

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 17 September, 2017

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



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

Dear friends,

We are called to forgive; and that can be really difficult. You have been defrauded by the banks of your life's savings – can you forgive? You were abused as a child – can you forgive? You were done out of a job because another lied to get it – can you forgive? The answer is maybe 'no'. What then does God want? He asks us to open our hearts to the other so that we may forgive. Forgiveness is the deepest of God's desires on our behalf, and he hopes that we can forgive each other.

Our hurts and burdens are heavy to carry through life. To forgive can release some of that weight. The person who hurts us may be dead, or may not even know or care that we are hurting. When we desire to forgive but don't know how, one way of looking for this strength is to pray for it. We often pray, "Lord, make my heart like yours". When we pray like that we are praying to be forgiving people!

Another way is to pray for the person. When we realise that as God loves me, he also loves everyone, we may find a spark or light of forgiveness in our souls. Out of this we may find the will to meet the other and talk to him or her, and find the grace of forgiveness between us.

Forgiveness sometimes comes slowly. When God sees us wanting to be on the road to forgiveness, he gives us the graces we need to unburden ourselves and be able to love like him.

Sit in silence for a while, and send a blessing or prayer to someone you need to forgive.

Lord, I ask, make my heart like yours.

Fr Subin Thomas mcbs



Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Couples celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary (or longer) and their family and friends, are invited to the annual Mass with Bishop Brian V Finnigan at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen. The Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 7 October, commencing at 10.00am. Light refreshments will be served in the Hanly Room, following the Mass and for catering purposes you are asked to RSVP to cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au or telephone 3324 3030 by Friday 29 September. The Cathedral car park will be available.

This reflection has been prepared by Patricia Stevenson rsj from the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

The theme of today's readings is Mercy. We have two short stories that are strongly contrasted. In the first, a king in the midst of an audit finds that a minor official owes thousands. According to custom he orders the man and his family to be sold to cover the cost of the debt. The man asks for mercy and he is granted, not simply what he asked for, which was, more time to pay, but extraordinarily, the remission of the whole debt. Such a story would have brought a gasp of astonishment from the hearers.

The second story is dark and shocking. The lucky official on leaving the presence of the king, runs into a fellow official who owes him a couple of hundred. He grabs the fellow by the throat and threatens him. The frightened man begs for more time but his plea is not heard. The hapless official is sent to prison.

This story leaves us shocked by the ruthless attitude of the official and his inability to relate his experience of mercy to his own behaviour. How could he do that?" we ask ourselves.

Using a different style, Sirach comments, "Wrong doing can be so engrained that a person acts in an unjust manner without consciously being aware of it." The writer goes on

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Sunday Mass Times: Next Sunday 23/24 September

Proston, Saturday at 9.00am
Murgon, Saturday at 5.00pm
Wondai, Sunday at 8.00am
Cherbourg, Sunday at 10.00am

Weekday Mass Times:

Wondai, Wednesday at 5.30pm
Murgon, Thursday at 5.30pm
Murgon, Friday 9.30am

Feast Days coming up:

September, Thursday 21
Saint Matthew, apostle, evangelist

Today's readings

Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Response:

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Gospel Acclamation:

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Next week:

Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20-24.27
Matthew 20:1-16

ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEK

Birthdays

Jessica Shailer, 20

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary to be published in the parish newsletter please enter the details into the birthday/anniversary books in Murgon or Wondai Churches, or contact the parish office.



*Holy Mary
pray for us*

Parish Morning Teas

We welcome all parishioners and visitors to the parish to join us for a cuppa and chat after any of the following parish Masses.

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

LITURGY ROSTERS

for weekend Masses

Murgon: 5.00pm, Saturday, 23 September, 2017	
Leader:	E Thompson
Readers:	E Thompson, T Gerrard
Euch Mins:	T Pedersen, Z Dawson

Wondai: 8.00am, Sunday, 24 September, 2017	
Leader:	F Hutton
Readers:	N Hutton, M Burns
Euch Mins:	D Boge, F Hutton



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to say that the action is a result of disordered attitudes.

Underneath the callous vengeful behaviour lie pride and anger. Now pride and anger are feelings that are a normal part of our human make-up; we feel pride in our family our talents; anger is experienced when we are insulted or our values questioned.

When our proud or angry feelings are translated into actions which damage our own or another's personal well being then they are 'out-of order'. Some people, Sirach says, hug anger tight. They nourish it until it becomes a destructive energy which causes harm.

We have to learn to use the energy of our anger in appropriate ways. We probably believe that we could not act as the unjust official did. Yet God pardons us as readily.

Do we avert to this when we judge and condemn others? Perhaps we do not recognise the absolute mercy of God because, over the year, the people who speak in God's name have tended to talk more about God as punisher rather than God as merciful, yet we read, "I will have mercy, not sacrifice." God says.

Good works are not a substitute for a forgiving heart. The healing of our own spirits comes from developing a new heart. The seeds of vengeance must not be allowed to take root. We need to watch for the small expressions of injustice towards others and practice mercy.

Anger can be righteous, for example when we are cheated, dispossessed, or made the butt of jokes. We feel the energy which seeks to right the wrongs. A disciple of Jesus has to find the way to redress the wrong, without creating new wrongs. This is very difficult, to find peaceful solutions which end hostilities, takes time and commitment.

Paul says that the kingdom of God is about justice, peace and joy. Faithful disciples will keep trying to bring the mercy of God to damaged spirits.

Patricia Stevenson.rsj.



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Reconciliation Times

1st Sundays:
Wondai, Saturday, 5.30pm
2nd Sundays:
Murgon, Saturday, 5.30pm
3rd Sundays:
Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Just Coffee: Support the people of East Timor by purchasing Coffee, Cards and Bro Bands available. Please contact Blue on 0400 893 866 or Benita on 0458 537 417 or email - carneymilestone@bigpond.com

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

Used Postage Stamps

We are still collecting your used stamps to be recycled to help the poor. Wondai church has a box at the back of the church and perhaps someone could do the same for the other churches.

Many thanks from the Wondai Catholic Ladies Group.

We pray for those who are sick:

Angela Blakie; Cathy Carter; Nina Connors; Michael Duff; Felicity Edwards; Val Elliott; Gloria Lucas Euler; Cynthia Guteridge; Chris Heideman; Neil Hutton; Keith Leyland; Elaine Madill; David Parker; Bridie Prendergast; Lee Seargent, Stephen Troeth.