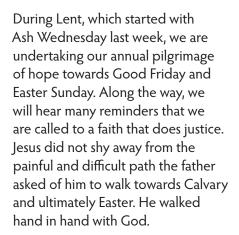
# St Joseph's Catholic Parish

First Sunday of Lent Year C, 9 March, 2025 Embracing the communities of Cherbourg, Goomeri, Murgon, Proston and Wondai

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



We too may be called to a challenging journey. Many of us carry burdens with our families, our relationships, our jobs, our accommodation and so on.

We are also called to help the cross of the most marginal members of God's family throughout the world. For generations, Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia, has helped us to do this.

Let us *Unite Against Poverty* as people of crystal-clear vision. Let us take to heart the words of Saint Paul, part of whose letter to the Corinthians we hear today: "Never give in then, dear brothers and sisters, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain".



Primary school students in Samoa dancing and playing at school

The desert plays a significant part in Scripture: it is a place of both discovery and of getting lost. You may recall that Moses encountered God in the wilderness when he hears a voice from the burning bush.

He discovered something vital to us all that day: God points us in a direction we may not choose for ourselves. Later, however, Moses and his people are lost in the desert for 40 years. We read the finale of that story in today's first reading.

First Australians have also had an intimate connection with the desert. Many Indigenous cultures danced in time with the desert for countless generations. When the so-called Pintupi Nine made 'first contact' after emerging from the Gibson Desert in 1984, they were in excellent health. The same desert could kill Europeans in thirty-six hours or less.

In today's Gospel, we learn that the Spirit led Jesus to a lonely place. Up to this point in Luke's Gospel, we

continued on next page...

## Sunday Mass Schedule

### Murgon

8.00am, Sunday, 16 March 8.00am, Sunday, 23 March 8.00am, Sunday, 13 April 8.00am, Sunday, 20 April 8.00am, Sunday, 27 April

#### Wondai

5.00pm, Saturday, 15 March 5.00pm, Saturday, 29 March 5.00pm, Saturday, 5 April 5.00pm, Saturday, 12 April

## Gayndah

10.30am, Sunday, 16 March 10.30am, Sunday, 23 March 10.30am, Sunday, 6 April 10.30am, Sunday, 20 April

### Proston

9.00am, Saturday 15 March 9.00am, Saturday, 29 March, Liturgy/Communion 9.00am, Saturday, 5 April 9.00am, Saturday, 12 April, Liturgy/Communion

#### Goomeri

6.00pm, Sunday, 23 March 6.00pm, Sunday, 13 April 6.00pm, Sunday, 27 April

#### Cherbourg

10.30am, Sunday, 13 April

#### Mundubbera

8.30am, Sunday, 30 March 8.30am, Sunday, 6 April

#### Eidsvold

10.30am, Sunday, 30 March

...continued from previous page

have seen Jesus as a member of his family and community. We have met Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth and Simeon and Anna and John the Baptist. Now Jesus must stand on his own and decide what really matters in life. Is he going to rely on material things? Is he going to want power at any price? Is he going to put himself rather than God at the heart of his decision making? These are the temptations of the devil.

Lent presents us with the same choice. Are we going to find our direction or just be lost in the swirling confusion of choices with which life presents us? Project Compassion helps us to find direction by offering us the opportunity to Unite Against Poverty. Are we content for the world to become more and more fragmented. Or would we prefer to stand up against voices of opportunism and exploitation? Every year, Caritas Australia is overwhelmed and grateful that our Catholic communities are so clearly on the side of justice and life.

#### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for greater respect for the environment. May we care deeply for Earth, the place that God has entrusted to our care.

May we celebrate the Year of Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope, ready to find the direction towards peace and justice that God wants for us. May we Unite Against Poverty as we grow in respect for all life.

## In the Wilderness

(Real life stories, collected by the Carmelite Sisters)

Last year, while preparing for my pilgrimage to Compostella, I felt moved to make it an expression of Jesus' prayer: "forgive us our sins as we forgive..." I also felt moved to ask God to forgive those that we cannot yet forgive.

There are so many trespasses in our world from those of us who have on those who have not. I decided to try to remember this when having to endure lack of shelter, comfort, water or food along the way. I can't help feeling guilty about having more than others, and for complaining when having to go without something dear to me. I didn't expect to change anything for those who are in need, but at least I would try to be with them in spirit and ask forgiveness for what they lack in life, which sometimes leads to their death. At the same time, I left with a heart full of thanksgiving for all that I have been given in my life, and for what I was confident I would be given along the way.

Despite disappointments, I kept walking. It was hard: alone all day, often near heavy traffic, and arriving each evening at primitive accommodation in very damp and cold former school buildings

## Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Administrator: Fr Geo Francis Tel: Parish Office, **0419 693 602** Parish e-mail: murgon@bne.catholic.net.au 24 Angel Avenue, MURGON PO Box 60 Murgon 4605

Parish website:

murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au

We pray for those who are sick: Graham Burgess; Orlando Dyrit; Rodney Euler; Pope Francis; Dr Graham McAllister; 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

converted into youth hostels. Soon I didn't think of anything, and then a thought appeared that I attributed to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: 'make of every step an act of love' and a song "the way of tears is a way of love". And so I came to have Thérèse as a companion on the road. She helped me a great deal to go on and make of this pilgrimage an act of love without words.



**PROJECT**COMPASSION

Donate now, visit projectcompassion.org.au



Almighty God, help us to live the example of love we celebrate in this eucharist, that we may come to its fulfilment in your presence.