

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Third Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 25 January, 2026

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



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



Matthew 4: 12-23

At the onset of his mission, Jesus calls his first set of disciples. Nothing had prepared Andrew, Simon, James and John for the task of becoming 'fishers of men'. Their training was to catch fish and trade their catch with fish vendors. But they let themselves be won over by Jesus' magnetic presence. They leave behind their boats, their father Zebedee (in the case of James and John), and follow Jesus in the adventure of preaching the Good News of the Kingdom. At times they would be slow in understanding what the Kingdom of heaven entails. But Jesus is a patient teacher, and he teaches through unforgettable stories called parables. Most of all, he teaches by example: being merciful and caring to the least and the last.

Speaking of the call of the first disciples, Pop Francis shares: "There are different ways of carrying out the plan that God has for each of us, which is always a plan of love... And the greatest joy for every believer is to respond to this call to offer all at the service of God and their brothers and sisters." Where do you feel the Lord is calling you at this stage of

your life? Do you have the openness of the first disciples of Jesus?

(God's Word 2026)



World Day of Prayer 2026

Join our local prayer service
focused on Nigeria

Date and Time: 6 March at 9.30am

Venue: Church of Christ, Murgon

Address: 20 Thorn Street, Murgon

Contact: Elaine Thompson

Mobile 0419 693 602

Could you please advise if you can
attend (catering) and if you can
participate in the readings.

Weekend Mass schedule

1st Sunday of Month - 31 Jan / 1 February

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

2nd Sunday of Month - 7/8 February

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 - 14/15 February

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 - 21/22 January

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

Today's readings

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

Response:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the
Good News of the kingdom, and healed
all who were sick. Alleluia!

Reflection on today's readings

All three Synoptic gospels place a summary statement of Jesus' message at the beginning of his public career (Matt 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15). Before giving the content of the preaching (in v17) Matthew, uniquely, prefaces it with a long comment (4:12-16) showing how Jesus' geographical movements – from Nazareth in the Galilean hinterland to Capernaum by the lakeside – fulfil a prophecy from Isaiah.

Appropriately, this passage (Isa 8:23 – 9:3) forms today's First Reading. In the original occupation of the land of Canaan by the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt, the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali settled in the northernmost portion of Palestine west of the Lake of Galilee. Here they had to eke out a rather precarious existence alongside non-Israelite neighbours. In this sense they were "people who walked in darkness". Now, in an oracle of salvation, the prophet assures Zebulun and Naphtali that their region (Galilee), long known as a region of darkness, is going to become a region of glorious light when Israel's God moves to set them free.

God's saving plan

Matthew, of course, never misses a chance to point to the fulfilment of Scripture – and therefore of God's saving plan – in all the details of Jesus' life. Today's Gospel (Matt 4:12-23) begins by telling us that the era of John the Baptist's ministry has come to an end with his arrest. That of Jesus replaces it as he moves from his hometown, Nazareth, down to the lakeshore city of Capernaum. His sojourn, then, by the 'sea' in the shape of the Sea of Galilee is enough for Matthew to see the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. The appearance of Jesus in this region and his ministry will be the great and glorious 'light' that is to shine in the region of those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death (Matthew gets the evocative phrase 'shadow of death' from the Greek translation [LXX] of Isaiah).

Jesus' ministry will be primarily to 'the lost sheep of the house of Israel'

(15:24). But Galilee still retained its admixture of non-Jews and was known as 'Galilee of the Gentiles'. This means that for Matthew the ministry of Jesus in this region foreshadows the mission to the nations of the world on which, after his resurrection, he will send his disciples (28:19-20). In this way the Isaiah text provides a script, not only for the ministry of Jesus, but for that of the later Church as well.

Message of repentance

The Gospel goes on to give us a summary of Jesus' message: 'Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand'. On the lips of Jesus, 'Repent' means something far more than simple sorrow for sins. The Greek word literally refers to a 'change of mind' – a change not just in an intellectual sense but involving a transformation of attitude at a deep personal level. Full biblical repentance means being prepared to look at one's life and one's hopes for the future in a totally new way, open and receptive to the – usually surprising – action of God.

When Jesus preached the onset of the Kingdom he was tapping into fairly conventional expectation amongst people of his time. There was a widespread belief that Israel had somehow fallen out of the hand of God and lay in helpless bondage to evil spirits and malign influences. The oppressive occupation of the country by the Romans was one manifestation of this. People longed for a time when, as in the Exodus and again at the time of the Exile, there would be a reassertion of God's rule, bringing in the messianic age.

Change of heart

Before political and economic freedom, however, what was central to the Kingdom in Jesus' eyes was a divine reclaiming of people's hearts. The Kingdom meant a radical change of heart. Hence the summons, 'Repent', before the proclamation of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom was, then, about the gathering of a renewed and transformed Israel – a community in which God could truly dwell ('Emmanuel'). So, as his first public act, Jesus begins to gather this renewed Israel by calling the first four of



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We pray for those who are sick:

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

those who, later to become Twelve, will be the pillars of the People of God. Leaving their family and their livelihood, they are to become his intimate companions and followers. Life with him, and association with his ministry of healing and proclaiming the Good News, will transform them from being fishers of fish to being fishers, 'catching' people for the Kingdom.

Here we have the essential and lasting foundation for what was to become the Christian Church: people who have heard the Good News, who know God lives in their midst, and who seek constantly to draw others (those who 'live in the darkness and shadow of death') into the freedom and light that Jesus has brought into the world.

(Fr Brendan Byrne S, Australian Catholics)

Collections 17/18 January 2026

Murgon	\$346.80
Wondai.....	\$146.00
Proston.....	\$260.00
Total:	\$752.80