

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Third Sunday of Advent
Year A, 11 December, 2022

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



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

Reflection – Pope Francis

On this third Sunday of Advent, called the Sunday of 'joy', the Word of God invites us on the one hand to joy, and on the other to the awareness that existence also includes moments of doubt, in which it is difficult to believe. Joy and doubt are both experiences that are part of our lives.

To the prophet Isaiah's explicit invitation to joy: "The desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom" (35:1), the Gospel contrasts to the doubt of John the Baptist: "Are you the one who is to come or should we wait for another?" (Mt 11.3). Indeed, the prophet sees beyond the situation: he has discouraged people before him: weak hands, faltering knees, lost hearts (cf. 35:3-4). It is the same reality that in every age tests faith. But the man of God looks beyond, because the Holy Spirit makes his heart feel the power of his promise, and he announces salvation: "Courage, do not fear! Here is your God, [...] He comes to save you" (v. 4). And then everything is transformed: the desert blooms, consolation and joy take hold of the lost heart, the lame, the blind, those who can't speak are healed (cf. vv. 5-6). This is what is accomplished with Jesus: "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are purified, the deaf hear, the dead rise, the poor have the Gospel proclaimed to them" (Mt 11:5).

This description shows us that salvation envelops the whole person and regenerates him. But this new birth, with the joy that accompanies it, always presupposes a death to

ourselves and to the sin that is in us. Hence the call to conversion, which is the basis of the preaching of both the Baptist and Jesus; in particular, it's about converting the idea we have of God. And the time of Advent stimulates us to this precisely with the question that John the Baptist asks Jesus: "Are you the one who must come or do we have to wait for another one?" (Mt 11.3). We think: all his life John has waited for the Messiah; his way of life, his own body is shaped by this expectation. For this reason too Jesus praises him with those words: no one is greater than him among those born of a woman (cf. Mt 11:11). And yet, he too had to convert to Jesus. Like John, we too are called to recognise the face that God has chosen to take in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful.

Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary every day to purify our faith. It is a question of preparing to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child lying in the crib has the face of our most needy brothers and sisters, of

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Christmas Mass Schedule

24 December, 6.00pm, **Goomeri**

24 December, 6.00pm, **Proston**

24 December, Midnight, **Murgon**

25 December, 8.00am, **Wondai**

25 December, 8.00am, **Murgon**

December is the month of the The Immaculate Conception

Pope's Prayer Intention –
**For volunteer not-for-profit
organisations:**

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Mass Times Next Week

Tuesday, 13 December

Gayndah, 12 noon

Wednesday, 14 December

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 15 December

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 16 December

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 17 December

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 18 December

Murgon, 8.00am

Gayndah, 10.30am

Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Isaiah 35:1-6,10; James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

Response:

Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14:

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

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the poor who "are the privileged ones of this mystery and, often, those who are the most able to recognise the presence of God among us" (Lett. ap. Admirable signum, 6).

May the Virgin Mary helps us, so that, as we approach Christmas, we do not allow ourselves to be distracted by the external things, but we make room in our hearts for the One who has already come and wants to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us His joy.

Advent Programme

Our Advent programme will look at the Sunday Gospel and reflect deeper into what it is telling us about the birth of Jesus and the salvation story.

Mondays, 2.00pm at Proston

Tuesdays, 1.00pm at Gayndah

Wednesdays, 10.00am at Goomeri, and 3.30pm at Wondai

Simbang Gabi

Our celebration for the novena of Christmas will **begin** on the morning of **16 December**. Each morning we will celebrate a **Mass at 6.00am** in Saint Joseph's church for the nine days leading up to the Nativity of the Lord. Please come and celebrate with us. After each Mass we will have a shared breakfast. So bring a plate. Remember there is no waste – the poor desperate priests will ensure the food is consumed.

Safeguarding Commitment

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and well-being of children and adults-at-risk is paramount. *Most Rev Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane*



Our Lady of Guadalupe – 12th December

The feast in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptised and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning on 9 December, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honour of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On 12 December, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Reflection

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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As of 1 January, 2023 the Parish will have a new telephone number, **0428 471 848** The old number will cease to exist after 1 Febuary 2023.

Collection for 4/11/2022

Loose.....	\$378.95
Planned Giving.....	\$446.00
Total.....	\$824.95

Direct Debit BSB 064-786

Account 100011987

Safeguarding

If you have experienced abuse or misconduct, you can ring the help line, **1300 304 550**. Information can be shared anonymously.

We pray for those who are sick:

Bevan Barsby; Cira; Renee Elliott; Justine Forde; Val Iacono; Jill Maclure; Annette McCorry.

In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the Indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.

