

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 20 September, 2020

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



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

Quantification rather than Qualification

It seems in our human condition that we tend to put quantity over quality. By this I mean we tend to look at something firstly by how much there is rather than how good it is. Think of a Christmas stocking laid out on Christmas Day. If it is filled and over following, our eyes widen and joyful anticipation fills our heart. If the stocking is quite empty joy is replaced with despair. In a society driven by money and greed quantity reigns supreme.

But if I look back on the Christmas presents and gifts I received, the ones that I remember and treasure are those given with love and thought. They mean something to me because of the relationship behind the giving. In my room is a small simple wooden chest. It is about 10cm by 8cm. I received it on my thirteenth birthday. When my friend gave it to me he said he found this log on the ground for me. It is one of the few birthday presents I still have (over forty years later).

This internal struggle is a deep part of who we are, but as we deepen in faith and experience we learn to discern more deeply. Until we accept love unconditionally we fail to appreciate the beauty and the true love in our lives. This is a quest to find our true humanity and soul.

We can see this conflict in our society. As a nation we resent it when someone gets something we don't get. We thrive for shared misery. Image that those the most maligned, untrusted and despised in Australia – Collingwood supporters,

were granted a free scholarship to university, all costs paid. Our first response would be amazement that they could read and write. Then amazement would turn to anger. Why should they have a free ride when the rest of us don't receive such benevolence. So we would complain and say that the scholarship should be revoked. We want equality in our society.

And that is exactly the point. This call is to share in misery. The Christian reaction is to rejoice in the lost soul that has been saved. We should then be grateful that this has been given to some people in need and instead of asking for equality through the removal of the scholarship, we should call for all people to receive the grant. Instead of dragging others down, we should call to lift all people up.

A Christian society strives for a quality of living and respect which embraces all and welcomes all. Instead of looking at how much we have, we look at the quality of what we have. In rejoicing and improving the way we live we can lift the quality of life and joy of all. Quantity gratification divides and splits our society between those who have and those who do not. Qualitative gratification celebrates life and the gift of life through the beauty we share.

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 23 to 27 September

Wondai, Wednesday, 5.30pm

Murgon, Thursday, 5.30pm

Castra, Friday, 9.00am

Proston, Saturday, 9.00am

Murgon, Saturday, 5.00pm

Wondai, Sunday, 8.00am

Cherbourg, Sunday, 10.00am

Today's readings

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

Response:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts,
O Lord, to listen to the words of
your Son. Alleluia!

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



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Saints Cosmas and Damian – 26 September

Saints Cosmas and Damian were two Arab physicians in the town Cyrrhus, and were reputedly twin brothers, and early Christian martyrs. They practised their profession in the seaport of Aegeae, then in the Roman province of Syria. Accepting no payment for their services led to them being named *anargyroi* (from the Greek *Ανάργυροι*, 'the silverless'); it has been said that, by this, they attracted many to the Christian faith.

Nothing is known of their lives except that they suffered martyrdom in Syria during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. According to Christian traditions, the twin brothers were born in Arabia and became skilled doctors.

Saladino d'Ascoli, a 15th century Italian physician, claims that the medieval electuary, a pasty mass consisting of a drug mixed with sugar and water or honey suitable for oral administration, known as *opopira*, a complex compound medicine used to treat diverse maladies including paralysis, was invented by Cosmas and Damian.

During the persecution under Diocletian, Cosmas and Damian were arrested by order of the Prefect of Cilicia, who ordered them under torture to recant. However, according to legend they stayed true to their faith, enduring being hung on a cross, stoned and shot by arrows and finally suffered execution by beheading. Anthimus, Leontius and Euprepus, their younger brothers, who were inseparable from them

throughout life, shared in their martyrdom.

Saints Cosmas and Damian are regarded as the patrons of physicians, surgeons, and pharmacists and are sometimes represented with medical emblems.

In Brazil, the twin saints are regarded as protectors of children, and September 27 is commemorated, especially in Rio de Janeiro, by giving children bags of candy with the saints' effigy printed on them. The Church of Saints Cosmas and Damian, in Igarassu, Pernambuco is Brazil's oldest church, built in 1535.

Special Collection – Holy Land

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Holy Land. This is to support those people who have custodianship of the sacred places of the first Christians. Donations given last week was \$89.00.

We will send this on to the archdiocese for transfer to Israel and Lebanon. If you were absent last week and wish to support our suffering brothers and sisters, please place it in an envelope and add it to our collection plate. You can do this any time over the next few weeks and we will transfer it. *Thank you.*

Collection for 13/9/2020

Loose.....	\$838.85
Planned Giving.....	\$290.90
Total.....	\$1,129.75

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 Floor

With the COVID situation, delivery of the material for the floor has been delayed. The floor will not be started until Monday 19 October 2020. Therefore, I would appreciate the help of anyone who can move furniture on Sunday 18 October 2020. We will start to move the furniture at 1.00pm. All help is appreciated but work within your ability. You are more important to the parish than this working bee.

We pray for those who are sick:

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

(Please let us know if you would like someone's name added to the sick list. Also, contact us when you feel that it is appropriate to remove a name from our list.)