

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Second Sunday of Advent
Year A, 4 December, 2022

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



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

Reflection – Pope Francis

This year's liturgy offers us the event of the Baptism of Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew (cf. 3:13-17). The Evangelist describes the dialogue between Jesus who asks to be baptised and John the Baptist who wants to prevent him and observes: "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" (v. 14). This decision by Jesus surprises the Baptist: in fact the Messiah does not need to be purified; indeed he is the one who purifies. But God is Holy. His ways are not ours and Jesus is God's path, an unpredictable path. Let us remember that God is the God of surprises.

John had stated that there was an abyssal, unbridgeable difference between him and Jesus. I am not worthy to carry his sandals (cf. Mt 3:11), he had said. But the Son of God came precisely to fill this gap between man and God. If Jesus is completely on God's side, he is also completely on the side of mankind and he reunites what was divided. This is why he answers John: "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness" (v. 15). The Messiah asks to be baptised so that all righteousness be fulfilled, that God's design which passes through filial obedience and solidarity with fragile and sinful mankind, be fulfilled. It is the path of humility and of God's complete closeness to his children.

The prophet Isaiah also announces the righteousness of the Servant of God who fulfils his mission in the world with a style that is opposed to the worldly spirit. "He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard on the street; a bruised reed he will not

break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench" (42:2-3). It is the attitude of meekness – the attitude of simplicity, of respect, of moderation and of hiddenness that is still asked today of the Lord's disciples. How many – it is sad to say – how many of the Lord's disciples boast that they are disciples of the Lord. Those who boast are not good disciples of the Lord. The good disciple is humble, meek, one who does good unobtrusively. In missionary work, the Christian community is called to approach others always offering and not imposing, bearing witness, sharing the concrete life of the people.

As soon as Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit alighted on him like a dove, as a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). We rediscover our own Baptism in the Feast of the Baptism. Just as Jesus is the Beloved Son of the Father, we too, reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, know we are loved children the Father loves us all! —, the object of God's satisfaction, brothers and sisters of many brothers

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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, 6 December

Gayndah, 12 noon

Wednesday, 7 December

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 8 December

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 9 December

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 10 December

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 11 December

Murgon, (no Mass)

Cherbourg, 8.00am (Christmas)

Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

Response:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

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

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and sisters, assigned with a great mission to bear witness and proclaim the Father's boundless love to all mankind.

This Feast of the Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own Baptism. We too were reborn in Baptism. In Baptism the Holy Spirit came down to remain within us. This is why it is important to know the date of our Baptism. We know our date of birth, but we do not always know the date of our Baptism. Certainly some of you do not know it... Homework to do: when you return [home] ask: when was I baptised? When was I baptised? And celebrate the date of your Baptism in your heart, every year. Do it. This also does justice to the Lord who was so kind to us.

May Mary Most Holy help us to increasingly understand the gift of Baptism and to live it consistently in everyday situations.

Advent Programme

Our Advent programme has commenced and each week of Advent we will look at the Sunday Gospel and reflect deeper into what it is telling us about the birth of Jesus and the salvation story. We are not doing an exegesis, but a gentle look at the Scripture we will hear proclaimed on Sunday.

Mondays, 2.00pm at Proston

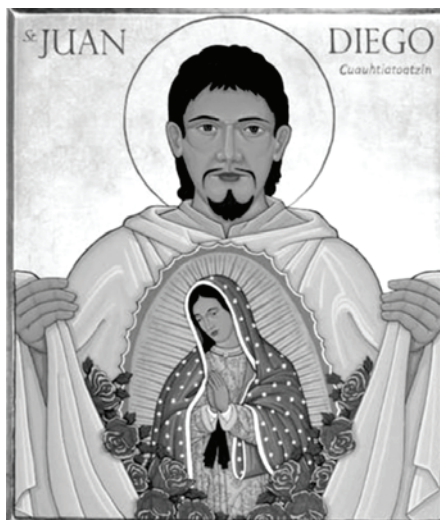
Tuesdays, 1.00pm at Gayndah

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

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 wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

*Most Rev Mark Coleridge,
Archbishop of Brisbane*



Saint Juan Diego Cuahtloatzin – 9th December

Thousands of people gathered in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on 31 July, 2002, for the canonisation of Juan Diego, to whom the Blessed Mother appeared in the 16th century. Pope John Paul II celebrated the ceremony at which the poor Indian peasant became the Church's first saint indigenous to the Americas.

The Holy Father called the new saint "a simple, humble Indian" who accepted Christianity without giving up his identity as an Indian. "In praising the Indian Juan Diego, I want to express to all of you the closeness of the Church and the pope, embracing you with love and encouraging you to overcome with hope the difficult times you are going through," John Paul said. Among the thousands present for the event were members of Mexico's 64 indigenous groups.

First called Cuahtlatohuac ('The eagle who speaks'), Juan Diego's name is forever linked with Our Lady of Guadalupe because it was to him that she first appeared at Tepeyac hill on 9 December, 1531. The most famous part of his story is told in connection with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on 12 December. After the roses gathered in his tilma were transformed into the miraculous image of Our Lady, however, little more is said about Juan Diego.

In time he lived near the shrine constructed at Tepeyac, revered as a holy, unselfish, and compassionate catechist, who taught by word and especially by example.

During his 1990 pastoral visit to Mexico, Pope John Paul II confirmed the long-standing liturgical cult in honour of Juan



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Safeguarding

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

Collection for 27/11/2022

Loose..... \$394.05

Planned Giving..... \$320.00

Total..... \$714.05

Direct Debit BSB 064-786

Account 100011987

We pray for those who are sick:

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

Diego, beatifying him. Twelve years later the same pope proclaimed him a saint.

Reflection

God counted on Juan Diego to play a humble, yet huge role in bringing the Good News to the peoples of Mexico. Overcoming his own fear and the doubts of Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, Juan Diego cooperated with God's grace in showing his people that the Good News of Jesus is for everyone. Pope John Paul II used the occasion of Juan Diego's beatification to urge Mexican lay people to assume their responsibilities for passing on the Good News and witnessing to it.

