

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Sixteenth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year C, 17 July, 2022

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



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

The true Christian is in love with the Lord

Pope Francis

In order not to go astray in our life as Christians, the key is to be 'in love' with the Lord, and to be inspired by Him in our actions. This was the case with Saint Paul the Apostle, who describes the Christian life in the reading from the Letter to the Galatians. There must be a balance between "contemplation and service", two qualities which are illustrated in today's Gospel from Saint Luke, that is centred on the figures of Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus of Bethania, who welcomed Jesus into their home as a guest.

Busy Christians, without the peace of the Lord

By their actions, these two sisters teach us how we should go forward in the Christian life. Mary "listened to the Lord", while Martha was "distracted", because she was occupied with service". Martha is one of the 'strong' women, capable even of rebuking the Lord for not being present at the death of her brother Lazarus. She knew how to put herself forward, and so was courageous. Yet she lacked "contemplation", and was incapable of "losing time gazing upon the Lord":

There are so many Christians, yes, they go to Mass on Sundays, but they are always busy. They have no time for their children, they don't play with their children. This is bad. "I have so much to do, I'm so busy..." [they say]. And in the end they become worshippers of that religion which is busy-ness: they belong to the group of the busy, who are always doing things... But pause, gaze upon the Lord, take the Gospel, listen to the Word of the Lord, open your heart...

No: always the language of the hands, always. And they do good, but not Christian good: a human good. These people lack contemplation. Martha lacked that. [She was] courageous, always going forward, taking things in hand, but lacking peace: losing time gazing upon the Lord.

Contemplation is not "doing nothing"

On the other hand, Mary doesn't sit around "doing-nothing". She "gazed upon the Lord because the Lord had touched her heart; and it is from there, from that inspiration of the Lord, that there came the work that she had to undertake later". This is the rule of Saint Benedict, "*Ora et labora*," "pray and work," which monks and nuns incarnate in the cloister, who certainly don't spend the whole day gazing at the heavens. They pray and work". And this was especially what Saint Paul incarnated, as he wrote in today's first Reading: When God chose him, he didn't go off to preach immediately, but instead "went off to pray," "to contemplate the mystery of Jesus Christ who was revealed":

Everything Paul did, he did with this spirit of contemplation, of gazing upon the Lord. It was the Lord who spoke from his heart, because Paul was in love with the Lord. And this is the key for not going astray: "being in love". In order to know which side we are on, or whether we are exaggerating because we are getting into an overly abstract, even gnostic, contemplation; or whether we are too busy; we must ask ourselves the question: "Am I in love with the Lord? Am I certain, certain that He has chosen me? Or do I live my Christianity like this, doing things... Yes, I do this, I do that; But what does my heart do? Does it contemplate?"

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July is the month of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Pope's Prayer Intention:

For the elderly: We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Mass Times Next Week

Tuesday, 19 July

Gayndah, noon

Wednesday, 20 July

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 21 July

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 22 July

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 23 July

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 24 July

Murgon, 8.00am

Gayndah, 10.30am

Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Genesis 18:1-10; Colossians 1:24-28;
Luke 10:38-42

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart, and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Genesis 18:20-32;
Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

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Contemplation and service: the path of our life

It is like a husband returning home from work, and finding his wife waiting to greet him: A wife that is truly in love does not make him comfortable, and then return to her chores; she "takes the time to be with him". We too take time for the Lord in our service to others:

Contemplation and service: this is the path of our life. Each one of us can think to ourselves, "How much time each day do I give to contemplating the mystery of Jesus?" And then, "How do I work? Do I work so much that there seems to be an alienation? Or is my work consistent with my faith, work as a service that comes from the Gospel?" We would do well to consider this.

Parish Bottle Stall

The parish will be holding a Bottle Stall at the Murgon Street Carnival on in **October** 2022. Donations of bottles of all kinds would be appreciated. Your bottles can be left in the parish office or in your church. Any donation must be in by the last Sunday in September. Bottles can be glass or plastic.

Types of bottles: soft drinks, beer, wine, jam, chutney, sauces or anything that will go in a bottle.

Please check the 'use by' dates.



Collection of Classical Music CDs

I have been given a collection of classical CDs. I am now looking for a home for them. In all there are about 340 CDs. So it is a large collection. If you want it please speak with me. But remember it is a large collection and it needs to go to someone who will listen to it.



Saint Mary Magdalen – 22nd July

Saint Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with and these women also became followers.

There is also debate over if Mary Magdalene is the same unnamed woman, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Scholars are sceptical this is the same person. Despite the scholarly dispute over her background, what she did in her subsequent life, after meeting Jesus, is much more significant. She was certainly a sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

During Jesus' ministry, it is believed that Mary Magdalene followed him, part of a semi-permanent entourage who served Jesus and his Disciples. Mary likely watched the crucifixion from a distance along with the other women who followed Christ during His ministry. Mary was present when



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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.

We pray for those who are sick:

Bevan Barsby; Cira; Renee Elliott;
Scottie Ewart; Justine Forde;
Kathleen Hoult; Val Iacono;
Annette McCorry .

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

Christ rose from the dead, visiting his tomb to anoint his body only to find the stone rolled away and Christ, very much alive, sitting at the place they laid Him. She was the first witness to His resurrection.

After the death of Christ, a legend states that she remained among the early Christians. After fourteen years, she was allegedly put into a boat by Jews, along with several other saints of the early Church, and set adrift without sails or oars. The boat landed in southern France, where she spent the remaining years of her life living in solitude, in a cave.

Saint Mary Magdalene's feast day is 22 July. She is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptation, pharmacists, tanners and women, and many other places and causes.