

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Year C, 11 May, 2025

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



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



John 10: 27-30

We continue listening to the Gospel of John but now from Jesus' parable of himself as the Good Shepherd. Today we hear Jesus summing up the meaning of his story of which we will hear more in coming days. We hear of Jesus' connections with his sheep and with the Father. With his sheep, the connection is individual, personal; shepherd and sheep know and trust each other's voice.

In the ancient world, flocks of sheep and goats were small; each animal had a name. Every morning, the shepherd would call his flock to go out to pasture, calling each animal by its name. Jesus knows me and call me by name; I can trust him. The sheep are utterly safe with the shepherd: nothing can snatch Jesus out of the Father's hand. So close re Jesus and he Father that they are one, one in mind and heart. The reading from Acts begins to tell the stories of this good news of God's love for us being taken beyond Judaism to the Gentile world, a very challenging mission.

(God's Word Daily Reflections 2025)

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Join the Universal Church today in observing the World Day of Prayer for Vocations this weekend, as we ask the Lord to send labourers into His harvest! This day is a reminder to pray for and support those discerning the priesthood, religious life, and other vocations in the Church.

Here are three simple ways you can participate:

Pray: Offer a Rosary or a personal Holy Hour for an increase in vocations.

Encourage: Take a moment to affirm someone who may have a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

Special Intention at Mass: Offer your Mass intentions for priests, seminarians, and all those discerning their vocations.

May we all be open to God's call in our own lives!

Weekend Mass Schedule

3rd Sunday of Month - 17/18 May

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

4th Sunday of Month - 24/25 May

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

(Liturgy of the Word)

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

1st Sunday of Month - 31 May/1 June

Sunday, 10.30am, Murgon

(this is the only Mass in the parish this weekend)

2nd Sunday of Month - 7/8 June

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston

(Liturgy of the Word)

Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai

Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Sunday, 10.30am, Cherbourg

Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

Today's readings

Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17;
John 10: 27-30

Response:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me! Alleluia!



Since the Referendum on the 'Voice to Parliament', the attitude of many non-Indigenous Australians to Indigenous Australians has been sullen and self-preoccupied. Many people resist any reference to past wrongs and to the need for reconciliation. The Apology embodied a better way – an honest view of the past and a generous example of acknowledging unfinished business and opening conversation about the future.

In the Apology the Australian government spoke on behalf of all Australians in recognising that Australia had acted wrongly in removing Indigenous children from their parents. The removal was based in a lack of respect for the humanity of Indigenous Australians. It defined them as an 'inferior race' and not by their equal humanity. Disrespect blighted the lives of the children affected, their families and their descendants. This disrespect reflected the experience of Indigenous Australians after settlement – an experience of invasion, massacre, displacement, expulsion from land and alienation from culture, violation of sacred places, the snatching of children, discrimination enshrined in law and in custom, racism and condescension within Australian life, and imposed marginalisation.

It left unseen and unhonoured the heroic Indigenous story of endurance, resistance, guarding of culture and language, organisation, pride and constant struggle for justice. It also concealed the honesty and goodwill of the many Australians who

recognised and deplored injustice and reached out to their Indigenous fellow Australians.

The Apology enacted respect, concern for truth and the desire for reconciliation. It was not a debate about Indigenous issues but a conversation between representatives of the Australian nation and Indigenous representatives. The Prime Minister made the 'Apology' in person to representatives of the Stolen Generations, insisting that all Australians are equally entitled to respect, and that the government is responsible to ensure that all Australians are treated fairly. The 'Apology' also recognised that Indigenous Australians have a special place in Australia as the first peoples. To understand fully who we are as

Australians we must recognise the continuing gift of our Indigenous heritage, the harm that our first peoples suffered, and the need to give expression to their special place. In a harsh time of self-preoccupation and discontent following the loss of the Referendum, the 'Apology' is both bracing and consoling. As we reflect on it, we might also revisit the Uluru Statement from the Heart (<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/view-the-statement/>). It breathed the same spirit. It is a beautifully written, disciplined, encouraging, respectful and modest message. It reflects the generosity of the 'Apology' and merits being similarly treasured.

The 'Apology' and the 'Uluru Statement' retain their power as steps toward reconciliation. They were generous and magnanimous. Their memory is worth nurturing today and encouraging Indigenous and other Australian to continue to hope and work for reconciliation.

*Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ,
Australian Catholics*



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Mikhael Loke

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;
Phillip Gaffney; Nerla Knight;
Dr Graham McAllister; Kai Vera.



The Installation Mass for Fr Mikhael Loke as Parish Priest of Saint Joseph's Catholic Parish Murgon and as Administrator of Saint Joseph's Parish Gayndah will be held on Sunday, 1 June 2025, 10.30am at Saint Joseph's Parish Church, Murgon.

The Mass will be officiated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall, Angel Avenue, Murgon.

As this is an important Parish event the **10.30am Mass on Sunday will be the only Mass in the Murgon Parish that weekend** and there will be **no Mass in the Gayndah Parish on that weekend**. All from both Murgon Parish and Gayndah Parish are encouraged to attend. A list will be available in all churches next weekend so that parishioners can indicate their attendance, apology and their contribution to the lunch. Please complete and have lists returned to Murgon Parish by 25 May 2025.

Elaine Thompson
Murgon Parish Pastoral Council