

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year A, 18 December, 2022

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



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

Reflection – Pope Francis

Joseph, a man who 'believed' and, without seeking the help of friends or psychiatrists, 'obeyed' God and thus helped the Lord was at the centre of Pope Francis' homily at Mass this morning at Casa Santa Marta. He was commenting on the passage from the Gospel of Matthew (1: 18-24), that tells of Mary who was made pregnant by the Holy Spirit. In difficulties, in troubles, in darkness, we learn from Saint Joseph who knew "how to walk in darkness," "how to listen to the voice of God", "how to go forward in silence".

The Pope reflected on the emotions felt by Joseph when the signs of Mary's pregnancy appeared after she returned from the house of Elizabeth: He spoke of his 'doubts', his 'sorrow', of his 'suffering', while all around him people began to murmur – the "gossip of the neighbourhood." He "did not understand," but he knew that Mary was "a woman of God": and so he decided "to send her away quietly", not accusing her publicly. Such was his intention until "the Lord intervened," through an angel, in a dream, who explained how the child had been conceived in her through the Holy Spirit. And so "he believed and obeyed": "Joseph fought within himself; in that struggle, the voice of God [is heard]: 'But get up' — that 'Get up' [which is heard] so many times in the Bible at the beginning of a mission — "Take Mary, bring her to your home. Take charge of the situation; take this situation in hand, and go forward". Joseph didn't go to his friends be comforted, he didn't go to a psychiatrist so that he

could interpret the dream. No... He believed. And he went forward. He took the situation in hand. But what must you take in hand, Joseph? What was the situation? What was it that

continued on next page...



Our celebration for the novena of Christmas began 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.

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, 20 December
Gayndah, 12 noon

Wednesday, 21 December
Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 22 December
Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 23 December
Castra, 9.00am



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

Today's readings

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7;
Matthew 1:18-24

Response:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Isaiah 62:1-5;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

...continued from previous page

Joseph had to take up? Two things: fatherhood, and mystery."

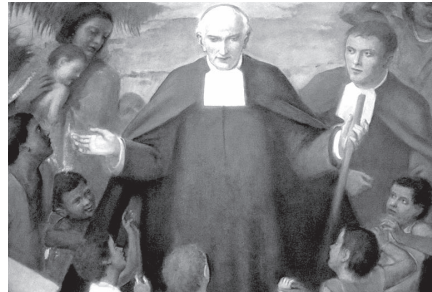
First, the Pope continued, Joseph had to take charge of the 'fatherhood'. And this is already implied in the genealogy of Jesus, which explains how He "was thought to be the son of Joseph: "He took on a paternity that was not his own: it came from the Father. And he went ahead with that fatherhood and all it signified: not only supporting Mary and the Child, but also raising the Child, teaching Him his trade, bringing Him up to manhood. 'Take up a paternity that is not yours, but God's". And this, without saying a word. In the Gospel, there is not a single word spoken by Joseph. A man of silence, of silent obedience".

Joseph is also the man who "takes in hand" the mystery. The first Mystery explains that it is the mystery of "bringing the people back to God", the mystery of the re-Creation — which, as the liturgy tells us, is "even more wondrous" than the first. "Joseph took in hand this mystery and help: with silence, with his work, up to the moment when God called him to Himself. It is said of this man, who took up the fatherhood and the mystery, that he was the shadow of the Father: the shadow of God the Father. And if the man Jesus learned to say 'daddy', 'father', to His Father Who He knew as God, He learned it from life, from the witness of Joseph, the man who guarded [Him], the man who raised [Him], the man who carried forward every paternity and every mystery, but took nothing for himself." This, Pope Francis said, is "the great Joseph," who God needed to carry forward "the mystery of leading the people anew to the new Creation."



Advent Programme

Our Advent programme has concluded. Thank you to all who took part. It was an interesting time and we had much animated discussion.



Blessed Scubilion Rousseau – 20th December

Baptised Jean-Bernard, catechist to slaves, Lasallian brother; born 21 March, 1797, Anny-Côte, Burgundy, France; died 13 April, 1867, Sainte-Marie, Isle de Réunion in the Indian Ocean.

Eldest of the four children of Bernard Rousseau, a stone cutter, and his wife Reine Pelletier, Jean-Bernard was born during the height of the French Revolution. He received his early education from his parents, his pastor, Father Petitier, and later a tutor. When the parish school reopened (1819) following the revolution, Jean-Bernard began teaching. His success in the field, combined with his sense of religious vocation, led him to the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who had just opened a school nearby. He entered their novitiate at Paris in 1822, where he became Brother Scubilion.

After teaching (1823–33) at Alençon, Poitiers, and Chinon, he was assigned (1833) with two other brothers to Bourbon (now Réunion). Here he initiated evening classes to teach slaves Christian doctrine and morality in preparation for receiving the sacraments. Following their emancipation (1848), he helped them to adapt to new freedom and responsibilities.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Tel: Parish Office, **0499 006 959**

Parish e-mail: murgon@bne.catholic.net.au

24 Angel Avenue, MURGON

PO Box 60 Murgon 4605

Parish website:

murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au

Safeguarding

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

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 February 2023.

✝ If you know anyone in need, please contact Cecily Fry, President, St Vincent de Paul Conference, on 0437 864 667

We pray for those who are sick:

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

Brother Scubilion cared for the marginalised until his death 34 years after his arrival on the island. A constant stream of pilgrims visit his tomb on the island, where he was immediately venerated. He was beatified on Réunion by Pope John Paul II, 2 May, 1989.

Feast: 27 September (Lasallian Brothers); 20 December (La Réunion, national holiday commemorating the abolition of slavery).

