

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Sixteenth Sunday Ord. Time
Year C, 20 July, 2025

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



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



Luke 10: 38-42

This Sunday, we are being reminded of both the importance of hospitality and the need to focus on God alone. In the first reading, Abraham sets out serving the three persons loaves of bread, meat from his finest calf, cream and milk. He gives them (God) all is attention, care and service.

Similarly, in the Gospel, there is a great flurry of activity and service as Martha and Mary welcome Jesus into their home. However, there is one important distinction here. While Martha is busy and fretting over many things, Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, listening and giving him all of her attention. And this is the invitation to each of us. God invites us to put him at the centre of our lives and very being. In all we're doing and being, is God the one and only one at the heart of our lives, from which all else flows? Where is our attention? Who is at the centre of our lives? (*God's Word, Daily Reflections 2025*)

Two sisters, Martha and Mary, give hospitality to Jesus. Martha appears to be the dominant personality. Certainly, her hospitality is more active and practical. Her sister Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet and listens. This sets up the kind of

'triangular' pattern often to be seen in Luke's gospel: Jesus interacts with a character, usually someone in a marginal situation in some respect; a third character or party takes offence at this and grumbles or murmurs. Jesus defends the more marginal party, showing how her or his action is the more appropriate in terms of what **he** has to offer.

In this case, it is Mary, seemingly the younger sister, whom Jesus defends. While Martha has fussed about preparing too many dishes, when just one would have sufficed, Mary has "chosen the better part" – literally, "the better portion (or "dish")". In view of the identity of the One here present as guest and the gift that he has to give, it is Mary's attitude that is the more appropriate. As in the case of Abraham and his guests, hospitality is not simply flowing one way. Martha and Mary have far more to receive from their guest than he has to receive from them.

Hosting friends and families is hard work. No matter how much you look forward to the visit, you spend time, effort and expense in preparation. Once the guests arrive the tasks expand to include serving drinks

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Weekend Mass schedule

4th Sunday of Month - 26/27 July

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

1st Sunday of Month - 2/3 August

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 - 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

Today's readings

Genesis 18: 1-10; Colossians 1: 24-28;
Luke 10: 38-42

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart, and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

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and food, and ensuring conversation flows. Perhaps the only time you relax is when everyone goes and you have cleaned up.

Luke's Gospel is always problematic for those responsible for providing hospitality. Much as they would like to sit quietly, there are numerous jobs that need doing. [A priest friend once joked that the main reason Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law of her fever (Luke 4:38-40) was that somebody had to get the dinner.] But, just as many of us struggle with a perception of unfairness to the elder son in the parable of The Prodigal Son, and now similarly with the rebuke to Martha, we make the mistake of overlooking the abundance of God's love for us.

What rings through the First Reading is the extreme solicitude of Abraham to provide the duties of hospitality (in fact, of course, the chief burden will fall on Sarah, his wife). But the point to notice is that the guest(s) come not simply to receive but also to give. They leave a promise – a divine promise, in fact. Abraham and Sarah, childless hitherto and now well on in years, are to have a child (cf. Gen 21:1-2). So, the hospitable Abraham has received from those to whom he gave hospitality a marvellous gift in return. He has received a future for himself and his family. His family will become a great people (Israel) and a blessing for all the nations of the earth (Gen 18:18).

(Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, Australian Catholics)

2025 Annual Catholic Campaign

The 2025 Annual Catholic Campaign will be held across all Archdiocesan parishes 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.

First Nations Australian students in Rome enriched by cultural exchange

Two First Nations students in Rome as winners of the 2025 Francis Xavier Conaci Scholarship, speak with Vatican News about their experience and share their stories at an event at the Australian Embassy to the Holy See.

Every summer, the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the Australian Embassy to the Holy See join forces through the Francis Xavier Conaci Scholarship to sponsor two First Nations students to study in Rome.

On Wednesday, 9 July, this year's recipients Drew Campbell, a Wiradjuri woman, and Jacob Lasserre, a Kamilaroi man, both 19, shared their stories at an event at the Australian Embassy to the Holy See, as the nation celebrated the National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week from July 6 to 13. This year's theme is 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'.

"My culture, it's not behind me. It is beside me and it was within me," said Campbell in her speech, as she shared the story of her family's aboriginal roots.

The scholarship program is named after Francis Xavier Conaci, a 19th century Australian Aboriginal boy who travelled to Rome to train as a monk before dying tragically at a young age. He is believed to be buried in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

The event was introduced by the Australian ambassador to the Holy See, Keith Pitt, who highlighted the importance of this scholarship and the opportunity to listen to the experiences of these young First Nation students. Representatives from the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments were also present.


(Isabella H. de Carvalho and Grace Lathrop, Australian Catholics)



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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

Safeguarding

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

We pray for those who are sick:
Elisabeth Bell; Jess Bradbury; Graham Burgess; Margaret Connell; 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>

When it's no longer safe to stay at home or people are experiencing homelessness, your donation can help them find a safe and secure place to stay.



Holy Mary
pray for us