

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Second Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 15 January, 2023

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



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

Waiting in Joyful Hope: Is patience possible in our culture of immediacy?

Donald DeMarco December 16, 2022
NCR

"Patience is a virtue, possess it if you can, seldom in a woman, but never in a man". This is largely a jab against men who, presumably, all suffer from being rash, precipitous and impulsive.

Julius Caesar might have agreed with this adage. He once stated that:

"It is easier to find men who will volunteer to die, than those who are willing to endure pain with patience."

If patience is difficult, if not impossible, our high-tech society is trying to make it unnecessary. Fast food, instant photos, immediate seating, speed reading, rapid transit, instant coffee and fast-breaking news are various ways in which society is attempting to eradicate the need for patience. Yet patience remains a virtue and should be part of everyone's moral arsenal. There will always be a need for patience. Therefore, we should learn to acquire it.

Patience is not weakness, as it is commonly believed to be. It is a species of the Cardinal Virtue of Fortitude. It takes a certain amount of inner strength in order to be patient. Without this strength, a person is prone to anger, anxiety or even flying off the handle.

Patience should be regarded as a most attractive virtue for it allows a person to remain self-possessed in the face of what Hamlet described as "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune". In a less dramatic way, it allows a person to wait without fretting. Or, to state the matter more mildly, patience is the virtue or capacity to accept delays, difficulties, or sufferings without becoming annoyed or agitated.

An indication of the strength of patience lies in the fact that it can resist anger, maintain hope and use time profitably. Patience, perseverance, and perspiration

form a trilogy that is a reliable formula for success. Thomas Edison famously said that genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.

Saint Paul exhorted the Thessalonians, who had suffered many trials and difficulties, to "direct your hearts into the love of God and into the Patience of Christ (2 Thessalonians 3)". Christ was rejected by the world, but remained serenely patient and never discouraged. Patience becomes not only possible, but eminently realisable when united to Christ.

Insurance companies sometimes beguile their clients by telling them that a policy will give them "peace of mind". But patience, which is needed for "peace of mind," is a virtue, not the consequence of owning an insurance policy. No matter how much insurance we have, the need for patience persists. Even dealing with insurance companies often requires no end of patience. When all is said and done, we are the only architects of our virtue. No one can be virtuous for us.

Job is the ultimate personification of patience. If he could maintain his patience despite the enormity of his sufferings, we can be patient in the relatively small things that afflict us. It was his faith, of course, that helped him to endure his suffering without losing his patience. Faith and Hope are the book ends of patience, one to lean on, the other to look forward to.

The cult of immediacy is the contemporary enemy of patience. "I can't wait", the cry of the impatient child, has carried over into the adult world. Yet the impatient person is ill prepared to succeed in the contemporary world. "How poor are they that have not patience!" wrote Shakespeare, "What wound did ever heal but by degree?" We must learn to wait and use our time for some enterprise other than the one we had planned.

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January is the month for Educators

Pope's Prayer Intention –
For educators:

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Mass Times Next Week

Tuesday, 17 January
Gayndah, 12 noon

Wednesday, 18 January
Wondai, 5.00pm

Thursday, 19 January
Murgon, 5.00pm

Friday, 20 January
Castra, 9.00am

Saturday, 21 January
Proston, 9.00am
Wondai, 5.00pm

Sunday, 22 January
Murgon, 8.00am
Gayndah, 10.30am
Goomeri, 6.00pm

Today's readings

Isaiah 49:3,5-6; 1Corinthians 1:1-3;
John 1:29-34

Response:

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

Next Sunday: Isaiah 8:23-9:3;
1Corinthians 1:10-13,17; Matthew 4:12-23

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Patience is indeed possible. But first we must slay a few demons and then latch on to a few virtues. The demons are laziness, a lack of imagination and a defeatist attitude. The virtues are faith, hope and the willingness to look for a blessing that arrives in disguise.



Novena Prayer the Infant Jesus of Prague

O Jesus, who said, "ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you," through the intercession of Mary, Your Most holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. *(Mention your request)*

O Jesus, who said, "All that you ask of the Father in My Name He will grant you," through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Your Father in Your name that my prayer be granted. *(Mention your request)*

O Jesus, who said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass," through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. *(Mention your request)*

Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI



(Part Two continued from last week)

by *(abridged)* Edward Pentin NCR

In 1975, Ratzinger authored an article publicly articulating his conviction that the only proper way to interpret the Second Vatican Council was in strict continuity with previous Church councils, such as the Council of Trent and the First Vatican Council.

In 1977, to the surprise of almost everyone — including Father Ratzinger himself — Pope Paul VI named Father Ratzinger archbishop of Munich and Freising. He was quickly elevated to cardinal that year. And four years later, in 1981, Pope John Paul II appointed him prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

He remained at the side of the Polish pontiff until his death in 2005, serving as one of his closest advisers. As "Co-Workers of the Truth" the Pope and prefect put their shoulders to the task of stabilising the Church and fulfilling the Council's true mandate of reform.

While at the helm of the CDF, Cardinal Ratzinger sought to clarify and defend the faith, address new challenges to Catholic sexual and medical ethics, and end abuses in sacred worship. He was responsible for a host of significant documents, including the 1980s detailing doctrinal flaws associated with Marxist-oriented liberation theologies.

Among his most important contributions was his oversight of the drafting process that resulted in the publication of the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church'. Released in 1992,



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Safeguarding

If you have experienced abuse or misconduct, you can ring the help line, **1300 304 550**. Information can be shared anonymously.

Collections 8 January 2023

Loose..... \$308.20
Planned Giving..... \$379.00
Total:..... \$687.20

Direct Debit BSB 064-786
Account 100011987

We pray for those who are sick:

Bevan Barsby; Cira; Renee Elliott;
Justine Forde; Val Iacono; Jill Maclure;
Annette McCorry.

it represented a groundbreaking attempt to resolve persistent doctrinal confusion through the formulation of the truths of the faith.

Cardinal Ratzinger was instrumental in securing the Holy See's endorsement of the 'Norms and Charter for the Protection of Young People', which became a model for episcopal conferences all over the world in dealing with the abuse crisis.

After John Paul's death in 2005, Cardinal Ratzinger, as dean of the College of Cardinals, celebrated the Pontiff's funeral Mass before a vast global audience. His homily expressed his personal sorrow at the passing of a beloved friend, while celebrating the extraordinary faith and courage of the deceased Pope.

(Part Three continues next week)