

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Second Sunday in Ord. Time
Year B, 17 January, 2021

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



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

Come and See

One of the most powerful vulnerabilities in our lives is to make an invitation. When one extends an invitation to another person we are making ourselves vulnerable by giving another person power over us. In making an invitation we are giving the person invited the power to accept or decline our offer – to accept or reject us.

Hospitality is an extension of who we are and the life we have chosen to live. When someone comes into our home, they see and experience the life we live. We can control our exposure by having a parlour or reception area. A segregated part of our dwelling which limits the guest's view of our home. This is quite often a showpiece room, to mask the way in which we live. In the Seventeenth Century, the Jesuit community in Japan was attacked by Portuguese authorities who did not understand Japanese customs. The Japanese had a parlour in their house in which all the possessions of the family were on display. The Portuguese misunderstood this thinking this display was indicative of the lavish life style of the occupants. In reality the community was living in squalor; sleeping on the floor under old blankets and bleak conditions.

When a guest arrives the reception and hospitality reflects who we are. In traditional times when a guest entered they were offered food and drink. A guest was feed and nourished as a sign of our respect and acceptance into our household. This is a tradition which has unfortunately fallen out of use in present day Australian society.

I don't know how often I visited a house hold and not even been offered a cuppa.

When Jesus offers the disciples the invitation to "come and see", it is an extension of God's hospitality. God is inviting us into relationship with our Lord. As the host, Jesus is not only asking us to share in this relationship, but is offering us nourishment and honour. As with any guest invited by a host, we have the ability to accept or reject the invitation. To accept God into our lives or turn away from the one who loves us.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Ambassadors Sought

The Annual Catholic Campaign and Caritas Australia need your help! It is our shared hope to have ambassadors in every parish in the Archdiocese. We know that our appeals are close to the hearts of faithful people everywhere and that many people are already involved in supporting us, and so we would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone interested in volunteering to help raise awareness and funds.

We will be hosting information sessions on this opportunity via ZOOM in January, and warmly invite you to participate – if you would also promote this among your parishioners, that would be sincerely appreciated. Please contact Andrew Knife at Caritas Australia in Brisbane for more information.

Email andrew.knife@caritas.org.au or call (07) 3324 3134 to register your interest.

COVID-19 Restriction

We have been informed of the following restriction placed on our churches until 22 January 2021. Please follow this restriction so as to ensure the safety of all of our parishioners.

'Individuals who have been in Greater Brisbane on or since the 2nd January 2021 must wear a face mask in the church.'

Masses Times – this week

Tuesday, 19 January

Gayndah, noon

Wednesday, 20 January

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 21 January

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 22 January

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 23 January

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 24 January

Murgon, Sunday, 8.00am

Cherbourg, 10.00am

Goomeri, Sunday, 6.00pm

Today's readings

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

Response:

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5,10;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20



Saint Sebastian – 20th January

Nothing is known about Saint Sebastian's youth other than the fact he may have come from southern France and he was educated in Milan. He joined the Roman Army in 283AD, ostensibly to be of service to other Christians who were being persecuted by the Romans. Saint Sebastian distinguished himself and for his excellent service, he was promoted to serve in the Praetorian Guard to protect Emperor Diocletian.

While serving as a Praetorian Guard, Marcus and Marcellian, twin brothers, were imprisoned for refusing to make public sacrifices to the Roman gods. The brothers were deacons of the Christian Church. During their imprisonment, their parents visited them to implore them to renounce Christianity. However, Saint Sebastian convinced both parents to convert to Christianity. Saint Sebastian also converted several other prominent individuals, including the local prefect.

This led to his discovery and he was reported as a Christian to Emperor Diocletian in 286. The Emperor, who was already infamous for ordering the deaths of hundreds of Christians, scolded Sebastian and ordered him to be killed by having him tied to a stake on a training field and used as target practice.

Archers riddled his body with arrows, his body was described as, "full of arrows as an urchin." Believed to

be dead, the archers left his body for retrieval and burial. He was recovered by Irene of Rome, whose Christian husband was a servant to Diocletian and also martyred. Irene discovered that Sebastian was still living and she hid him and nursed him back to health.

Once well, Sebastian went in search of Diocletian to surprise him. He managed to catch Diocletian by a stairwell and proceeded to criticize him loudly and publically for his persecution of the Christians. Diocletian, surprised that Sebastian was still alive, was immediately taken aback, but recovered his composure. This time, he would not permit Sebastian to escape with his life. He ordered his former guard to beat him to death with clubs, then thrown into the sewers.

His body was recovered by a Christian woman, named Lucina, and she secretly buried him in the catacombs beneath Rome.

Patron: of soldiers, athletes, and those who desire a saintly death.

LENTEN PROGRAM

A new Lent and Easter octave resource for individuals and groups

ORDER NOW

Look to Jesus will nourish and nurture prayer each day during Lent and into the first week of Easter.

The daily reflections will invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day. This reflection will be followed by a quote from Pope Francis and a simple prayer.

The daily reflections will only require a few minutes for a person to read, reflect and pray. This Lenten practice will lead the reader into a deeper reflection on their daily life. As they 'look to Jesus' – in their families, workplaces and the community – they will walk as 'missionary disciples' on the path to Easter, and beyond.

- A small book that is easy to carry, and read, while commuting or



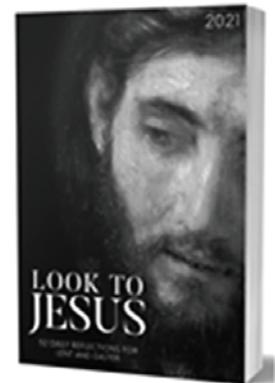
Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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

Collection for 10/1/2021

Loose..... \$264.35
Planned Giving..... \$523.00
Total..... \$787.35

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



sitting at home (18cm x 11 cm, 128 pages)

- Daily reflections for Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, Easter Monday to the Second Sunday of Easter
- For each day there is a double page spread with: the date; a Scripture verse; a short reflection; a quote from Pope Francis; and a short prayer
- Introduction and 'how to use this book'
- At the back of the book there are suggestions for group use and questions for reflection and sharing

If you wish to order a copy please fill in the order sheet in the church.