

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Eighteenth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 2 August, 2020

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



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

There is No Need

We all have our pet hates. One of mine is the term 'only'. There is a tendency to use this word to diminish what we do and accomplish. Sometimes this is an act of humility and that is fine eg. "That's a great cake!" "I only used a few things in the cupboard."). In this case we are trying to divert attention from our accomplishment rather than sound boastful. But we also used the phrase to excuse what we think is a lesser choice, when this is not really true.

The time this phrase most irritates me is after someone dies and I am with the family helping them memorialise their loved one. The family decides that they will not have the funeral inside of a Mass. That is an acceptable choice and there is nothing wrong with it. It is one of the options which the Church offers. The family might be of mixed faith or practice of their faith and there is a desire not to alienate or embarrass mourners who are not Catholic or cannot receive Communion. Sometimes the family will say we just say prayers. This is often said in an embarrassed way which they feel is shameful or be seen as not truly celebrating the person who has died.

NO. It is not just prayers. It is a funeral rather than a requiem Mass. It is a funeral... not "only a funeral." This theme permeates our lives. In our insecurity we limit ourselves and restrict what we do. A key message from Jesus is trust. We need to trust in God and in ourselves.

Today's Gospel is a feeding story. Jesus asks the disciples to feed a

crowd. They have little and are uncertain. But Jesus encourages them to use the gifts they have and so the small quantity they have is enhanced by Jesus and the five thousand are fed. Jesus does not call down manna from Heaven, but instead uses the gifts of those whom he loves. He then amplifies their gifts and they achieve something they never thought was possible.

In this world we are the hands of God. Each little thing we do is part of the greater work to bring forward the Kingdom of God. It is each of us giving and doing what we can that allows God to reach out to our brothers and sisters to create a future which inspires and lifts up all of us. "Trust in God, and trust in Me."

All Nations Sunday

This year we have five Sundays in August. So Sunday 30th August will be All Nations Sunday. On that day we will celebrate the diversity and richness of the many cultures that make up Australian society.

Mass will be in Murgon at 10.00am, followed by a shared lunch. Please bring a plate. Lash out and use your imagination. Try and bring a dish which reflects the culture from which you come. NB. Please maintain the limit of one haggis. Care flights are limited.

The lunch will be set up so as to maintain our health standards to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Masses 5 to 9 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

Durong, Sunday, 10.30am

Today's Mass

Jesus is saddened at John the Baptist's death and feels the need to be alone. When the people catch up with him, he does not send them away but heals them. His compassionate love reaches out to others and he provides a meal for them from five loaves and two fish. Jesus can do great things with us too, if we give the little we have.

Today's readings

Isaiah 55:1-3; Romans 8:35.37-39;
Matthew 14:13-21

Response:

The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Next week: 1Kings 19:9.11-13;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Saint Peter Faber (Favre) – 2 August

Saint Peter Faber, a master of the Spiritual Exercises, was the first of Saint Ignatius Loyola's six companions. He was born on 13 April, 1506, in the village of Villaret, Savoy. As a youth he shepherded his father's flock on the high pastures of the Alps and had no other education than what one receives at home. He was endowed, however, with an extraordinary memory; he could hear a sermon in the morning and then repeat it verbatim in the afternoon for his friends. He longed to go to school, but his family was too poor, and years later he wrote in his Memorial that in his sadness at not being able to study, he wept himself to sleep every night.

Peter's parents heard his weeping and finally acquiesced to his wishes and sent him in 1516 to a small school operated by the parish priest seven miles away. The 10 year old quickly learned to read and write and the following year went to La Roche, a dozen miles away, where he remained until he went to the University of Paris in 1525.

Peter Faber and Ignatius met in Paris, where Faber had come to study after life as a shepherd on the mountains of Savoy. Peter Faber was the first of the companions to be ordained.

Peter Faber had a gentle spirit and a tendency to be very hard on himself. Ignatius proved to be the perfect mentor for him, and Faber eventually became the master of the Spiritual Exercises. While hard on himself, Faber was gentle with others and became a gifted pastor of souls, winning others for Jesus.

Faber was sent to Germany in 1541, where he found the state of the Church in such disarray that it left his heart "tormented by a steady and intolerable pain". He worked for the renewal of the Church one person at a time, leading many in the Spiritual Exercises. Princes, prelates, and priests would especially find Peter Faber a gentle source of instruction and guidance leading to renewal.

Between 1544 and 1546, Peter Faber tirelessly continued his work in Portugal and Spain. Throughout all of his mission years in Germany, Spain, and Portugal, Faber travelled on foot. His final journey in 1546 was to Rome where, exhausted from his labours, he died in Saint Ignatius's arms at the age of 40.

Pope Francis announced the canonization of Peter Faber on December 17, 2013.

*Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you revealed yourself to Peter Faber,
your humble servant, in prayer and in
the service of his neighbour. Grant that
we may find you and love you in everything
and in every person. We ask this through
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

(by Joseph N. Tylenda, SJ)

Parish Sacramental Programme

As Catholics we are a sacramental people. We are comforted in the fact that God travels through our lives with us and we are empowered by God. In the seven sacraments of the Church God gives us food for the journey. In these sacraments we believe that God manifests the Divine love in our lives.

The sacraments are not just ticks in life's journey. They are deep and meaningful. In our human fragility they sustain us. They are Christ's rich gift to us. As such they should not be partaken of without the lived reality of Christian life. Therefore, we must prepare before we receive the sacraments.

If we are ready to prepare for a sacrament please speak with me and we will share in the preparation for the sacrament. The sacraments only have meaning in the context of faith. Therefore, if you wish to receive a sacrament for the first time or receive Confirmation, I expect that you and the person receiving the sacrament is a practicing, worshipping member of our parish.

Some parishes ask those who wish to receive a sacrament to attend five Masses and have a card signed by the parish priest at each of those masses. This will not be the case in our parish. Before receiving a sacrament I would expect the person who wishes to receive the sacrament to attend Mass regularly for twelve months. To attend Mass for a few months before the sacrament and then to never attend again until the next sacrament is disrespectful and does not show reverence for what is being given by God.



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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
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 26/7/2020

Loose..... \$330.00
Planned Giving..... \$313.60
Total..... \$643.60