

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year C, 15 September, 2019

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



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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rejoice in the God's Love

As a newly ordained priest I was sent to the Philippines before the oil dried on my forehead. With a full five days of experience as a priest I was missioned to teach English in the Jesuit institute of Ateneo de Manila. During my time there I travelled around Manila extensively. There always seemed to be somewhere I needed to travel and exercise my priesthood.

Whilst I was there I saw the poverty and the wealth of the Philippines. Some living in mansions and others squatting under the overpasses on the highways. Like all countries there is before rich and poor. This inequality seems to be based on the distribution of a nation's wealth.

Almost overnight it seemed that every primary school and overpass were painted in bright, garish colours. This really stood out, because prior to this coat of paint these structures were coated in peeling and blistered paint. When I enquired as to what had happened I was told that an election was brewing. It seemed that at election time the local members (who were extremely wealthy) remembered that they had poor constituents who made up the majority of the population and they would be voting.

Working in extremely poor areas of the city, I was amazed at the disparity of wealth and the inequality I could see throughout the city. But this was an Australian perception of the world. I was seeing this through the lenses of my expectations of the society from Australia. In such extreme disparity

I wondered why there was not a strong revolutionary spirit among the poor to overthrow the system and create a more egalitarian society.

I soon learned that most of the poor who I met didn't want the system to change. They held the dream that one day they would rise to the next level of society and wanted to enjoy the privileges and status that this rise would present them.

This way of thinking was in stark contrast to the way we Aussies think. We live in a society based on jealousy and envy. Instead of asking why can't we all have that privilege, we tend to say, "I don't have it, so they shouldn't either." This is the attitude of the elder son in today's Gospel. He cannot rejoice in the return and ascension of his brother. Instead he hardens his heart and is jealous of his father's love. We are all called into the family of God and should rejoice when our brothers and sisters are successful and help them when they are suffering. A jealous heart is one where love is in winter: bereft of the sun and the warmth of God's love.

Saint Joseph's Fete

Last week's fete was a wonderful night and the joy experienced by the children of the parish was uplifting. It was a delight to see young families out together on a Friday night having a great time and being a family.

Thank you to all the staff and teachers of Saint Joseph's for their efforts and support. I also wish to thank the parish members who were there and helped in the fete,

especially the pork roll stall that sold out very early.

Parish Telephone

One of the issues I was faced with was the antiquated parish telephone system that was not working properly and was expensive. This has now been addressed. We have a new parish mobile number. This mobile sits in the office as the office telephone and is forwarded to my personal mobile. Hopefully this will make it easier to reach the office and me. We also hope this will be a cheaper option. Our new parish number is: **0499 006 959**.

The existing numbers will continue until the end of this year.

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ

Mass Times:

Next Weekend 21/22 September

Proston, Saturday at 8.00am
Murgon, Saturday, 6.00pm
Wondai, Sunday, 8.00am
Cherbourg, Sunday, 10.00am

Weekday Mass Times:

Wondai, Wednesday at 5.30pm
Murgon, Thursday at 5.30pm
Murgon, Friday, Healing Mass at
Castra, 9.00am

Today's readings

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14:
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

Response:

I will rise and go to my father.

Next week: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Jessica Shailer, 20
 Nancy Rossow, 26
 Terry Leyland, 26
 Peggy Quinn, 29

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary to be published in the parish newsletter please contact the parish office.

Today's Mass

All human beings sin; no one is perfect. To acknowledge our faults and failings is to speak the truth. For Jesus, there were no outcasts. Saint Paul did all he could to discredit the Christian faith, and yet was called by God to become a great saint. Today's parables highlight God's love for us, showing that God is always searching for the lost one and rejoicing to bring us home.

Collection for 8/9/2019

Loose..... \$175.20
 Planned Giving.....492.00
 Total: \$867.00

Parish Morning Teas

Join us for a cuppa and chat after any of the following Masses.

Goomeri – 1st and 3rd Sundays
 Wondai – 2nd Sunday
 Durong – 2nd Sunday
 Murgon – 3rd Sunday
 Proston – 4th weekend

LITURGY ROSTERS

for weekend Masses

Murgon: 6.00pm, Saturday, 21 September, 2019	
Leader:	K Thompson
Readers:	K Thompson, T Gerrard
Euch Mins:	T Gerrard

Wondai: 8.00am, Sunday, 12 September, 2019	
Leader:	F Hutton
Readers:	N Hutton, M Burns
Euch Mins:	D Boge, F Hutton

Lost in the system

(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)

Our son John (not his real name) was dux of our local State High School and went to university to study Mechanical Engineering. He completed his degree and was awarded the medal for top student. He quickly completed his Masters degree and began his PhD. John has a 'blotting paper' memory and retains everything he hears.

However, John collapsed with severe depression and was unable to use a computer or drive his car. He had to be taught how to catch a bus and be able to return to the public hospital annexe, where he was a patient for five months. He was also a patient at a private hospital for some considerable time.

Gradually he was able to do volunteer work counting nuts and bolts. Only the boss knew of his problems. John was directed not to speak of computers with the staff. One lunch break staff were discussing a computer breakdown, and he realised that he could correct it. He gradually improved until he was able to obtain a position as a computer programmer. John quickly rose to head programmer but the emotional strain began to tell. His real love was horticulture, which he studied at TAFE while in the computer business. John realised that he was quickly heading down the depression trail again and gave immediate notice.

Centrelink refused to assist as John had voluntarily left his position.

They ignored his psychiatrist's report that he was about to become unemployable because of an impending breakdown if he continued in computer work. To them he had left a job and it was his problem not theirs. John applied for several low paid jobs but was knocked back because he lacked experience and was considered too old.

John put in for some jobs with plant nurseries to no avail. One was a well known major firm. John visited us for Saturday lunch, and as I prayed grace I felt an urge to pray as follows: 'Holy



Parish Directory, St Joseph's Parish Est. 1927

Parish Priest:
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 PO Box 60 Murgon 4605
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 www.murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au

Reconciliation Times

1st Sundays:
 Wondai, Saturday, 4.30pm

2nd Sundays:
 Murgon, Saturday, 4.30pm

3rd Sundays:
 Proston, Saturday, 10.00am

Used Postage Stamps

Wondai church has a box at the back of the church and perhaps someone could do the same for the other churches.

Vinnies at 84 Lamb Street, Murgon. Volunteers urgently required. For further information please phone Cecily Fry on 0437 864 667.

We pray for those who are sick:
 Cathy Carter; David Clancy;
 Earl Pratt; Lee Seargent.

Spirit, you know John is keen to work in the horticultural business. You know what job you have in mind for him, so please tell him, and make it quick!

Before we had finished lunch John's wife rang to say that the firm had rung wanting an interview on the following Monday. John got the job which was sixteen hours per week – nowhere near enough to pay an adequate salary, but his hours soon improved. It saved him from a second complete breakdown. (Mike)