

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourteenth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year C, 3 July, 2022

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



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

The Harvest is Large

Larry Hopp

As we ponder the state of our current society, we yearn for a power of righteousness to rise up and overcome all the evil that often times seems to be winning. **Yet, should we ever doubt who is in total control in this world, today's Lectionary provides a clear and concise answer to that question.**

In the concluding chapters of Isaiah, we find in stark/frightening detail of what God's final judgements will entail leading up to the appearance of the New Heavens and the New Earth. Isaiah's narrative in chapters 63 through 65 detail judgement against all evil. That dark picture, however, brightens in today's first reading in chapter 66 where we find the sweet hope of what heaven will be like for all of us who have chosen to give our lives to Jesus. We will finally find our comfort. Our hearts will rejoice, and our bodies will flourish like the grass. That promise is so comforting. We will clearly experience the Lord's power, that holy power of righteousness that will overcome all the powers of evil.

Psalm 66 serves as an incredible anthem to the message we find in Isaiah. "Let all the earth cry out to God with joy". This glorious joy springs forth from all that our God has done through the ages. Those amazing deeds extend beyond history to the promised New Jerusalem. It is no wonder that "all the earth" will join us in praising our God with indescribable joy.

In his letters to the churches of Galatia and the church at Colosse, Paul speaks to the truth and power found in an unwavering commitment to following Jesus, the truly Good News for us all. For it is through this truth that we will experience the grace and peace that can only be found through Christ and the promises described not only in Isaiah, but throughout the Bible.

While the entire Lectionary to this point succinctly lays out the unmatched power of our God and the righteous judgement that emanates from that almighty power,

where does that leave each of us in our lives today. Grasping the overwhelming concept of our mighty God certainly should open our hearts to truly commit to Him, to be Born Again. Today's Gospel leads us to passionately live a life that courageously points others to Him.

Perhaps never more evident than in today's world, the "harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few!" Jesus sends out "72 others" to proclaim that "the kingdom of God is at hand." He told them that the task would not be easy. They would be like "lambs among wolves." While He reminded them that they will face adversity, they are promised that God will provide all their needs. **Each of us** are actually the "others" mentioned here. In the four Gospels, just prior to his ascension Jesus directed his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. They are told to teach them to obey everything Jesus had commanded them, and further that they are "to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." They are to "feed my sheep." Throughout these commissions, Jesus promised that the disciples would be "clothed with power from on high" and that surely, He will be with them always to the very end of the age.

Seems pretty clear, it is obvious that God is in complete control. He has given us a noble commission. No matter the challenges and obstacles found in each of our lives, as labourers for God, we have a job to do – to proclaim the good news and the fact that the kingdom of God is indeed at hand. We must urgently pursue this directive with unquenchable power from our almighty God!

Dear Heavenly Father, help us never to forget the commission given to each of us to live our lives as you have ordained. Help us to effectively reach our hurting world with the good news of Jesus and the message that the Kingdom of God is truly at hand. We pray this with the blessed assurance of your daily guidance and power.

In Jesus' holy, holy name. Amen

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, 5 July

Gayndah, noon

Wednesday, 6 July

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 7 July

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 8 July

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 9 July

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 10 July

Murgon, 8.00am

Gayndah, 10.30am

Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:14-18;
Luke 10:1-12.17-20

Response:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Deuteronomy 30:10-14;
Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

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.

Sale of Sacred Heart, Durong

The church and land in Durong South is for sale. The property is for sale on an as is basis. Anyone who is interested in the purchase of the church should express interest by emailing the parish. On request the asbestos report can be forward.

The sale will be conducted by the Property and Land office in the archdiocese. All those who express interest will be forwarded by the parish to the appropriate people.



Saint Mary Zhu Wu – 9th July

Zhujahe is a small village situated in the vast gray plain at the border of the northern Chinese Provinces Zhili and Shandong. Its name translates to the 'River of the Zhu Family'. Several members of that family had converted to Catholicism during the 18th century, when the Jesuits from Beijing progressed deeper into Zhili Province. In the early 10th century, the Zhu family had settled near the river and given it its name.

In 1900, the village had some 300 inhabitants living in low cottages built of clay, nestled among sprawling sorghum fields and was dominated by a simple church with a flat roof and high façade; its cross towered over the countryside. The French Jesuit Léon Ignace Mangin, 42 years old and a missionary in China since 1882, was the pastor of the Catholic community of Zhujahe. He was helped by a middle-aged village elder, Zhu Dianxuan, an able administrator who also happened to be skilled in the art of warfare. His 50-year-old wife, Mary Zhu-Wu, was much esteemed by the villagers: a gentle woman of great faith, she gave priority to helping the poor in her service of God. Never looking for notoriety or glory, these three people would become the centre of the most violent massacre of Christians during the Boxer Rebellion.

The history of the uprising itself, the political machinations and warfare that ignited it, need not be explained here. They mattered little to the people of Zhujahe, when in the summer of 1900 they took in thousands of Catholic refugees from the neighbouring villages. This increased the population to 3,000, ten times its usual size, when on 17 July they were attacked by 4,500 heavily armed men, the combined forces of the Boxers and the imperial army. A few days earlier, the villagers, protected behind the ramparts that Zhu Dianxuan had constructed, had still been able to ward off the attacks and even seized a cannon from the enemy. Fr Mangin and his fellow-Jesuit, Paul Denn, who had also fled to Zhujahe, had offered Mass each morning and heard confessions throughout the day; during the evenings, they relieved the night watchmen on the ramparts. The next day, Zhu Dianxuan, the only experienced leader among the 1,000 odd men who were able to defend the village, climbed the ramparts to train the cannon on the enemy forces. But that same evening, when already more than half of his men had died in battle, the cannon back-fired onto Zhu Dianxuan's chest. Mangin, who was standing nearby, ran towards the dying man and gave him Extreme Unction. By the third day, as the situation seemed hopeless, those who could escape did so, leaving behind those who were too weak to flee, especially women and children. When on the early morning of 20 July the soldiers took the village, the first people they killed were a group of parish women. Eighty-five other women and children fled in panic to the orphanage and jumped into its well, where they drowned or suffocated. Their cries and screams for help continued for two days.

Most of the villagers, around 1,000 of



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 26/6/2022

Loose..... \$342.20

Planned Giving..... \$527.00

Total..... \$869.20

Direct Debit BSB 064-786

Account 100011987

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; Scottie Ewart; Justine Forde; Kathleen Hoult; Val Iacono; Annette McCorry .

them, had taken refuge in the church, spiritually assisted by the two Jesuit priests. Too pressed to offer a final Mass, Mangin and Denn sat on the steps before the altar and heard confessions, while most of the people knelt in prayer or simply waited. Here, Mary Zhu-Wu, rose to singular greatness: she stood up and positioned herself with outstretched arms in front of Fr Mangin to shield him with her body. Not long afterwards, a bullet struck her and she fell at the altar railing. Mangin, praying the rosary with one hand and grasping a crucifix in the other, soon fell victim to the gunmen, too. Mary Zhu-Wu continued to live on at Zhujahe, the 'River of the Zhu family', now turned into a river of blood. While her husband defended the village against the external enemy, she strengthened the interior faith and courage of the people, even giving up her life to save their pastor. In 1955, Pope Pius XII declared her Blessed, together with the two Jesuits and 53 other martyrs; they were all canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.