

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!

During Lent, which started with Ash Wednesday last week, we are undertaking our annual pilgrimage of hope towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Along the way, we will hear many reminders that we are called to a faith that does justice. Jesus did not shy away from the painful and difficult path the father asked of him to walk towards Calvary and ultimately Easter. He walked hand in hand with God.

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".

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



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...

...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.



Donate now, visit
projectcompassion.org.au

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 Dyrity;
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.



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.