

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year C, 30 March, 2025

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



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



Irene mentors other women in the Caritas Australia-supported youth empowerment program at a workshop.
©Arlette Bashizi

One of the most beautiful expressions in the Bible comes from the prophet Ezekiel (Ezk 11:19).

"Thus says the Lord, I will take their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh". It is a call to be tender and compassionate.

You would need a heart of stone not to be affected by the stories we encounter today. Most of us have heard the story of the two sons in today's Gospel over and over. The brilliance of the way Jesus tells stories is that it still gets under our skin. Here are two young men who think they can live on their own terms. One has a sense of entitlement and demands his share of his father's estate which he then squanders. He is finally prepared to eat humble pie and find his way home. The other son has a different sense of entitlement. He believes that his hard work and reliability should provide him with a greater share of his father's love. At different times in our life, we can relate more to one or other of these people. Jesus implies that they are both blind to the way God's love works and that they both need to

grow. They have both been dead and now must come to life.

The story we encounter this week is also deeply moving. Irene, aged 25, lives in the Kongolo region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her father was killed during a war and Irene lived with her mother on very meagre resources, often going hungry for extended periods of time. Irene first became pregnant as a teenager and later had to raise her two children on her own, with the support of her mother. As a single

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND RECONCILIATION

Friday, 4 April, 7.00pm,
Murgon

Saturday, 5 April (after 9.00am
Mass), **Proston**

Friday, 11 April, 7.00pm, **Wondai**

Fr Geo will be available for Reconciliation before and after Stations of the Cross and prior to each weekend Mass.



Mass Schedule for Lent and Holy Week

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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mother, it was challenging for Irene to care for two sons without a stable income.

Irene's life changed after she participated in the Youth Capacity Strengthening program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Kongolo. Through the program, she undertook training in sewing and livestock farming, enabling her to generate income to support her family.

Our second reading today reminds us that we are "ambassadors for Christ". Saint Paul says, "for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation". Let us all be part of building that new creation, setting the world to rights as best we can. Our part is to reach out in compassion and love to heal the wounds of the whole human family. Let us all *Unite Against Poverty* as pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee.



Pope expresses "great joy" over prayers of support

Pope Francis tells pilgrims from dioceses across Italy that he is overjoyed to know that "you are united to me, and among yourselves, in the Lord Jesus".

By Joseph Tulloch

In a brief message from Rome's Gemelli hospital, Pope Francis on Saturday greeted groups of pilgrims from dioceses across Italy currently in Rome for the Jubilee Year.

These pilgrimages, the Pope wrote, "express the unity which joins you as

one community around your pastors and the bishop of Rome". They also demonstrate, he added, the pilgrims' "commitment to accepting Jesus' invitation to enter through the narrow door".

Love, the Pope said, always fulfils these dual functions of "uniting us and helping us to grow together". For this reason, he explained, God had brought the pilgrims together at the tomb of Saint Peter, "from which you will be able to set off even stronger in faith and more united in charity".

'Great joy' over 'unity' with pilgrims

The Pope then thanked the pilgrims for their prayers for his health.

"Recently, I have very much felt the support that comes from your closeness," the Pope said, "particularly the prayers which you have been accompanying me with."

"Even though I can't be with you physically," the Pope continued, "I want to express my great joy in knowing that you are united to me, and among yourselves, in the Lord Jesus".

Pope Francis drew his message to a close by assuring the pilgrims of his prayers, and asking for theirs in return: "I bless you and pray for you. And please: continue to pray for me too".

ATTENTION Cleaning of the Brass – MURGON

Mrs Leann Burgess will be hosting the 'Cleaning of the Brass' and Morning Tea at her home on Boat Mountain Road on Tuesday, 8 April at 10.00am. Please bring polishing cloths and a small plate. Contact Leann 0418 681 685.



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We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrity;

Rodney Euler; Pope Francis;

Phillip Gaffney; Nerla Knight;

Dr Graham McAllister; Kai Vera.

The abyss of God's mercy

(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)

Echoes from the Past

The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, the centre of which is the merciful father: the fascination of illusory freedom, the abandonment of the father's house... his reflection on all he has lost; his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father; the journey back; the father's generous welcome; the father's joy – all these are characteristic of the process of conversion... Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of the Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1439)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for all those who live with disability, especially those who are stigmatised in any way. May we do all we can to support their flourishing as truly equal participants in the human family.