

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Year A, 1 January, 2023

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



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



A Woman of Strong and Simple Faith

At the Council of Ephesus (451), the mother of Jesus was solemnly proclaimed as *Mother of God*, acknowledging the Godhead of her Son, Jesus Christ.

Mary was a flesh-and-blood woman of her times, a hard-working girl from Nazareth, cheerfully willing to be of service to others. The real Mary from Nazareth knew no riches or privilege in her lifetime. Nobody has ever lived, suffered and died in greater simplicity, marked by a strong and simple faith. Mary was the handmaid of the Lord, trusting in the goodness of God.

Saint Augustine expresses beautifully the faith of the early church, "She conceived Jesus in her heart before conceiving him in her womb." Our Lady wants to beget faith in us, to be our Mother in faith. That is why, in the gospel of John, she is present at the beginning and the end of Christ's public life.

John is the only one to record Mary's presence at Calvary: "Near the cross of Jesus stood his Mother". When all the miracles of Jesus seemed a delusion to many, his mother stood by Jesus till his last breath. Her faith did not need astounding miracles,

but rested on childlike trust in the mysterious ways of God our Father.

Fr John Fowles CCS

New Parish Phone Number 0428 471 848

As of 1 January, 2023 the Parish will have a new telephone number. The old number will cease to exist after 1 February 2023.



Saint Stephen – 26 January

Saint Stephen was the first person to be killed for his faith in Jesus. He is the first martyr. Stephen lived in the time of Jesus. All we know of him is from the Acts of the Apostles. The apostles had made him a deacon and had asked him to care for the widows and children.

Stephen was a wise man who was filled with God's grace and power. When he preached about Jesus, many people would ask him difficult questions but Stephen always had an answer. This made many people very angry and, one day, they dragged Stephen outside and threw stones at him until he died. While he was being stoned, he prayed "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He then forgave the men that were stoning him and died.

January is the month for Educators

Pope's Prayer Intention –
For educators:

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Mass Times Next Week

Tuesday, 3 January
Gayndah, 12 noon

Wednesday, 4 January
Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 5 January
Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 6 January
Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 7 January
Proston, 9.00am
Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 8 January
Murgon, 8.00am
Gayndah, 10.30am
Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21

Response:

May God bless us in his mercy.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6;
Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12



Saint John the Apostle – 27 January

Saint John's parents were Zebedee and Salome. He and his brother James were fishermen and were both called to be Jesus' apostles. John was the youngest of Jesus' apostles and is the only one who did not leave Jesus during his crucifixion and death.

After Jesus' resurrection, the apostles had been out on their boat fishing but did not catch any fish. A man from the shore told them to cast out their nets and they came up full of fish. It was John who recognised Jesus.

After Pentecost, John was filled with the Holy Spirit and went out preaching and he performed many miracles and hundreds of people became followers of Jesus. John lived to be over one hundred years old and never stopped preaching about Jesus' great love.

Adopted as son

(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)

Returning from my usual morning walk I noticed a new sign erected in an empty paddock at the end of our road: 'Is your dream home here?' There was a huge picture of a path stretching into a golden sunlit haze, a lagoon with ducks, green lawn and flowers enticing me to enter and build my dream home. It was nearly Christmas and my thoughts were touching on this beautiful feast: the beauty of God making his home with me, of having a dream for our world and for each of us, and wanting above all to take us to our true home with him.

I was transported back in time to an idyllic island north of Darwin where I had been commissioned as a young priest. On my arrival I felt anxious and unsure, being ignorant of the language and customs. And when the departing priest was given a tumultuous farewell with flowers, garlands, dancing and singing I felt very alone. As the plane taking the priest away rose into the sky all eyes were on the plane and tears were falling freely. But no sooner had the plane disappeared from sight than the same people who had farewelled the departing priest so emotionally surrounded me and began to dance, and they came up to me and said very simply: "Welcome home, Father".



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Parish Priest: Rev Fr John Fowles ccs
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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.

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

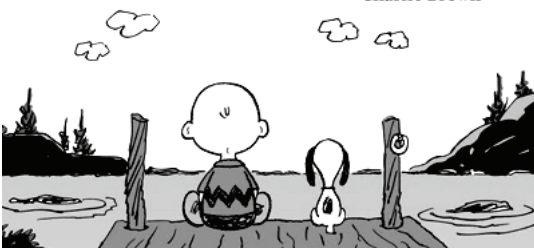
We pray for those who are sick:

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

Not long after that I was led to a family that was designated as my new family, and I immediately gained a mother, a father, children, grandchildren, brothers and sister and innumerable "lations", and a new name, by which I was to be known in future. I was truly home! (Laurie)

"Goodbye always makes my throat hurt."

-Charlie Brown



Goodbye to Fr Bryan.

We thank you for your hard work, way beyond the call of duty, to make our parish self sufficient, while strengthening our faith in Jesus.

Welcome to Fr John.

We welcome you to our diverse and wide-spread parish. We hope you enjoy driving!

Hello... Good Morning!

