olivia, she was exceptionally beautiful. Her beauty was so great that she was nicknamed 'Rose', a name that remains with her to this day. According to legend, a servant had a vision where her face turned into a rose. At her confirmation in 1597, she officially took the name of Rose.

From an early age, Rose wanted to become a nun. She often prayed and fasted in secret. She performed secret penances, some of which were painful and severe. She performed daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and took daily communion. As a young woman, her beauty began to attract suitors. To deter these men, Saint Rose marred her face, rubbing it with pepper to make it blister. She cropped her hair short.

Her parents opposed her plan to take a vow of chastity. This resulted in a clash of wills, because her parents wanted her to marry. Her father eventually relented and gave her a room to herself.

Saint Rose kept herself cloistered in her room, spending long periods in prayer. It was said she slept only two hours per night so as to have more time for prayer. She quit eating meat altogether, an extreme dietary restriction for that time.

When she turned 20, she was permitted to join the Third Order of Saint Dominic. She continued a life of extreme prayer, fasting and penance.

Saint Rose died on August 25, 1617, at the age of 31. According to legend, she accurately predicted the date of her death. Her funeral was a major event attended by all the city's authorities. Pope Clement IX beatified her in 1667 and Pope Clement X recognised her as a saint, canonising her in 1671. Her feast day is August 23 around the world, although some countries, like Peru, celebrate her on August 30.



Saint Rose is the patroness of embroiderers, gardeners, florists, those who suffer ridicule for their piety, and people who suffer family problems.

You are a happy man!

(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)

Echoes from the Past

Joy is above all the fruit of having come face to face with a universal and enduring reality to which one can refer and as it were attach those fragmentary moments of happiness that, being successive and fugitive, excite the heart without satisfying it. The mystic suffers more than others from the tendency of created things to crumble into dust: instinctively and obstinately he searches for the stable, the unfailing, the absolute...

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)



Holy Mary
pray for us



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 Sargent
and Paul Stanton.

Collection for 16/8/2020

Loose..... \$270.00
Planned Giving..... \$1,118.10
Total..... \$1,388.10