

# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Third Sunday of Advent  
Year A, 14 December, 2025

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



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



## Matthew 11: 2-11

John laboured diligently preparing the people to welcome the Messiah who, he believed, was coming as a judge to punish the wicked and reward the good. However, languishing in his prison cell, John hears of the healing and forgiving ministry of Jesus. He is perplexed and filled with doubt, because Jesus does not conform to his expectations. So, John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus answers simply: Go and tell John what you see and hear. Clearly in Jesus' ministry the prophecies of Isaiah (29: 18-19 35: 5-6; 61:1) are being realised and the kingdom of God is being inaugurated. And so, Jesus declares blessed those who can see the connection between his ministry and the kingdom of God. These are the ones who keep faith in him.

Although Jesus holds John in the highest regards, as the greatest born of women, he nevertheless adds rather surprisingly: yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater

than he is. Who are the least? They are those who have had the privilege of knowing and accepting Jesus as their Saviour. Today, we, the disciples of Jesus, are blessed to be the least in the kingdom.

*(God's Word, Daily Reflections, 2025)*



## Christmas Mass Times

Sunday, 14 December,  
**Cherbourg** at 10.30am

Wednesday, 17 December,  
**Eidsvold** at 3.30pm

Thursday, 18 December,  
**Castra** at 9.00am

Saturday, 20 December,  
**Proston** at 9.00am

Wednesday, 24 December,  
**Wondai** at 5.00pm

Thursday, 25 December,  
**Murgon** at 8.00am

Thursday, 25 December,  
**Gayndah** at 10.30am

Sunday, 28 December,  
**Mundubbera** at 2.30pm

Sunday, 28 December,  
**Goomeri** at 6.00pm



## Weekend Mass schedule

### 2nd Sunday of Month - 13/14 December

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

(Liturgy of the Word)

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Cherbourg

Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera

Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

### 3rd Sunday of Month - 20/21 December

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 - 27/28 December

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

(Liturgy of the Word)

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera

Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

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

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

## Today's readings

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; St James 5: 7-10;  
Mathew 11: 2-11

*Response:*

Lord, come and save us.

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord  
is upon me; he sent me to bring Good  
News to the poor. Alleluia!



Thank you to everyone who came from far and wide attend the Mass of All Nations on 30 November and to everyone who provided the delicious multicultural meals. There was such a variety of main meals and sweets to choose from.



## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Mikhael Loke SVD  
Tel: Parish Office, 0419 693 602  
Parish e-mail: [murgon@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:murgon@bne.catholic.net.au)  
24 Angel Avenue, MURGON  
PO Box 60 Murgon 4605

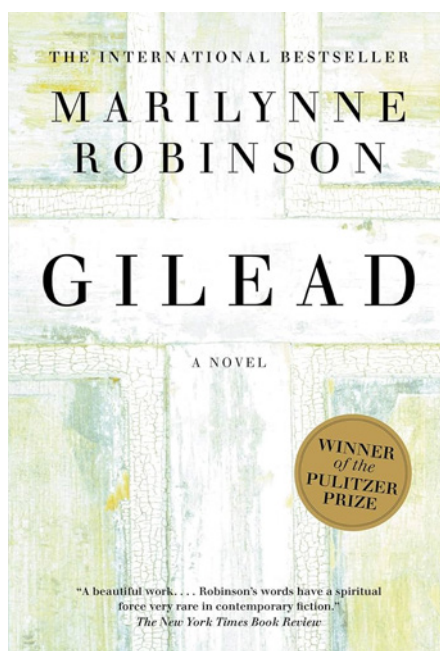
Parish website:  
[murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au](http://murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au)

## Fr Peter's Bookcase: Gilead

I can't believe it took me so long to finally read this treasure of a book, written 20 years ago, and been often recommended by many of my fellow book enthusiasts. Having finally consumed it, I'm ready to start it again just in case I missed any of the life lessons that glow on nearly every page.

Marilynne Robinson's 'Gilead' is a quietly profound and beautifully written novel told through a series of letters from Reverend John Ames to his young son. The book is a meditation on faith, memory, and the passage of time, and it should be recommended reading for anyone considering a religious vocation or simply wondering how to put faith into action, while being aware of our own fragility and weaknesses. Set in the small town of Gilead, Iowa, in the 1950s, the story unfolds slowly and cannot be devoured in haste. Like a sumptuous meal, every mouthful is to be savoured.

Unlike most of my other reading suggestions this novel's strength lies not in dramatic plot twists or devious characters, but rather in its blending of humour and pathos, finding a moral truth in the most ordinary of events. Reverend Ames, nearing the end of his life, and knowing that he won't get to spend



much time with his young son and with no material legacy to leave him, writes with honesty and tenderness, sharing his thoughts on love, grace, and the beauty of everyday moments. In his poor and meagre life, he offers rich reflections on theology and history, which are deeply personal, yet universally resonant.

The portrayal of forgiveness and reconciliation often felt like an examination of conscience. The novel doesn't offer easy answers, but it does offer hope – a quiet, enduring hope rooted in faith and kindness.

It gave me cause to reflect on the wise mentors of my own life and how I wish I had taken greater notice of their experiences at the time. Robinson's ability to capture

## We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Mary Davitt;  
Rodney Euler; Colin Heit; Nerla Knight; John Kruger; Dr Graham McAllister; Carmel McKeering; Bob Ricketts; Joshua Smith; Kai Vera.



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

the sacred in the ordinary is nothing short of remarkable, rewarded by a Pulitzer Prize and many other awards.

In a world often dominated by noise and haste, Gilead is a welcome invitation to slow down and listen. It's a deeply spiritual and humane work that affirms the value of a life lived with integrity and love. A true literary gem and a perfect companion for the Advent journey.

*(Book: Gilead. Author: Marilynne Robinson. Published: 4 November, 2004, by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Archdiocese of Brisbane website.)*

## Collections 6/7 December 2025

Murgon .....	\$466.10
Wondai.....	\$115.00
Proston.....	\$223.00
<b>Total: .....</b>	<b>\$804.10</b>