

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Year B, 2 May, 2021

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



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

Empathy and Compassion

I was a priest five days when I was sent to the Philippines. My mission was to teach, be a campus chaplain and write a dissertation. During my first full week on deck I was asked to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All student were required to study some theology as undergraduates. Their course began with Reconciliation. So I sat in the church and had a line of first year uni students making their confession.

One student began by asking me a series of really deep and technical theological questions. I battled my way through the answers and was thankful that I had only just finished my studies and could remember the answers. After about fifteen minutes of interrogation, we still hadn't gotten to the confession. I told her that her questions were very detailed and asked if she was a theology major. She said no, but she had just read a book called, 'The De Vinci Code'. I informed her I had an idea what that book was, but these were the answers to her questions.

That night at dinner I asked if anyone had heard of this book. It had only just come out and one of the American professors said he would loan me a copy to read. So I read it. The author was a lazy researcher and built his 'facts' on ridiculous conspiracy theories of no academic merit. One of the issues he wrote about was Mary of Madgdala. He wove a theory that the church had conspired to suppress her and write her out of history. That is was a misogynistic suppression of the feminine. I take the author has never seen the cathedral dedicated to her

in which she is said to be buried, nor the fact that there is an annual feast to her.

The Church is made up of people of their time, culture and place. They come from the contemporary ideas and views of their people. For all of its faults the Church has always seen our spiritual needs as an extension of our humanity. So every generation sees and expresses social constructs according to their time and place. Whilst the portrayal of women in Scripture may cause affront and difficulty for us today, we need to look deeper to the underlying truths and expressions of humanity.

Mary, the mother of Jesus is a person in whom we see this all too clearly. Too often she is either stripped of her humanity and divinised or is the subject to the weaponising of her gender. At times we need to step back and relook at what we are projecting onto Mary. In Scripture we have only a glimpse of who the person Mary is in history. That is because Scripture is focused on Jesus and his message to us. The only thing that is clearly articulated about Mary is her motherhood. She is the mother of God and on the Cross Jesus gives her to us (the church) as our spiritual mother. It is this aspect of her that I believe we should cherish. As a loving mother she is the one who we can turn to and speak with. All the attributes we place on our mothers is also true of Mary. With empathy and loving kindness she is the Mother of the Church and the help of Christians.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Parish Raffle

Our Parish Multi Draw Raffle will be drawn on 26 June after 5.00pm Mass in Wondai. This Raffle is one of two fundraising events held by the Parish each year. We are asking each Parish community to donate (either goods, vouchers, or by asking local businesses). The tickets will be on sale from the beginning of June, but **we need the list of prizes by the end of May**. Please let Fr Bryan know of donations ASAP.

Masses Times – this week

Tuesday, 4 May

Gayndah, noon

Wednesday, 5 May

Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 6 May

Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 7 May

Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 8 May

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 9 May

Murgon, 8.00am

Durong, 10.30am

Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24;
John 15:1-8

Response:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly
of your people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me
live in you, says the Lord; my branches
bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48;
1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17



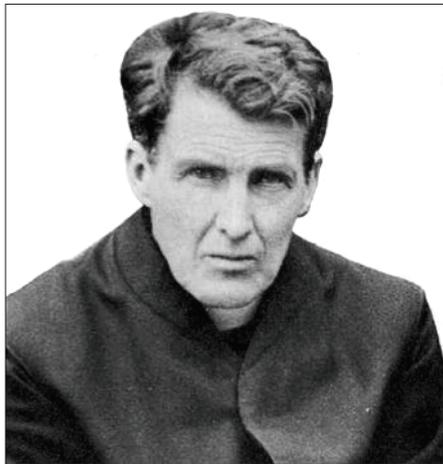
May Rosary Prayers

Join Catholic Mission Brisbane online to honour Mother Mary during the month of May through praying the rosary.

Monday to Friday
Time: 2.00pm Brisbane time

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://tinyurl.com/28xh55p8>

Meeting ID: 874 9118 8450
Password: prayer



Blessed John Sullivan – 8 May

John Sullivan, SJ, is remembered as a healing and holy priest from Ireland.

John Sullivan was born into a prominent family on May 8, 1861. His Protestant father, Edward, was a brilliant barrister who would later become Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His mother, Elizabeth Bailey, was a

Catholic from a land-owning family. As was the custom of the time, the boys in the family were baptised in the father's Protestant faith, and the girls were baptised as Catholics.

Also typical of the time for well-to-do families, in 1872 John was sent to Portora Royal School. The excellent student then attended Trinity College, Dublin, where he studied the Classics. He later studied law and for a time practiced as a barrister.

Edward Sullivan died suddenly in 1885. John's share in his father's inheritance gave him a measure of financial independence. John liked to dress well, and was considered at the time the best dressed man in Dublin. During this period he travelled Europe extensively, especially spending time taking walking tours of Macedonia, Greece, and Asia Minor. He spent several months in one of the Orthodox Monasteries on Mount Athos, even contemplating entering as a monk.

To the surprise of his family, John Sullivan was received into the Catholic Church in 1896. His decision to become Catholic led to a change in lifestyle, exemplified by John stripping his room of anything that appeared luxurious. Sullivan's fancy clothes disappeared in favour of the most ordinary garb.

On 7 September, 1900, at the age of 40, Sullivan entered the Society of Jesus. After seven years of study, he was ordained July 28, 1907. Next came an appointment to the teaching staff of Clongowes Wood College, where he spent most of the rest of his life.

Sullivan's priestly life was one of prayer, personal sacrifice, care for his students, and, most especially, concern for the ill and the poor. Sullivan spent hours in prayer on his knees before the Blessed Sacrament or in his room praying the Rosary. Many more hours were spent walking the roads of Ireland to pray for the sick, especially those with incurable illnesses. From the 1920s until his



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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Collection for 25/4/2021

Loose.....	\$414.70
Planned Giving.....	\$287.00
Total.....	\$701.70

We pray for those who are sick:

Noa van Elswijk; Michael Druce;
Annette McCory.

death in 1933, there were many instances of spiritual and physical healing through the mediation of his prayers.

There have been two miracles certified by the church during Sullivan's life:

- The cure of Michael Collins (b. 1925) – nephew of the famed Michael Collins – from infantile paralysis. The child awoke one night in October 1928 in extreme distress and the summoned doctor diagnosed him with infantile paralysis. Mrs. Collins drove to the school seeking out Father Sullivan's assistance; Father Sullivan promised to say a Mass but also rode his bike to their home where he touched the child's leg and prayed over him for two hours.
- The cure of Miss Kitty Garry (aged ten at the time) from tuberculosis; he blessed her and the ailment left her after a month.

John Sullivan, SJ, died in 1933. He was beatified May 13, 2017.