

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

First Sunday of Advent  
Year C, 27 November, 2022

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



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

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## Reflection – Pope Francis

On the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis recommended a traditional Advent prayer to invite God to draw close during this new liturgical year.

"Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst", Pope Francis said in Saint Peter's Basilica.

"Let us make the traditional Advent prayer our own: '**Come, Lord Jesus!**' ... We can say it at the beginning of each day and repeat it often, before our meetings, our studies and our work, before making decisions, in every important or difficult moment of our lives: '**Come, Lord Jesus!**'" the pope said in his homily.

Pope Francis stressed that Advent is both a time of "God's closeness and our watchfulness".

"It is important to remain watchful, because one great mistake in life is to get absorbed in a thousand things and not to notice God. Saint Augustine said: "*Timeo Iesum transeuntem*" (I fear that Jesus will pass by me unnoticed). Drawn by our own interests ... and distracted by so many vain things, we risk losing sight of what is essential. That is why today the Lord repeats: "To all, I say: be watchful," he said.

"Having to be watchful, however, means it is now night. Yes, we are not living in broad daylight, but awaiting the dawn, amid darkness and weariness. The light of day will come when we shall be with the Lord. Let us not lose heart: the light of day will come, the shadows of night will be dispelled, and the Lord, who

died for us on the cross, will arise to be our judge. Being watchful in expectation of his coming means not letting ourselves be overcome by discouragement. It is to live in hope."

In his homily, he warned of the dangers of mediocrity, lukewarmness, and indifference in the Christian life.

"Without making an effort to love God daily and awaiting the newness he constantly brings, we become mediocre, lukewarm, worldly. And this slowly eats away at our faith, for faith is the very opposite of mediocrity: it is ardent desire for God, a bold effort to change, the courage to love, constant progress," he said.

"Faith is not water that extinguishes flames, it is fire that burns; it is not a tranquiliser for people under stress, it is a love story for people in love. That is why Jesus above all else detests lukewarmness".

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## Advent Programme

Our Advent programme has commenced and each week of Advent we will look at the Sunday Gospel and reflect deeper into what it is telling us about the birth of Jesus and the salvation story. We are not doing an exegesis, but a gentle look at the Scripture we will hear proclaimed on Sunday.

**Mondays**, 2.00pm at Proston

**Tuesdays**, 1.00pm at Gayndah

**Wednesdays**, 10.00am at Goomeri,  
and 3.30pm at Wondai

## November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Pope's Prayer Intention:

**For children who suffer:**

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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## Mass Times Next Week

**Tuesday, 29 November**

Gayndah, 12 noon

**Wednesday, 30 November**

Wondai, 5.00pm

**Thursday, 1 December**

Murgon, 5.00pm

**Friday, 2 December**

Castra, 9.00am

**Saturday, 3 December**

Proston, 9.00am

Wondai, 5.00pm

**Sunday, 4 December**

Murgon, 8.00am

Gayndah, 10.30am

Goomeri, 6.00pm

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## Today's readings

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14;  
Matthew 24:37-44

*Response:*

Let us go rejoicing to the house  
of the Lord.

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your  
mercy and love, and grant us your  
salvation. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10;

Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

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Pope Francis said that prayer and charity are antidotes to mediocrity and indifference.

"Prayer rouses us from the tepidity of a purely horizontal existence and makes us lift our gaze to higher things; it makes us attuned to the Lord. Prayer allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our loneliness and gives us hope", he said.

"Prayer is vital for life: just as we cannot live without breathing, so we cannot be Christians without praying."

## Melbourne Cup Sweep 2022

This year the parish cleared \$3577.10 on the Melbourne Cup sweep! This is a great result and helps keep our parish going. Thank you to all who contributed to this activity. Those who bought tickets, sold tickets and encouraged others – thank you



## Saint Edmund Campion – 1st December

"I am a Catholic man and a priest. In that faith have I lived and in that faith do I intend to die, and if you esteem my religion treason, then I am guilty. As for any other treason, I never committed. I stand condemned for nothing but the saying of Mass, hearing confessions, preaching and such like duties and functions of priesthood."

These were the words uttered by Saint Edmund Campion just before

he was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn in 1581. The charge that the state laid against him was treason; he was held up as a threat to the security of the nation. Of course, he was no such thing. For his Catholic faith, however, the Elizabethan government made him a martyr.

Saint Edmund Campion, SJ, ministered to Catholics in England at a time of Catholic persecution. Under the Tudor monarchs Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, the Catholic Church was displaced by the Church of England. The English monasteries were dissolved by 1541, and Catholic clergy and laity were persecuted and killed.

Edmund Campion could have been the brightest star in Elizabethan England. He impressed Elizabeth with his welcoming oration when she visited Oxford University in 1569. Under her promised patronage his path to power and prestige was assured. Campion first thought to follow that path, being ordained originally as an Anglican deacon. But his heart was rooted in the Catholic faith. In 1571 Campion travelled to Douai, France, to study in the Catholic seminary. Several years later he walked to Rome, where he was accepted by the Jesuits. The next years Campion taught in Vienna and Prague.

Campion could have stayed safely in Prague, but he heard the call to minister to Catholics in England. He could only do this traveling in disguise, celebrating the sacraments in secret, and avoiding the many spies who sought him out. But Campion did not keep his mission a secret. He wrote and circulated the Challenge to the Privy Council to debate him on all issues between Protestants and Catholics. His mission began in 1580 but soon ended with his arrest in 1581.

After his arrest, Campion was convicted of treason, suffered the dislocation of his bones on the rack, and still held his own in debates



## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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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.

## Collection for 20/11/2022

Loose..... \$425.05  
Planned Giving..... \$405.00  
Total..... \$830.05

**Direct Debit** BSB 064-786  
Account 100011987

## We pray for those who are sick:

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

## Recently deceased:

Ron Atkinson died in Wondai. The details of his funeral are still to be formulated. I ask you to pray for Ron and his family at this time.

against his persecutors. Showing her esteem for his person, Elizabeth met him, trying to draw him back into the Church of England. Campion remained steadfast in his Catholic faith. Finally, Campion was hanged, drawn, and quartered on December 1, 1581.

Edmund Campion, SJ, was declared a saint by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

