

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 30 August, 2020

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



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

One and Many

Today we celebrate the diversity of backgrounds and gifts we share as family. The parish is the home for the family of God in our district. Sharing in our baptism and adoption as the children of God we are one family from many backgrounds. Regardless of gender, age or ethnicity we share in the family of God by the blood of the Lamb.

I grew up in the post baby boomer period of the 1960's. Our parish school reflected the diversity of Australian society as a result of the massive post-war immigration. The bedrock of the faith was Irish stock. All three priests in the parish were of Irish blood and the parish priest was right off the boat from Ireland. Many of my class mates were descended from the Irish. They were easy to pick as the descendants of convicts they could not be trusted and barracked for Collingwood. We also had a large population of Italians and Greeks. The last of the large ethnic groups were the Dutch. Then there were those from the UK and then the rest of us. As a son of a Latvian I was the only person in my class with northern European ancestry – my father had escaped the Communists at the end of the war and immigrated to Australia.

As a mixed group of kids we experienced no ethnic based barriers. No one really cared who your parents were or where they came from. We accepted each other as part of our shared experience of school life. We went to school together. We played after school together. On weekends we played sport together and on Sundays we

went to Mass together. This was all a given. The only barrier that was apparent was during the footy season when we religiously followed our team.

As the children of the parish the teachers showed love and a keen interest in our welfare. The bond between teacher and student was a wonderful gift that we took for granted. We shared our school life and our faith. With a heavy immigrant parentage, our parent treasured education and were grateful to the school and teachers. If we got into trouble at school we were embarrassed, but when we got home it was trouble. Our parents trusted the teachers and supported them. There was no question about who was in the wrong.

The school and the parish were one, both physically and in reality. My parents we always involved in the school. From working bees, to chaperones on field trips to the tuck shop. The largest event each year was the fete. It was huge and it raised the money to support a parish school which received little from the government.

As children we really saw no difference between us. We were all Australians. The first time I remember getting into a fight was with the kids from the local state school. They started picking on a mate in my class because he was Asian. Ronald and his brother were the only Asians in our school and the only family in our suburb. They were picking on him and saying he was not Australian. I stepped forward and said that he was that he was born on Australia

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Masses 2 to 6 September

Wondai, Wednesday, 5.30pm

Murgon, Thursday, 5.30pm

Castra, Friday, 9.00am

Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Wondai, Saturday, 5.00pm

Murgon, Sunday, 8.00am

Goomeri, Sunday, 10.00

Feast Days coming up:

September, Thursday 3

Saint Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

Today's Mass

When Peter tries to deter Jesus from the path leading to his suffering and death, he is rebuked severely. To follow Jesus is to experience the cross, but also resurrection. We can support each other on this journey through life by sharing deep values of the heart, and helping those in need. Our meeting with Jesus at the end of time is certain, and he will reward us.

Today's readings

Next week: Jeremiah 20:7-9;

Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

Response:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we may see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Next week: Ezekiel 33:7-9;

Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

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Day. The colour of his skin just didn't register in my mind. He was just Ronald. What did register was when the fists started to fly, he ran away leaving the fight with me and three boys who were bigger than me.

Growing up in this environment was a gift. I experienced the diversity of our church in the faces, foods and language around me. Being Australian was not a matter of citizenship, race or language, but being with and accepting each other. It was an experience that has stayed with me and enriched the life I live.

As a parish, today we celebrate the rich diversity of God's family. From the Indigenous who came 40,000 years ago, to a family who came from the Philippines last year. When we join together we celebrate our diversity but more importantly we celebrate our shared faith as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Martyrs for the Name of Jesus – 2 September

This feast was called in the past 'Martyrs of Europe'. This feast combines the feast of those who died for their faith as Christian. These deaths were at the hands of people who were hostile to faith or Christianity. This is different from those who died from Christian disunity (ie martyred for their Catholic faith by Protestants).

The first group of these martyrs were those murdered during the French Revolution and then the Reign of Terror. It includes those who refused to sign an oath in support of the Civil Constitution of the clergy passed by the National Constituent Assembly. This was a Masonic inspired suppression of the Faith. Clergy became civil servants and had to preach any propaganda politicians thought necessary to support their government.



During this time the names of the months were renamed and all religious celebrations suspended. Clergy who refused were imprisoned in a floating gaol and executed at the whim of local Masonic leaders in the government. During the Reign of Terror executions became arbitrary without trial or any due process. It reflected the penal laws in England where priest could be tortured to death and lay Catholics imprisoned and their families impoverished.

The second group of these martyrs were the Catholic Slaughter during the Spain Civil War. The Republicans supported by the Communist International suppressed any expression of faith and murdered priests and religious. Initially priests and religious were expelled and church property confiscated. As the war continued and the Communists began to be pushed back, murder became the norm.

"O God, who in your holy Martyrs have wonderfully made known the mystery of the Cross, graciously grant that, drawing strength from this sacrifice, we may cling faithfully to Christ and labour in the Church for the salvation of all."

We pray for those who are sick:

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

Recently deceased:

Fr Joe McGeehan

Collection for 23/8/2020

Loose..... \$217.40
Planned Giving..... \$387.00
Total..... \$604.40



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Keeley Walker, 31

Wedding Anniversaries

Lyn and Peter Schuh, 31

Death Anniversaries

Christopher Thompson, 30
Olive Cranitch, 31
Tom Kemp, 31

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Teagan O'Sullivan, 2
Jim Mooney, 2
Paul Pratt, 8
Lynn Manthey, 9
Nora Reilly, 14
Jessica Shailer, 20
Nancy Rossow, 26
Terry Leyland, 26
Peggy Quinn, 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Nev and Marcia Hunt, 4
Col and Val Elliott, 5
Norm and Joan Walker, 8

Death Anniversaries

Carol O'Sullivan, 2
Damian Palmer, 6
Jim Manthey, 11
Stephen Elliott, 12

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary to be published in the parish newsletter please enter the details into the birthday/anniversary books in Murgon or Wondai Churches, or contact the parish office.