

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Year C, 6 April, 2025

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



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



Irene harvests her field in Kongolo, DRC. ©Arlette Bashizi

**Pope Francis has spoken a great deal about our need for more women to occupy positions of leadership, both in the Church and in the world at large.**

In his wonderful letter about the way we belong to each other, Fratelli Tutti, he says "the organisation of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story". He is concerned about "those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence".

Pope Francis very much reflects the attitude of Jesus whose closeness to women distinguished him as a leader and teacher in his time. You might think of significant encounters in the New Testament: the woman at the well, Martha and Mary, the widow of Nain. You might also think of the woman we met in today's Gospel, described by the scribes and Pharisees as "caught in the very act of committing adultery". Listen to the sneer in those words.

These men, who are supposed to be educated and respected, have been peeping through the window. Their behaviour is salacious, domineering and demeaning. In their self-righteousness, they threaten violence. There is no sign of the woman's partner who is surely just as much part of the story. Jesus neatly turns the tables.

He starts by sitting on the ground, occupying a position lower than that of the woman. He is the only one not taking an eyeful of her.

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## STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND RECONCILIATION

Friday, 11 April, 7.00pm,  
Wondai

Fr Geo will be available for Reconciliation before and after Stations of the Cross and prior to each weekend Mass.



## Mass Schedule for Lent and Holy Week

### 1st Sunday of Month – 5/6 April

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.30am, Mundubbera

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah



## HOLY WEEK

### Palm Sunday 12/13 April

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

### Holy Week 17/18/19/20 April

17 April, Holy Thursday, 9.00am  
Murgon

17 April, Holy Thursday, 7.00pm  
Gayndah

18 April, Good Friday, 10.00am  
Gayndah

18 April, Good Friday, 3.00pm  
Murgon

19 April, Easter Vigil, 6.30pm  
Gayndah

20, April, Easter Sunday, 8.00am  
Murgon

### 4th Sunday of Month - 26/27 April

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

### 1st Sunday of Month - 3/4 May

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.30am, Mundubbera

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

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Caritas Australia, whom we support through Project Compassion, has long acted in constructive ways to uphold the dignity of women and honour their strength, resilience and leadership. We have seen this during Lent, particularly in the stories of Irene from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Toefuata'iga from a school in Samoa. Please look at Caritas Australia's resources online; you will find many such stories. In so much of the world, development is led by women.

This Lent, we have also been mindful of the Year of Jubilee, a significant call to *Unite Against Poverty* as pilgrims of hope. Today's second reading reminds us that none of us is perfect. But like Saint Paul, we are still running, still trying to achieve "the perfection that comes through faith in Christ". This does not mean judging others as the scribes and Pharisees did. It means challenging ourselves to bring the world closer together as Jesus prayed "may they all be one".

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray that all women may be respected and encouraged to take their rightful place in society. We pray also that all people will have access to clean water and safe housing. May we *Unite Against Poverty* as we act for justice in concrete ways, such as through Project Compassion.

## ATTENTION

### Cleaning of the Brass – MURGON

Mrs Leann Burgess will be hosting the 'Cleaning of the Brass' and Morning Tea at her home on Boat Mountain Road on Tuesday, 8 April at 10.00am. Please bring polishing cloths and a small plate.

Contact Leann 0418 681 685.

## Tears of sorrow

*(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)*

Joanne came with a heavy heart and eyes streaming with tears... she had heard that the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat would be able to help her to find some peace and comfort after years of grief and shame. Three years before, Joanne had been forced to abort her baby. She had felt trapped and unable to stand up against the pressure from her husband: "This is not a good time... I'm studying... we can have a baby later... there's plenty of time". But now, here she was, three years later – and still no baby.

The retreat began gently with a meditation and ritual based on today's Gospel passage. The woman in the story was filled with fear, shame and grief, just like Joanne. But then Joanne also heard the words that Jesus spoke to that woman: "I do not condemn you..." She then went on to share with the group that in the three years since her abortion, in an attempt to deaden the pain she was feeling, she had smoked marijuana constantly. She was 'stoned', by her own hand! Hearing those beautiful, gentle words of Jesus helped Joanne start to take the first steps along her healing journey back to wholeness.

During the retreat, participants are invited to write a letter to their aborted baby. In her letter, Joanne wrote:

"When I found out you were inside me, I already knew – we had been loving each other and I felt you tugging my womb and my breasts. I was honoured to be your mummy, but I was so scared. I felt alone and worried and I did a terrible thing to you". ... Your daddy and I were fighting a lot and we were very poor. I never wanted you to experience the hurt I did growing up poor.

"I have named you Gabriel. It means 'in God is my strength'. God wasn't my strength when you were in my belly –



## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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Parish website:

[murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au](http://murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au)

### We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrity;

Rodney Euler; Pope Francis;

Phillip Gaffney; Nerla Knight;

Dr Graham McAllister; Kai Vera.

I had turned from the world. I should have just stayed loving and trusting you. My life fell apart after you left it. I couldn't face a life without you and felt so bad for hurting you and taking your life. But sweet Gabriel, I have returned to God now and hope that you are loved in His hands.

"I want you to know that although your life was so short, you did matter. You have had a profound impact on me and you have become my greatest teacher. I will tell your story my darling. I'll take God's guidance to direct me in this and I pray that you may forgive me and watch over all my endeavours in your name". (Julie)

## Deliver us, Lord, from our bondage

*(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters) Echoes from the Past*

I would like to say, as a brother, to all those friends whose consciences are uneasy because they have sinned against God and neighbour: You cannot be happy that way; the God of love is calling you. He wants to forgive you, he wants to save you.

Oscar Romero (1917-1980)