

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year B, 20 December, 2020

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



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

Another Year

As we come to the close of another year, I wish to thank you all for your support throughout the year. We are not a big parish, but we are very friendly. Michael recently experienced this during his placement with us. So many of you do so much to keep us running and ensure our parish survives. I will thank those committed to each community when I celebrate Mass with you this week.

Let me thank the Pastoral Committee and the Finance Committee. The members of these committees give voice to you and help guide me in the decisions I need to make for parish – thank you.

We have members of the parish who commit to coming to the office each week to count and bank the collection. This is an invisible ministry, in that only I see them. Thank you Brian and Cecile for your dedication to our parish.

The other person who keeps the parish ticking is Kathy Thompson. Her advice and experience in the parish has helped me to both understand and do what I need to do in time. Thank you Kathy for all that you do in the office.

Then there is another Kathy – Kathy Julian. It is Kathy who puts together all my disparate thoughts and edits the weekly bulletin. Thank you for your dedication and getting the bulletin set even if I give only short notice.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

A Big Thank You

Hello again everyone!

How quickly is the time flying by? I have been staying in your parish for four weeks. That means I am going to finish my pastoral placement very soon. To be honest, it is really lovely for me to be a part of your parish during this month. It has been a wonderful month and unforgottably memorable in my vocation journey. I have learnt a lot of things from Fr Bryan as well as from each one of you. I believe that those experiences will help me a lot in my future.

This is a good opportunity for me to say "A BIG THANK YOU" from the bottom of my heart to everyone for the warm welcome, helping me in different ways during my time here. Thanks for your hospitality and generosity. I have experienced the life on the farm, at the cattle market, with the Men's shed group, having meals at Parishioners homes, and visiting some places around the area – those things have given me an idea about the life in the country parish. So, thank you all a lot. I am going to miss you all.

Please keep me and all the seminarians in your prayers as we continue our vocation journey. We will keep you all in our prayers.

Last but not least, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you. May God always accompany and bless you all in the new year of 2021 as well as in the journey of faith.

Bye now,

Michael My Van Tran

Christmas Break

The parish office will close from **21 December 2020 – 5 January 2021**. I will be around during this time if you need me; so just call.

From Wednesday, 23 December to Monday, 11 January the Sunday Masses will be as normal, but there will be **no weekday Masses**. The first weekday Mass for the year will be in Gayndah. You are most welcome to join me.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve (Thursday 24 Dec)	Durong, 4.00pm Wondai, 6.00pm Goomeri, 7.00pm Murgon, midnight
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Christmas Day (Friday 25 Dec)	Proston, 9.00am Murgon, 9.00am
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Boxing Day	No Masses
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27 December (Sunday)	Wondai, 8.00am Murgon, 10.00am Goomeri, 6.00pm
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Today's readings

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Response:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3;
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;
Luke 2:22-40





Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi (Filipino for 'Night Mass') is a devotional nine-day series of Masses – a Christmas novena. The Simbáng Gabi Masses in the Philippines are held daily from December 16-24 and occur at different times ranging from as early as 3.00am to 5.00am. On the last day of the Simbang Gabi, which is Christmas Eve, the service is instead called Misa de Gallo (Spanish for 'Rooster's Mass').

All are welcome and encouraged to celebrate with us. Our Simbang Gabi will begin on **16 December at 6.00am** in Saint Joseph's Murgon. The timing is for safety; we don't want to invite the local kangaroos. After Mass we will have a shared breakfast.

Mass Timings for 2021

After our two-month experiment, feedback from the parish and discussion with the Pastoral Council, the Mass timings for 2021 are as follows:

Tuesdays	Gayndah, Noon
Wednesdays	Wondai, 5.00pm
Thursdays	Murgon, 5.00pm
Fridays	Castra, 9.00am
Saturdays	Proston, 9.00am Wondai, 5.00pm
Sundays	Murgon, 8.00am Goomeri, 6.00pm
4th Sundays	Cherbourg, 10.00am
2nd and 3rd Sundays	Durong, 10.30am

Saint John of Kenty – 23rd December

The people of Olkusz in Bohemia in 1431 had every reason to be suspicious of their new pastor. They knew what a Cracow professor would think of their small rural town. But even more insulting, their town was once again being used as a dumping ground for a priest who was "in disgrace."

John had indeed been kicked out of his university position – unjustly.

Rivals who resented John's popularity with the students had cooked up a false charge against him. John was not even allowed to appear at his own hearing or testify in his own defense. So at age 41, he was shipped off to be an apprentice pastor.

Certainly no one would have blamed John if he was furious at such injustice. However, he was determined that his new parishioners would not suffer because of what he happened to him.

But there was no overnight miracle waiting for him in Olkusz. He was nervous and afraid of his new responsibilities. And, despite the energy he put into his new job, the parishioners remained hostile. But John's plan was very simple, and came not from the mind but from the heart. He let his genuine interest and concern for these people show in everything he did. Despite working for years without any sign of success, he was very careful not to demonstrate impatience or anger. He knew that people could never be bullied into love, so he gave them what he hoped they would find in themselves.

After eight years, he was exonerated and transferred back to Cracow. He had been so successful that these once-hostile people followed him several miles down the road, begging him to stay.

For the rest of his life, he was professor of sacred Scripture at the university. He was so well-liked that he was often invited to dinner with nobility. Once, he was turned away at the door by a servant who thought John's cassock was too frayed. John didn't argue but went home, changed into a new cassock, and returned. During the meal, a servant spilled a dish on John's new clothes. "No matter," he joked. "My clothes deserve some dinner, too. If it hadn't been for them I wouldn't be here at all."

Once John was sitting down to dinner when he saw a beggar walk by outside. He jumped up immediately, ran out, and gave the beggar the food in his bowl. He asked no questions, made no demands. He just saw someone in need and helped with what he had.

John taught his students this philosophy again and again, "Fight all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause."

Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Rosemary Braithwaite, 21
Judith McGreevy, 22
Earl Pratt, 23
Helen Leyland, 24
Br Mick Hanley, 26
Shirley Hickey, 27
Joan Cooley, 28
Nell Guteridge, 29
Ronan Sullivan, 29

Death Anniversaries

James English, 24
Jim English, 24
Nora Reilly, 25
Anne Duff, 30

Collection for 13/12/2020

Loose..... \$246.00
Planned Giving..... \$372.15
Total..... \$618.15

We pray for those who are sick:

Cathy Carter; Gaye Hobbs;
Dianne Pour; Earl Pratt; Lee Seargent.

In His Footsteps:

John put all his effort into a new and frightening job, that others might have considered beneath him. Today do something you have never done before or do something in a new way, perhaps something that has frightened you or you felt was beneath you. This can be something as simple as trying a different type of prayer or as complex as serving others in a new way.