

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

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

The Baptism of the Lord
Year B, 10 January, 2021



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

The Hi Tech Future

At our primary school the sisters prepared us for our high tech future. We were inundated with the latest in technology. The AV (audio-visual) department was state of art. When the students wanted to sing or listen to music, Sr Therese, would move onto the platform and play the piano. It was a totally interactive event. We could also view this event via zoom. All we had to do was move our chairs forward and we could zoom in on Sister playing the piano. As we advanced through school so did the AV. By Grade Two we had fully portable av. Sr Denise would play the guitar either in the classroom or outside in the yard. Nothing was spared on preparing us for the high technically world in which we now live.

Once a week at a set time we would listen to the fixed speaker on the wall and we would listen to ABC radio for school. Besides classical music (like The Seekers' *Lemon Tree*) we also heard the reading of Australian stories and poems. My favourite was always the bush ballads; especially Patterson and Lawson. It gave us an Australian slant on the world and treasured that which made us who we are. Not little pommies of imitation Yanks, but our own people. The humour and the imagery burnt themselves into our psyche.

Where but in Australia would children sit around and hear about a priest throwing a bottle of plonk at a child's head? Each element of the previous sentence would ring alarm bells and set off flashing lights. But in A Bush Christening, we gained a unique understanding of the Sacrament and a deepening of faith, in a way which a third grader could understand.

In baptism we become a part of the body of Christ. Through a mysterious process each one of us are invited into a personal relationship with Jesus, but also with each other. As we are

made part of the flock, our personal world grows to link us with Christians of every age. We become part of the mystical body of Christ. In this transformation we are never alone in this world, either in life or death.

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. As he enters into the Jordan, he calls us all into a new life with Him and through Him. Let us take a moment this week to renew our commitment to God in our baptism with Christ.

Gayndah

This week we begin our support to the people of Gayndah and their children in the parish school of Saint Joseph. At the request of the Archbishop, each Tuesday I will reach out to our brothers and sisters in our neighbouring parish. The plan is that in the mornings I will support the school. Then at 12noon, I will celebrate Mass with the parish in the church. This will be followed by taking communion to the sick and visiting those at home. I will have my phone with me, so if you need to get in contact with me, just ring.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ



The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as his 'beloved Son.'

Masses Times – this week

Tuesday, 12 January

Gayndah, noon

Wednesday, 13 January

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 14 January

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 15 January

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 16 January

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 17 January

Murgon, Sunday, 8.00am

Murgon, Saint Niño 12noon

Goomeri, Sunday, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Next Sunday: Isaiah 55:1-11;
Saint John 5:1-9; Mark 1: 7-11

Response:

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19;
1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20;
John 1:35-42



Santo Niño de Cebú – Third Sunday in January

Devotion to the Santo Niño (Holy Child), an image of Jesus as a small boy typically dressed as a king, is a mainstay of Philippine Catholic life. Devotions to him are part of every parish's life, and in some places a major feast of the year. An image of Santo Niño is found in almost every Filipino home, because Filipinos believe that the Santo Niño is their protector and has the power to grant and answer their prayers.

The oldest and most popular Santo Niño image is the Santo Niño of Cebu. That image is particularly revered by Cebuanos, people from the region in and around the city of Cebu, where the Spaniards set up the first colonial capital. But Santo Niño of Cebu devotion has spread beyond that region, and images of it are a common sight in homes and shops around the country and in the Filipino diaspora.

Background

The Santo Niño de Cebú image was originally produced by Flemish artisans, according to a hagiography, based on a vision of Teresa of Avila, a mystic of the 16th century.

In early 1521, the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, in the service of Charles V of Spain, was on his voyage to find a westward route to the Spice Islands. On April 7, 1521, he landed in Limasawa, Southern Leyte, and met a local ruler named Raja Kulambu, who introduced



him to Rajah Humabon, ruler of Cebu Island, and his chief consort, Hara Humamay. On April 14, 1521, Magellan presented them with three gifts: an Ecce Homo (Ivory Bust of Jesus), an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Santo Niño as part of their baptism, and a strategic alliance for territorial conquest. As the host ruler adopted the Catholic faith, he took the Christian name of Carlos (after Charles V), while Humamay was christened Juana (after Joanna of Castile, Charles' mother). According to Antonio Pigafetta – Magellan's companion and memoir writer, along with the ruler, about 500 males there, along with the Queen and 40 women were also converted by Father Valderrama. At the ceremony, for example, the Raja Kulambu of Limasawa also converted and was renamed Don Juan, while his Muslim captain was renamed Don Cristobal.

A few days after the baptism, Magellan undertook a war expedition on the behalf of the newly named Carlos, attacking Mactan Island and burning down hamlets who resisted. The residents led by Lapu Lapu defended Magellan's attack with force, and Magellan died on 27 April 1521 in the Battle of Mactan, about three weeks after he had arrived in Philippines. After Magellan's death, his Spanish colleagues left.

The next Spanish expedition arrived on April 27, 1565, again to gain a foothold for a colony to trade spices, and this was led by Miguel López de Legazpi. He attempted a peaceful colonisation, but these efforts were rejected. He opened fire on Cebu and burnt the coastal town down destroying 1,500 homes and possibly killing 500 people. In the ruins of

Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish



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Collection for 3/1/2021

Loose.....	\$406.90
Planned Giving.....	\$402.50
Total.....	\$809.40

this destruction, the Spanish mariner Juan Camus found the image of the Santo Niño in a pine box. According to the local legend, the survival of the statue was seen as a sign of miracle by the colonisers, and ever since it has been believed to have miraculous powers.

The image of the Santo Niño is the oldest surviving Catholic relic in the Philippines, along with the Magellan cross. A church to house Santo Niño was built on the spot where the image was found by Juan Camus. The church was originally made out of bamboo and mangrove palm and claims to be the oldest parish in the Philippines. It was reconstructed later, and Pope Paul VI elevated it to the status of Minor Basilica on its 400th anniversary (Spanish: *Basílica Menor del Santo Niño*).

Celebration of Santa Niño in 2021– 12 noon Saint Joseph's Church, 17 January, 2021

To celebrate the feast of the Santa Niño de Cebu, we will have a special Mass and shared lunch next Sunday (17 Jan 21). The Mass will begin at 12noon and feature our Filipino choir. If you didn't hear them during the Novena of Christmas you missed a treat. Armed with guitars and joy they lifted our celebrations and gave us energy and joy.