

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

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



Second Sunday of Advent
Year B, 6 December, 2020

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

Make Straight the Way of the Lord

As a sapper (army engineer) we had a task to build a bridge over the Shoalwater River. A simple task for engineers. Firstly, we had to build a track to the river and then build supports before constructing the bridge. The area in which we were to build the bridge was in a swamp and the Shoalwater has the largest tides in Australia. I forgot to write the moon was to be full for the night tactical crossing so the tide would be high, and there was a super tide for the nights of the crossing.

Our first task was to build the road, but because it was in a swamp we could not build directly on the ground – as it would sink. So we created a corduroy road. This meant lining the ground with a layer of logs. Then place soil. Then a second layer of logs as the road way.

As you can imagine building a five kilometre road with this number of logs would first require the harvesting of logs. For two weeks we cleared kilometres of trees. Some were chained sawed, but lacking enough chainsaws (go figure – it was the army), it was the trusty old axe. My hands have never been so callused or hard as two weeks of logging with an axe. But I now know the art of axe sharpening with files and retempering in a fire.

Once we completed the track we then had to build the banks to support the bridge. It was something out of Monty Python. We built the bank. It washed away. We built the bank. It washed away. We built it a third time – it stood (for four nights, then washed away).

Now was the key task the bridge. There were many tactical considerations and the ability to camouflage it from air observation. The build was innovative and brilliant. The engineering officers excelled in the design and construction material. It had never been built like that before, or probably since. For the three nights of the crossing thousands of vehicles, tanks, armoured vehicles and over six thousand troops crossed the bridge. Several hours after the night

crossings were completed the super tide washed away the banks and the bridge sunk into the mud.

When John the Baptist was tasked to make straight the road for the Lord, it was not a simple as the instruction given. Life is never straightforward, fair or understanding. But when we set our minds to a task there is nothing we cannot achieve. With our eyes set on the mission to complete with the help of God we can prepare our community, country and world for the coming of Christ.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

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.

Columban Calendars

Advice about the availability of the Columban Calendars has come late so if you want one, please fill out the form in the church. You have one week. The cost is \$15.00 each.

COVID-19

Whilst the COVID threat has decreased the threat from the State government is still real. You **MUST** sign in when you come into the church. If you do not we can be heavily fined and that church may be closed. Parishes in Brisbane have been raided and fined. The financial state of our parish is precarious enough, we don't need to be fined.

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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Masses 9 to 13 December

Wondai, Wednesday, 6.00pm
Murgon, Thursday, 6.00pm
Castra, Friday, 9.00am
Proston, Saturday, 8.00am
Murgon, Saturday, 6.00pm
Wondai, Sunday, 8.00am
Durong, Sunday, 10.30am
Goomeri, Sunday, 6.00pm



Today's readings

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14;
Mark 1:1-8

Response:

Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Next week: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

Reconciliation

As Catholics, we are called to make a confession and be reconciled with God at least twice a year (before Easter and before Christmas).

The first rite is always available. I endeavour to be at the church 30min before Mass. If you speak with me we can arrange another time to suit.

A second rite of Reconciliation will be conducted on

13 December, Durong, during Mass

13 December, Goomeri, during Mass

14 December, Proston, 4.00pm

16 December, Wondai, 6.00pm
(No Mass)

17 December, Murgon, 6.00pm
(No Mass)

Tuesday, 8 December is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. This is a day of holy obligation.

Vigil, Monday 7 December, Wondai 6.00pm

Mass, Tuesday 8 December, Murgon, 6.00pm



Saint Juan Diego Cuahtlatotzin – 9th December

Juan Diego was born in 1474 in the calpulli or ward of Tlayacac in Cuahtitlan, which was established in 1168 by Nahua tribesmen and conquered by the Aztec lord Axayacatl in 1467; and was located 20 kilometers (14 miles) north of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City).

On December 9, 1531, a native Mexican named Juan Diego rose before dawn to walk fifteen miles to daily Mass in what is now Mexico City.

Juan lived a simple life as a weaver, farmer, and labourer. That morning, as Juan passed Tepeyac Hill, he heard music and saw a glowing cloud encircled by a rainbow. A woman's voice called him to the top of the hill. There he saw a beautiful young woman dressed like an Aztec princess. She said she was the Virgin Mary and asked Juan to tell the bishop to build a church on that site. She said, "I vividly desire that a church be built on this site, so that in it I can be present and give my love, compassion, help, and defence, for I am your most devoted mother... to hear your laments and to remedy all your miseries, pains, and sufferings."

The bishop was kind but sceptical. He asked Juan to bring proof of the Lady's identity. Before Juan could go back to the Lady, he found out his uncle was dying. Hurrying to get a priest, Juan missed his meeting with the Lady. The Lady, however, met him on his path and told him that his uncle had been cured.

She then told Juan to climb to the top of the hill where they first met. Juan was shocked to find flowers growing in the frozen soil. He gathered them in his cloak and took them at once to the bishop.

Juan told the bishop what had happened and opened his cloak. The flowers that fell to the ground were Castilian roses (which were not grown in Mexico). But the bishop's eyes were on the glowing image of the Lady imprinted inside Juan's cloak.

Soon after, a church was built on the site where our Lady appeared, and thousands converted to Christianity. Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared the patroness of the Americas.

Juan died on May 30, 1548, at the age of 74.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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Parish website:
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DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Norm Walker, 12
Br Tim Beencke fms, 13
Matthew Guteridge, 15
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

Wedding Anniversaries

Margaret and Denis Hobbs, 14

Ordination Anniversaries

Fr Michael Carroll, 13

Death Anniversaries

Brian Kemp, 6
Wilma Mooney, 14
James English, 24
Jim English, 24
Nora Reilly, 25
Anne Duff, 30

Collection for 29/11/2020

Loose..... \$291.00
Planned Giving..... \$452.00
Total..... \$743.00

We pray for those who are sick:

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