



Welcome to the Parish

12th/13th September 2026 Year A

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

WHY IS FORGIVENESS SO DIFFICULT? Some help from St Thomas Aquinas

Forgiveness which features as the clear theme of this Sunday's Scripture readings is one of the central teachings of Christ. Throughout the Gospels, like today, Jesus calls His followers to forgive others as God has forgiven them. While this teaching is foundational to Christian discipleship, many believers, for emotional and other reasons, find forgiveness difficult to practice. In fact, forgiveness at times can seem to go against our natural sense of justice. So, we can find a real dilemma in Christ's teaching.

In this dilemma the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas is helpful as he gives us understanding of why forgiveness is challenging and why it remains essential to the Christian life. Aquinas approaches forgiveness from many angles: that its source is the virtue of charity, it is inspired by God's grace, and is a way of acting like God's own heart. Then to look in a little more detail might be helpful.

Firstly, St. Thomas viewed forgiveness as a reflection of God's mercy. He is often quoted as saying, "Nothing makes us so like God as being ready to forgive." This statement captures his belief that Christians are called to imitate God's loving and merciful nature. Since God freely forgives sinners who turn to Him in repentance, believers are likewise called to extend mercy to those who have wronged them. Forgiveness therefore becomes a participation in God's own goodness.[1]

Secondly, according to St. Thomas, forgiveness is difficult because human beings naturally respond to injury a desire for justice. When individuals experience betrayal, rejection, or injustice, they often feel a strong impulse toward resentment or retaliation. St. Thomas acknowledged that anger itself is not necessarily sinful. However, anger becomes harmful when it develops into hatred, revenge, or a refusal to seek the good of another person. Christians must therefore struggle against these tendencies in order to act according to charity rather than emotion, because charity is life-giving and our pathway of living out the Christian vocation.[2]

Thirdly, St. Thomas also recognized that forgiveness does not require denying the reality of an offense. Wrongdoing remains wrong, and evil actions can never be excused or justified. Forgiveness and justice are not opposites. They complement each other. St. Thomas teaches that a person may forgive while still seeking accountability, restitution, or appropriate consequences for harmful actions.[3]

Finally, St. Thomas believed that genuine forgiveness ultimately depends upon God's grace. Human beings, when deeply wounded, can struggle to overcome powerful forces alone. We need God's grace that enables forgiveness to become a life-giving spiritual practice which is empowering in the face of problems.[4]

These few thoughts from St. Thomas may help to illustrate the readings for us in this Sunday's liturgy. Forgiveness was so central to what Christ taught, and yet it can be elusive. But when seen as a way of living a life of virtue, forgiveness becomes a powerful work in the human heart.

[1] ST III, q86.

[2] ST, supp., q5.

[3] ST III, q86.

[4] ST, supp., q5.

Fr Don White

Parish Priest VG

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg respectfully acknowledges the Taribelang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang, and Bailai Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the country in which we live. We pay respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St



PO BOX 79 Bundaberg Qld 4670



sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au



www.bundabergcatholic.net.au



Phone 07 4151 - 6666

Parish News and Announcements

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: NEPAL FLOOD APPEAL



EMERGENCY
ACTION
ALLIANCE



Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families. Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal.

To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal visit:
www.caritas.org.au/nepal , call 1800 024 413 or click on the QR code.

SHALOM COLLEGE PRESENTS



AN EVENING OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

Thursday, October 15th - 7pm
Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Entry by Donation

Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul

CHAMBER STRING ENSEMBLE
COLLEGE CHOIR
TREBLE MAKERS
BASS CADETS

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

Wednesday 16th September

10.30am: Visitation Meeting in the Parish Office.

If you are a Visitation minister or are interested in finding out more about becoming a Visitation Minister we look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

5.00pm: 150Year Celebration Planning Committee Meeting will be held in the Parish Office.

The planning is well under way. If you would like to know more or would like to volunteer at one or more of the events you are most welcome at the meeting.

Thursday 17th September

3.00pm: Children and Family Rosary Group

Parents or guardians are invited to come together each month to pray the Rosary with their child/ren in Holy Rosary Church.

For Enquires please contact the Parish Office.

Monday 21st September

4.00pm: Social and Ecological Working Party

If you are interested in knowing more, the next meeting will be held in the Parish Office. We look forward to welcoming new members.

