

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 6 September, 2020

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



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

A Time to Accept

A friend of mine was a trauma councillor to the UN mission that supervised the 1999 ballot on the future of East Timor (ET). He experienced the violence, human rights abuse and the murders that were sanctioned by the Indonesian government and military. When the UN was expelled he returned to Australia. A few months later we returned to East Timor with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) to help those who suffered during the violence and help them rebuild their lives.

During my study we had two Indonesian Jesuits studying with us. Two truly amazing men. They were on fire with their faith and were quite charismatic. During the years we studied together they became good friends. When the whole East Timor situation exploded they were torn. This was something beyond their experience.

Both Sunu and Wira, worked with the Indonesian student population in Melbourne (both Catholic and Muslim). During the violence the Indonesian students were torn and confused. Their government back home was telling the people of Indonesia that Australia was mistreating and abusing their students in Australia. Although this was not the experience of the students.

The Indonesian students during this time were also politically active. There was unrest in Indonesia and this would lead to the removal of the government. I remember a large rally in the centre of Melbourne. Tens of thousands gathered to protest the action of the Indonesian military in East Timor. Both Wira and Sunu went with me to this rally.

A few months later I was in East Timor and at Christmas both Sunu and Wira

travelled to East Timor. They came as part of JRS. While I was with JRS-ET, they worked with JRS- West Timor. So we were working both sides of the border. During their stay in West Timor, they came to East Timor and stayed with my team. They had been heavily influenced by the propaganda of the Indonesian government. They were afraid the Australian soldiers would shoot them because they were Indonesian and of the human rights abuses the soldiers were inflicting on Indonesians still in East Timor.

During their time with me in ET they saw firsthand the situation. They spoke with the locals (in Bahasa Indonesian) and with the Indonesian Jesuits in ET. This was a confronting time for them. They were proud of their heritage and their country. It was difficult for them to believe that their people had done such terrible things to the people of ET.

How do you acknowledge the sins of your own people and your country in a place of so much pain and suffering? How do you listen to the voices of the victims? The answer is as simple as it is hard. Honest reflection and prayer. They were men of faith and animated by the love of Christ. As we read in today's Gospel they spoke with their brothers and sisters and accepted the grievance of the others. In humility they were open to the victims and imbued with the love of Christ.

It is often hard to hear the voices of others when they speak against our actions, perceptions or attitude. If we listen with ears of love then we can adjust our experiences and move forward together with our brothers and sisters.

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 9 to 13 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

Durong, Sunday, 10.30am

Today's readings

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10;
Matthew 18:15-20

Response:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

Next week: Sirach 27:30-28:7;
Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35



Saint Peter Claver – 9 September. Patron of the Cherbourg Church

(Spanish: Pedro Claver y Corberó, Catalan: Pere Claver i Corberó) (26 June 1580 – 8 September 1654) was a Spanish Jesuit priest and missionary born in Verdú (Catalonia, Spain) who, due to his life and work, became the patron saint of slaves, the Republic of Colombia, and ministry to African Americans. During the 40 years of his ministry in the New Kingdom of Granada, it is estimated he personally baptised around 300,000 people (in groups of 10) and heard the confessions of over 5,000 slaves per year. He is also patron saint for seafarers. He is considered a heroic example of what should be the Christian praxis of love and of the exercise of human rights. The Congress of the Republic of Colombia declared September 9 as the Human Rights national Day in his honour.

Claver headed for the wharf as soon as a slave ship entered the port. Boarding the ship, he entered the filthy and diseased holds to treat and minister to their badly treated, terrified human cargo, who had survived a voyage of several months under horrible conditions. It was difficult to move around on the ships, because the slave traffickers filled them to capacity. The slaves were often told they were being taken to a land where they would be eaten. Claver wore a cloak, which he would lend to anyone in need. A legend arose that whoever wore the cloak received lifetime health and was cured of all disease. After the

slaves were herded from the ship and penned in nearby yards to be scrutinised by crowds of buyers, Claver joined them with medicine, food, bread, brandy, lemons and tobacco. With the help of interpreters and pictures that he carried with him, he gave basic instructions.

Claver saw the slaves as fellow Christians, encouraging others to do so as well. During the season when slavers were not accustomed to arrive, he traversed the country, visiting plantation after plantation, to give spiritual consolation to the slaves. During his 40 years of ministry it is estimated that he personally catechised and baptised 300,000 slaves. He would then follow up on them to ensure that as Christians they received their Christian and civil rights. His mission extended beyond caring for slaves, however. He preached in the city square, to sailors and traders and conducted country missions, returning every Spring to visit those he had baptised, ensuring that they were treated humanely. During these missions, whenever possible he avoided the hospitality of planters and overseers; instead, he would lodge in the slave quarters.

Claver's work on behalf of slaves did not prevent him from ministering to the souls of well-to-do members of society, traders and visitors to Cartagena (including Muslims and English Protestants) and condemned criminals, many of whom he spiritually prepared for death; he was also a frequent visitor at the city's hospitals. Through years of unremitting toil and the force of his own unique personality, the slaves' situation slowly improved. In time he became a moral force, the Apostle of Cartagena.

We pray for those who are sick:

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

Collection for 30/8/2020

Loose..... \$279.00
Planned Giving..... \$293.00
Total..... \$572.00



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.