

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Third Sunday of Lent
Year C, 23 March, 2025

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



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

Sometimes you hear Indigenous people refer to Jesus as a "person of Country". What might this mean?

It is hard to imagine the Gospels without the connection of Jesus to the sea, the river, the desert, the fields and the mountain. His teaching often featured seeds and birds and sheep and corn. In today's Gospel, we hear the parable of the fig tree.

The impatient person wants to cut it down. A wiser person is prepared to work with nature by putting manure on the tree and looking after it. This is a story of growth. God is creative. God is patient with us. God gives us another chance. He journeys with us on our pilgrimage of hope.



This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Lam, a young man from rural Vietnam. Lam's disability made his upbringing difficult. Sometimes people look at those with disability a little like the fig tree. They judge them and dismiss them.

Through the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia's partner in Vietnam, Catholic Relief

Services (CRS), Lam was able to pursue his dreams and become more independent. He enrolled in a six-month IT Technician training course in Da Nang that not only equipped him with professional skills but also rekindled his social connections and confidence. Lam's dedication during the training paid off as he launched a freelance graphic design business from his home. Today, he is a successful graphic designer, serving clients locally and internationally and earning a stable income every month. He has a creative life.

In today's reading, Moses is in the wilderness, a place of surprising possibilities. Like the Australian landscape, the wilderness in Scripture is subtle; it is a place of encounter with God. Moses thinks he is having a regular day in the family business, looking after his father-in-law's sheep. But a voice comes from a bush that is blazing without being burnt up.

The voice tells Moses to take off his shoes because "the place on which you stand is holy ground". This is the beginning of the freedom story of his people, the start of their journey out of captivity. May we *Unite Against Poverty* as we create a better world for all God's people.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fr Geo will be available to say The Stations of the Cross at each of our churches once during Lent. Dates available are 21 March, 28 March, 4 April and 11 April. Please contact Fr Geo to set your date.



Mass Schedule for Lent and Holy Week

4th Sunday of Month – 22/23 March

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston –
Liturgy/Communion
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah
Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

5th Sunday of Month – 29/30 March

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston –
Liturgy/Communion
Saturday, 5.00pm, Murgon
Sunday, 8.30am, Mundubbera
Sunday, 10.30am, Eidsvold

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



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WYD: Todos, Todos,

"Todos, todos, todos". This is a phrase that Pope Francis repeated throughout his time in Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day.

Approximately one and a half million other pilgrims, –myself included! – were asked to consider these words during our pilgrimage. Translated to "**everyone, everyone, everyone**" in English, these three words hold tremendous significance not only in relation to my experience at World Youth Day but also to the missionary vocation to which we're all called as members of the Church.

I traveled to **World Youth Day** to educate young pilgrims about the work of the **Pontifical Mission Societies** in over one thousand mission territories worldwide and their own baptismal call to be missionaries, bringing Christ to every corner of the globe. As a first-time attendee of the event, it was a beautiful sight witnessing the universality of the Church and recognising that we were all joined together in prayer for the Church and each other.

Todos. Everyone.

The crowds of young people flooding the streets of Lisbon stand as a testament to the bright future of our Church and its capability to stay true to its values while embracing everyone eager to experience Christ's love. I met pilgrims of every age from every continent, brimming with passion for their faith. I found

myself praying alongside individuals I had only known for a fleeting moment and who didn't speak my language. Yet, we were united by our universal family, the Church, which transcends both time and space – **todos**.

Pope Francis' words resonate not only with the experience of World Youth Day but also with the role of Catholics as missionaries. "Todos, todos, todos." Each one of us is named and called by God to know and love Him – **todos**. This calling is a testament to God's love for every single one of us – **todos**. Since we are cherished by God, we are driven to share the truth of Christ's life, death, and resurrection with all nations – **todos**. This missionary call propels us to learn and express our faith daily, guiding others in our orbit to do likewise. Moreover, we empower others to discover and embody their faith in mission territories, especially where the Church's presence is minimal or financially constrained. Sharing God's love introduces them to His essence, and through your prayers and contributions, you endow those in the Missions with an opportunity to recognise the Church as their spiritual sanctuary. You help disseminate the joy of missionary zeal.

Being in Lisbon with the Holy Father and over a million devout Catholics was thrilling and humbling, seeing the fervor with which so many embrace their missionary call. As Pope Francis expressed, "*la alegría es misionera*" or "joy is missionary".

We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrity; Rodney Euler; Pope Francis; Phillip Gaffney; Nerla Knight; Dr Graham McAllister; Kai Vera.

Sharing Christ infuses joy into the world and our lives. God's love, Pope Francis imparted, is "the starting point of World Youth Day, but above all, the starting point of our lives. We are loved as we are, unadorned. Do you grasp that? And each one of us is beckoned by name."

May every single one of us – not only those who participated in this youth festival, remember that God calls each of us by name. And we are asked to do our best so that everyone knows this truth, especially those who have never heard of Christ's redeeming love.

Isabella Wagner, Development and Stewardship Coordinator of The Pontifical Mission Societies USA

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for those driven away from their homes by violence, persecution or poverty, especially women. May our hearts be open to do all we can to rebuild the lives of others through supporting Caritas Australia and the work of Project Compassion.

May we be instruments of God's peace and pilgrims of hope.