WEEKLY ROSARY TIMES:

Tuesday 10.00am St James' Church Bargara (After Mass)

Tuesday 5.00pm St Patrick's Church

Thursday 5.30pm Holy Rosary Church

Everyone is welcome.

VIETNAMESE MASS

Holy Rosary Church
Friday 18th September
6.00pm

**Penance will be
held from 5.30pm**



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL would like to thank all those who attended their Luncheon last Tuesday, or donated prizes for the raffle. The generosity of so many, helped in making this a wonderful gathering for all.

Thank
you

If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support.



CELEBRATING
150 years
1876
2026

Parish News and Announcements

SYCAMORE



Our 7 week Sycamore Enquiry course concluded last Thursday. The team of Sarah, Mary, Carmel, Helen, Madonna and Kaye would like to sincerely thank Father Don for his encouragement, support and promotion of Sycamore, Trevor for providing delicious afternoon teas, Dean Wearmouth for his generosity in allowing us the use of the Loyola centre, prayer partners and of course our guests who participated so openly and authentically in group discussions.



Below are testimonials from participants:

"The program was a gentle, non-threatening way to reflect on and share our faith stories in small groups." Sue



"The Sycamore program is a place that fosters an environment to encourage discussion with people from all walks of life. I have been inspired to learn more perspectives and how I can implement it into my own spiritual life." Melissa.

ASCEND IGNITE CONFERENCE 2026



Ignite is a National Catholic Conference for young Catholics to experience real world formation, powerful worship and encouragement in their Catholic faith in an exciting, and ground-breaking way.

All students in Years 7-12 are invited to travel to Brisbane for the 2026 conference as part of our diocesan group.



For more details scan the QR code or contact Mick on 0433 897 973 or youth@rok.catholic.net.au.



YOUNG ADULTS CONVERSATION GROUPS

If you are aged between 17 to 35 years old, you are invited to come along to the Parish Office every Sunday at 6.30pm. The group shares food, fellowship and conversation about the Catholic Faith.

New members are warmly welcome!!



Women's Retreat

"The Cup of My Life"

You are invited to join with Sr Anne Keim
St James' Church, Bargara
10.00am
Saturday 31st October

Contact the Parish Office to Book



Liturgies

Monday 14 September 2026
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass
6.00pm Holy Rosary
Adoration & Penance

Tuesday 15 September 2026
Our Lady of Sorrows
8.30am St James' - Penance
9.00am St James' - Mass
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Wednesday 16 September 2026
St Cornelius & St Cyprian
8.00am Shalom - Mass
12.15pm Holy Rosary-Mass

Thursday 17 September 2026
St Hildegard & St Robert Bellarmine
7.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Friday 18 September 2026
11.00am Holy Rosary - Exposition
11.30am Holy Rosary - Penance
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass
6.00pm Holy Rosary
Vietnam Mass

Saturday 19 September 2026
7.30am St Patrick's - Mass
9.00 Holy Rosary' - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

Sunday 20 September 2026
7.00am St James' - Mass
8.00am Holy Rosary - Mass
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass
5.30pm Holy Rosary - Mass

SCRIPTURES
Isaiah 55: 6 - 9:
Second Reading
Phil 1: 20-24, 27:
Gospel
Matthew 20:1-16:

Our Vision:

Nourished by
Word and Sacraments,
we go out,
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
to welcome and share
God's Love respectfully,
with all people.



AFTER HOURS

Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies
Phone 07 4151 6666
& follow the prompts.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Don White PP VG
Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Nguyen
Associate Pastor

Mr Jeffrey Caluag
Operations Manager

Ms Pauline Leahy
Liturgy, Music, Sacramental &
RCIA Co-ordinator

Ms Judy Pidcock
Pastoral Care Practitioner

Mrs Jan Aplin
Safeguarding Representative

Mrs Sandra Fox
Receptionist

Mrs Lyn Callaghan
Bereavement Coordinator

PARISH STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Mrs Kaye Beston
Chair

Ms Madonna Davitt
Deputy Chair

Ms Nadene Pettett
Secretary

Members:

Dr Ken Avenell

Mr Steve Jenés

Miss Clare O'Rourke

Mrs Helen Stanley

Dr Presly Varghese

Mr Matthias Visona

Mr Michael Walker

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**
Mrs Monica White
Principal

