

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Year C, 14 September, 2025

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



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

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Homily: The Cross That Saves

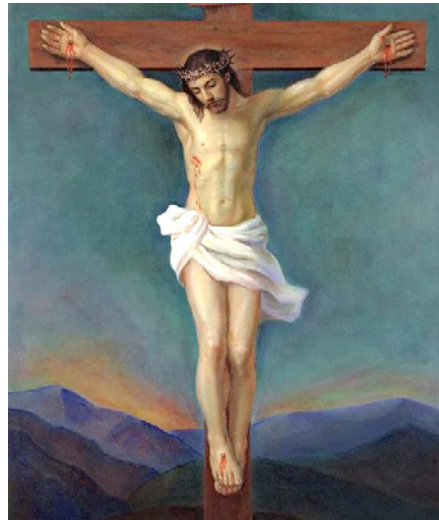
In today's readings, we are drawn into the mystery of the cross – not as a symbol of defeat, but as the very path to life. In the *Book of Numbers*, the Israelites, weary and rebellious, are healed by gazing upon the bronze serpent lifted high. In the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians, we see Christ, who “emptied himself,” embracing the cross in radical humility. And in John's Gospel, Jesus declares, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”

The cross is not merely an instrument of suffering – it is the throne of love. Jesus did not flee from it; He embraced it, showing us that true glory comes through self-giving. To carry our own cross is to walk the path of transformation. It means accepting trials, enduring injustice, forgiving when it hurts, and loving when it costs.

Jesus proclaims to humanity that salvation is not found in power or comfort, but in surrender. The cross is not punishment – it is purpose. It is the place where our brokenness meets His mercy. When we carry our crosses, we are not alone. Christ walks with us, having gone before us.

So let us not fear the cross. Let us lift our eyes to it, as the Israelites did, and find healing. Let us kneel before it, as Paul urges, and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. And let us carry it – not with bitterness, but with hope – knowing that through it, we are being drawn into the heart of God. Amen.

Fr. Mikhael Loke, SVD



John 3: 13-17

What a juxtaposition we find in the title of today's feast. How can we exalt in the cross on which Jesus died such a torturous death? Well, when seen from the perspective of the resurrection, the picture starts to become clear. The cross was the means by which God, in the person of Jesus, would, in his endless love and compassion, bring a wayward world back home to him. Today's Gospel gives us perhaps the most well-known Bible verse of all, in John 3:16: “Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.” God didn't send his Son to condemn us but to save us. Out of his great love for humanity, God reached down into a broken human world, and Jesus, by bearing our sins on the cross, redeemed us, and in the resurrection, showed us the way back to communion with God and eternal life in God's presence. We exalt the cross because it restores to us all that was lost, and stand forever as a reminder of God's endless outpouring of love for us.

(God's Word Daily Reflections 2025)

Weekend Mass schedule

3rd Sunday of Month - 20/21 September

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon
Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

4th Sunday of Month - 27/28 September

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Saturday, 9.00am, Goomeri
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah
Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera

1st Sunday of Month - 4/5 October

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon
Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

2nd Sunday of Month - 11/12 October

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Saturday, 9.00am, Goomeri
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Cherbourg
Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera

Today's readings

Numbers 21: 4-9; Philippians 2: 6-11;
John 3: 13-17

Response:

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!



Today's Gospel

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

As I come to prayer, I prepare myself to become still and silent before the Lord. Perhaps again I pray before a crucifix, or hold a cross in my hands. Knowing that I am forever loved by God, I ask that during this time of prayer, I will be drawn ever deeper into God's love. Once I have settled, I read the Gospel as many times as I need, pausing in silence after each reading.

It may help my prayer to imagine Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus, the important Jewish leader. What do I notice about them? Why is it important that Jesus shares these words with Nicodemus? A little earlier, Saint John tells us that this meeting takes place in the dark. I ponder why this is. Is Nicodemus ashamed or afraid that he might be seen with Jesus? Or is there some other reason?

Perhaps I imagine meeting Jesus myself under the cover of darkness, and hearing him confer this important truth on me. How do I feel on hearing this? I listen again to Jesus saying that he did not come

into the world to condemn it, but to save it. What does 'save' mean? Perhaps I think of another word: Not to condemn the world but to . . . love it Not to condemn the world but to . . . transform it.

Although Jesus does not condemn me, are there times when I condemn or criticise or speak harshly of myself? Maybe in doing so I remain in the darkness like Nicodemus.

How would Jesus want me to relate to my own difficulties or suffering? How might Jesus save, love or transform my darkness? I ask him as I would a close friend, and listen to how he wants me to experience his love in my life.

When ready, I close my prayer in gratitude, with a slow sign of the cross. This simple gesture is a reminder of God's love for me and for the world.

(Courtesy of St Bueno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK)

Fr Mikhael's Annual Leave and SVD Assembly

Fr Mikhael will be away from the parish from **17 September to 4 October 2025** for his annual leave and SVD Assembly.

In his absence, the following supply priests will preside the weekend masses:

Fr David Willis OP –

Saturday, 20 September to Sunday, 21 September

Fr Bavin Clarke –

Saturday, 27 September to Sunday, 28 September

Fr Stanley Orji –

Saturday only, 4 October (Mass in Proston at 9.00am and Wondai at 5.00pm).

Please make them feel welcome in our parish. Thank you.

Fr Mikhael will return to the parish for Sunday, 5 October for the 8.00am Mass at Murgon and the masses in the other church communities as scheduled for the First Sunday of Month.



Parish Directory, Saint Joseph's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Mikhael Loke SVD

Tel: Parish Office, 0419 693 602

Parish e-mail: murgon@bne.catholic.net.au

24 Angel Avenue, MURGON


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Parish website:

murgon.brisbanecatholic.org.au

We pray for those who are sick:

Elisabeth Bell; Jess Bradbury;
Graham Burgess; Mary Davitt;
Rodney Euler; Nerla Knight;
Dr Graham McAllister; Bob Ricketts;
Joshua Smith; 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



Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday 27 September 2025

11.30am at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary or beyond, are invited to attend, together with their family and friends.

Collections 30/31 August 2025

Murgon \$504.20

Total:..... \$504.20

Direct Debit BSB 064-786

Account 100011987