

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Nineteenth Sunday in Ord. Time  
Year A, 9 Auust, 2020

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



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

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I was in a meeting this week and those present proclaimed doom and troubled times. A comment was made that the situation facing the world and Christians is worse than any time in history. Without delving into history and pointing out devastating war, disasters and pestilence let us look at the troubled waters in which we are sailing.

Our society is grappling with COVID-19 and the fact that some of our normal routine tasks have to be put on hold. During this time we are more accountable for our actions than we normally are in Australia. But is this really as debilitating as we are focused on?

When I woke up this morning I turned on the light, went and had a hot shower. Then as the jug boiled I read the news online. The greatest decision I had to make was toast or a third cup of coffee. Even if we were in a stage-four lockdown, my choices would probably be the same. Perhaps the greatest threat would be to the straw supply. Can I drink a coffee through a straw if I am wearing a face mask? Or do I hold my breath, remove the mask, drink the coffee and then re-mask?

I know I am being flippant. Some people are suffering loneliness, isolation and depression. Anxiety level are elevated and the walls are moving for some people. But how bad do we have it?

Thousands are dying each day in some countries from COVID-19. The people I lived with in Darfur will still not have water to drink. The people in Adjumani refugee camp will still not have electricity or enough food. Children will still be

deprived of an education in South Sudan. The Sudanese military are 'disappearing' Christians without anyone in the world caring.

Life for us has changed and we feel more isolated. So what are we doing about it? I am not speaking about telephoning someone who could be isolated or emailing a joke. Are we praying? Really praying? Since the crisis has hit have you taken this to God? How has your prayer life increased?

As Christians there is two ways in which we should be responding. The first is corporal works of mercy. How are we reaching out to our brothers and sisters? Visiting the lonely and speaking to those alone on the phone. Do we take a meal so that others can see us? There are many things we can do that can lift others up. Simple things that mean so much to others.

The second action we must be more attentive to is prayer. During this crisis our spiritual life needs to increase not remain stagnant or be diminished. We need to pray more. Prayer is the active engagement of God. As we see those in need we need to lift them up to God in prayer. Each of us will do so according to our spirituality. Some might say an extra rosary, while other may put another prayer time into their daily life with God.

As we lift up others and speak with God, we should also be thanking God. Thanking God for the graces offered to us. We have water and electricity. We have health care and food. So far few have died of the virus in our community.

In thanking God for our blessings

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## Feast of the Assumption

This Saturday is the feast of the Assumption – 15 August. This makes it difficult for us to celebrate as we have a Saturday morning (Sunday) Mass and a Saturday evening (vigil) Mass. Attendance at these Mass is for Sunday and cannot be for the Feast – Sunday always takes precedence. Therefore, the Feast of the Assumption will be celebrated as a Friday night vigil Mass.

**Our parish Mass for the Assumption will be at 5.30pm at Saint John the Baptist, Wondai on 14 August.**

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## Masses 12 to 16 August

Wondai, Wednesday, 5.30pm

Murgon, Thursday, 5.30pm

Castra, Friday, 9.00am

Wondai, Friday, **Vigil, The**

**Assumption:** 4.30pm Exposition;

5.15pm Benediction; 5.30pm Mass

Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Wondai, Saturday, 5.00pm

Murgon, Sunday, 8.00am

Goomeri, Sunday, 10.00am

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## Today's readings

1Kings 19:9.11-13; Romans 9:1-5;

Matthew 14:22-33

*Response:*

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Next week: Isaiah 56:1.6-7;

Romans 11:13-15.29-32;

Matthew 15:21-28

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and petitioning for our needs we can look realistically at this pandemic and see that the Grace of God will guide us through this crisis.

## All Nations Sunday

This year we have five Sundays in August. So **Sunday 30 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**

## 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.

## Feast of the Assumption

In celebrating the Feast of the Assumption, the Church recalls how Mary's life on earth ended. However the gospel story that is put before us is that of the visitation – the wonderful encounter between two women pregnant with salvation. Both women conceived in unusual circumstances, both are humble people who are willing instruments of God's great plan for the world. Mary greets Elizabeth and, as soon as Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting her child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and makes the prophetic announcement to Mary that we remember every time we pray the Hail Mary "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:42)

This doctrine for those with faith, those who do not restrict their notion of the real to that which is perceptible to the senses or exists in space and time developed into the dogma of the Assumption which was proclaimed in November 1950.

The question of making this doctrine into part of the deposit of faith was initiated in May 1946 when the then Pope Pius XII addressed a letter to the Bishops of the world asking: "Do you, venerable brethren, in your outstanding wisdom and prudence, judge that the bodily assumption of the Blessed Virgin can be proposed and defined as a dogma of faith? Do you with your clergy and people, desire that it should be?"

In his 1980 thesis PJ Cullinane examined the relationship between the lived experience of the faith and the way in which that faith comes to be perceived and formulated in dogma. As part of this, one of his conclusions was that some Christians believe Mary is assumed into heaven while others do not. He suggests we need to engage in a way of living and sharing our Christian faith that can carry us forward to a fuller measure of common understanding.

This Feast Day is a time to pray for our country – that the mother of the one who embraces all people without distinction, might help all of us.



## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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Parish website:

[murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au](http://murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au)

## 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 2/8/2020

Loose..... \$283.00

Planned Giving..... \$468.75

Total..... \$751.75