

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 13 September, 2020

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



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

Preach what you Believe, and Believe what you Preach

To be true to one's self is the most difficult thing a person can do. Because what is in our hearts and what we are can be diametrically opposed. We say we are kind and loving. But if people around us were asked to describe us they may say something else entirely. This might not be self-delusion as much as a difficulty in reaching the aspiration to which we aim.

After twenty-five years of occupation, a long bush war, genocidal practices and the violence of October 1999, the Timorese were traumatised. People were living in villages next to men who had murdered and raped their neighbours. What do you do to men who inflict this on you and your family? Revenge is the most primitive reaction and when you are living in a nation without a government or rule of law; surely revenge is sometime that would make sense.



But in the interim between the end of Indonesian governance and the custodial governance of the UN there were no major reprisals or vengeance killings.

The people at all levels paused. The major influence of this reaction was the deep Catholic faith of the Timorese people. They truly believed that forgiveness and reconciliation were important. At all levels of the Church there was a call for reconciliation and justice. This was a deep desire for the people to move forward and not be bound by the pain and histrionics of the past. During this time there was an extraordinary presence in the country.

In villages there were liturgies of forgiveness and reconciliation. People who had hurt others were called by their neighbours to renew themselves. Men who burnt down their neighbour's house were called to physically rebuild the houses. Community service projects were set as a path to reconciliation. After the penance was served, a liturgy of reconciliation and acceptance was performed in the presence of the community. It was truly exceptional. It was a time of living the Gospel.

I don't believe that Australian society is capable of this expression of Faith and love. Retribution and vengeance permeate our society. A culture of hate (which is atheistic) is present at all levels. We feed at the breast of American hate. We are quick to sue and demand retribution. We cannot forgive or allow for salvation. Australians want to blame and take vengeance. There is no place for love. From the media, to the judiciary, to the political system hate and vengeance reign supreme. When we give no value to the unborn child, how can a loving culture develop and herald the love that is God into our lives?

Fr Bryan Pipins SJ



Taking orders for **Adore – Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2020**

Inspired by the shepherds, Magi and our Blessed Mother, this year's reflection book, **Adore**,

provides a wonderful opportunity for us to take a quiet step out of our daily lives and refocus our attention on the Lord in adoration of what he has done for us through his Son. If you wish a copy, please sign the sheet at the back of the church. It will be \$5.00 per copy.

Masses 16 to 20 September

Wondai, Wednesday, 5.30pm

Murgon, Thursday, 5.30pm

Castra, Friday, 9.00am

Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Wondai, Saturday, 5.00pm

Murgon, Sunday, 8.00am

Goomeri, Sunday, 10.00am

Today's readings

Sirach 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:

Alleluia, alleluia! 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



Our Lady of Sorrows – 15 September

The title, Our Lady of Sorrows, given to our Blessed Mother focuses on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the passion and death event; rather, it comprised the seven dolours or seven sorrows of Mary, which were foretold by the Simeon who proclaimed to Mary, "This child [Jesus] is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare" (Luke 2:34-35). These seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother included the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when our Lord was crucified; her holding of Jesus when He was taken down from the cross; and then our Lord's burial.

In all, the prophesy of Simeon that a sword would pierce our Blessed Mother's heart was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with her heart exposed and with seven swords piercing it. More importantly, each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed her fiat, let it be done unto me according to Thy word, first uttered at the Annunciation.

This Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows grew in popularity in the 12th century, although under various titles. Granted, some writings would place its roots in the eleventh century, especially among the Benedictine monks. By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the feast and devotion were widespread throughout the Church.

Interestingly, in 1482, the feast was officially placed in the Roman Missal under the title of Our Lady of Compassion, highlighting the great love our Blessed Mother displayed in suffering with her Son. The word *compassion* derives from the Latin roots 'cum' and 'patior' which means to suffer with.

Giving is the essence of love

(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)

Echoes from the Past

The most intimate essence of love is the giving. God, who is love, gives Himself to creatures whom He Himself has created through love... To be able to give ourselves to God with love, we have to recognise Him as He who loves...

The cross is not an end in itself. It stands on high and beckons one toward the summit... The cross serves as a walking-stick to speed one's march toward the summit.

Saint Edith Stein (1891-1942)

(Edith Stein was a German Jewish philosopher who converted to Catholicism and became a Discalced Carmelite nun. She is canonised as a martyr and saint of the Catholic Church. She was born into an observant Jewish family, but had become an atheist by her teenage years. She died in Auschwitz concentration camp.)

We pray for those who are sick:

Cathy Carter; Dianne Pour; Earl Pratt; Lee Seargent and Paul Stanton.

Collection for 6/9/2020

Loose.....	\$478.00
Planned Giving.....	\$262.30
Total.....	\$740.30



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Paul Pratt, 8
Lynn Manthey, 9
Nora Reilly, 14
Jessica Shailer, 20
Nancy Rossow, 26
Terry Leyland, 26
Peggy Quinn, 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Norm and Joan Walker, 8

Death Anniversaries

Jim Manthey, 11
Stephen Elliott, 12

Saint Joseph's Church

Two years ago the Health and Safety people did an inspection of the parish. At that time they deemed the carpet in Saint Joseph's as a hazard and told us to remove/replace it. Last year the follow up inspection told us the same thing. After speaking with the Pastoral Council and getting a green light from the Finance Committee, we will now move forward.

On the week of 21 September 2020, a new floor is to be laid in the church. To save several thousand dollars we need to remove all the furniture from the church and lift the carpet. To achieve this I will need some help. If you are able to assist me in removing the furniture could you please come to the church on Sunday 20 September 2020 at 1.00pm? After the Mass at Goomeri we can start to remove the furniture. The work should take the week to complete, but we will need a fudge factor. So Mass on 26 September 20 will be in the parish hall.