

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Eighteenth Sunday Ord. Time
Year C, 3 August, 2025

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



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



Luke 12 13-21

The book of Ecclesiastes—Qoheleth (koh-he-lath) in Hebrew, meaning, 'one who calls to assembly'—surprises and upsets because the author (also called Qoheleth) questions the standard religious mentality of his time: that the good are rewarded and the evil punished. Qoheleth shocks by his pessimism: all is *hebel*, meaning, vain or empty. Human beings are no better than animals; one who is hardworking is no better than a sluggard; acquiring wisdom and knowledge is like chasing after the wind. Qoheleth's contribution to religious thought is his willingness to question ready-made ideas and complacent optimism which extol success as the fruit of a well-ordered world. Qoheleth's restlessness and pessimism are, in the final analysis, but the expression of his anguished cry for what lasts: the Absolute. He desires the Absolute: the One who is not 'vanity'.

Qoheleth's words prepare us for the Gospel teaching about the folly of wealth. "A man's life is not made secure by what he owns," Jesus declares. To drive home that message, he tells the parable of a rich man

who 'has it all' and looks forward to enjoying his wealth. But he dies the very night he makes his great plans.

The only solution to the inevitability of death is to be "rich in the sight of God". We should consider always what will remain after death. We will be stripped of all material goods, even those legitimately acquired. What remains will only be the quality of our life and how we have made use of our goods, be they much or little.

Paul understands Christ's teaching well and declares, "Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2). Life in Christ is the only wealth worth having, a wealth that endures forever.

(God's Word, Daily Reflections 2025)

CONFIRMATION

There will be a Celebration of
Sacrament of Confirmation for
Mr Vanh Thanh Nguyen on
Sunday, 10 August at 8.00am Mass
at Saint Joseph's Church, Murgon.
May we ask you to keep Vanh
in your prayers. Thank you.

Weekend Mass schedule

2nd Sunday of Month - 9/10 August

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Saturday, 9.00am, Goomeri
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Cherbourg
Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera

3rd Sunday of Month - 16/17 August

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon
Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

4th Sunday of Month - 23/24 August

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Saturday, 9.00am, Goomeri
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah
Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera

5th Sunday of Month - 30/31 August

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah
Sunday, 2.30pm Eidsvold

Today's readings

Ecclesiastes 1: 2; 2: 21-23;
Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11; Luke 12: 13-21

Response:

In every age, O Lord, you have been
our refuge.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

This Homelessness Week

(4-10 August), we need to change our attitude to housing and see it as about persons not dollars.

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

Two things stand out about homelessness today. First, the level of homelessness in Australia is intolerable. It is a sad statement of our values as a wealthy society. Second, it is complex. There is no simple solution to it. For that reason, it needs determination, serious planning and a clear and demanding program to ensure that everyone seeking a place in which to live and raise a family can find secure accommodation.

As a society we have allowed homelessness to grow because we have ceased to regard housing as a human need. Instead, we have allowed it to be treated as a financial investment. We have allowed biased regulation of taxation, investment and security of rental tenure, and the reduction of government investment in social housing to make it impossible for most families to buy houses, and for people without reliable income to rent accommodation. That we have allowed this to happen and do so little to change it states our priorities as a nation. We are more concerned with profit than with people. This attitude leads us logically to make homelessness a crime and to pass laws that conceal it by banning people from sleeping in parks and on city streets.

No Quick Solutions

There is, however, no simple and quick solution to the lack of housing. Simply to build more houses for new owners will increase their prices as wealthy investors buy them. To reduce rapidly the cost of houses, however, will bring economic turmoil and political suicide. There needs to be a staged combination of removing the incentives for investment in houses, much more public investment in social housing and protection of people who rent.

Right to Shelter

In modern societies people have a right to shelter. Stable accommodation is necessary if we are to live fully as human beings with our dignity respected. Without it we shrink as persons, we lose touch with friends and family. We also lose the connections to society without which our lives become precarious.



A Catholic Prayer for Palestine

Merciful God, our Father, we turn to you with heavy hearts, witnessing the suffering of your people in Palestine, particularly those facing starvation. We pray for an end to the violence and conflict that has caused such hardship and displacement.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to move the hearts of leaders to choose peace and justice. Inspire them to work towards solutions that ensure the safety and well-being of all, especially the most vulnerable.

We pray for those who are hungry, that they may find nourishment and sustenance. Provide for their needs, O Lord, and grant them strength and hope in this time of great need. Bless those who are working to provide aid and assistance to the people of Palestine.

May your grace touch the hearts of all people, inspiring compassion, solidarity, and a commitment to building a world where everyone has enough to eat. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves. **Amen.**



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

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If you know anyone in need, please contact Lindsay Poilly President, Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, on 0437 864 667 or 5459 5234

2025 Annual Catholic Campaign on the weekend of 23 and 24 August .

If you have any questions about this year's campaign please contact Leslie Silva at silval@bne.catholic.net.au or (07) 3324 3486.

We pray for those who are sick:

Elisabeth Bell; Jess Bradbury; Graham Burgess; Mary Davitt; Rodney Euler; Steven Heit; Margaret Keleher (Maryann's Mum); Nerla Knight; Dr Graham McAllister; Bob Ricketts; Joshua Smith; Kai Vera.



If you are able to make a contribution to the **Vinnies QLD Winter Appeal**, visit their website at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-qld/winter-appeal-qld>

Collection 26/27 July 2025

Goomeri \$30.00

Wondai \$107.00

Murgon \$285.50

Total: \$422.50

Direct Debit BSB 064-786

Account 100011987