✉ sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au
☎ 07 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School**
Mr Bill Goodwin
Principal

✉ smbg@rok.catholic.edu.au
☎ 07 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**
Mrs Kim O'Shea-Hard
Principal

✉ spboffice@rok.catholic.edu.au
☎ 07 4152 1380

Shalom College
Mr Dean Wearmouth
Principal

✉ shalom@shalomcollege.com
☎ 07 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Streets

St Patrick's Church
14 Powers Street

St James' Church
38 See Street Bargara

Find Happiness in Helping



Many of us know St Vincent de Paul Society, or Vinnies, through the good works carried out in our local community. But behind every visit, every conversation, every act of assistance and every moment of compassion, there are ordinary people choosing to make a difference. We would love to invite more people from our parish community to be part of that.

Our local Conference supports people and families who are experiencing hardship, often through home visits or by meeting people at our support centres. These visits are always done in pairs, and they are about much more than providing practical assistance. Yes, we may help with food, bills or other living expenses, but we also offer something just as important: friendship, dignity, compassion and hope.

But the heart of the Society is not just in the numbers. It is in the people. It is in the person who gives an hour of their time to listen. It is in the pair of members who visit someone who feels forgotten. It is in the quiet acts of kindness that remind people they are not alone. And very often, those who join us discover something beautiful: that in helping others, we also find joy, purpose, community and connection ourselves.

As members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, we are also a spiritual community. We gather regularly not only to organise our works, but to pray, reflect and encourage one another in living out our faith through action. Inspired by St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we try to see the face of Christ in every person we assist.

This September, as we mark two important Feast Days for the St Vincent de Paul Society, we are also taking the opportunity to invite new people to join us. You don't need to have all the answers. You don't need special qualifications. You don't need to be available every day. You simply need a compassionate heart, a willingness to listen and a desire to help others in a practical way.

If you have ever wondered how you might give back, support people in our local community, or live your faith more deeply through service, we warmly invite you to consider becoming part of our Conference community.

Apply to become a Member: qld.vinnies.org.au/Member or contact the Parish Office.

We Pray for our Deceased

RECENTLY DECEASED: Betty O'Keefe, David Allen, Bro Peter Sheldon (Brisbane), Bill Willett (Sydney), Joe Galea, Bruce Patrick Gillespie, Graham Hocking, Patricia "Pat" Sawtell, Frank Castelli, Mary Attard.

MASS OFFERED FOR ANNIVERSARIES: John Edward Clarke 25.09.1969, Eric Chapman, Cath Dwyer, Lina Beggetto 30.09.2012, Gliceria Mendoza 12.09.2011, Joe Jendra 24.09.2007, Moira Pendleton 17.12.2019, Malcolm Bell 05.09.2012, Edna Christensen 20.09.2014, Jim Dunphy 10.09.2018, Edna Callaghan 26.09.2019, Jack Callaghan 28.10.1956, Sergio De Paoli 20.09.2016, Mario Crawford 7.09.2025, Ken Bennett 6.09.2024, Phillip Cafolla 5.09.1995, Shane Hocking 23.11.2018, Cameron Hocking 20.07.2022, Damian Mullins 1.09.2024, Agostino Asnicar 1.09.2019, John Blundell 28.09.2019, Attilio D'Addario 30.08.2010, Siebert Schafer 13.09.2002.

MASS OFFERED BY REQUEST: Cook and Geiger Families, Gerry Walsh, Formosa and Grima Families, Holy Souls, George, Zillah and George Jnr, Dominic Attard, Phillys Micolas, Corrado Barazza, Gino Barazza, Deceased relatives of the Benvenuto Barazza & Parussini Families, Fetrin Family, Paul Galea, Joyce Galea, Joseph Galea, Forte & Theresa Galea, Mickand Mary Galea, deceased relatives of the Galea, & Zahra Families, Kevin and Doris Whalley.



OTHER CONTACTS

Graham White: 07 4887 3080
Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Catholic Care: 1300 523 985
St Vincent de Paul: 4339 3700
Ozcare: 1800 692 273
Mater Hospital: 4153 9539

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (2022), and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults. For further information or support please contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office:
Response Line: 1800 830 113 (free call) Email: pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net,
Diocesan website for more information: <https://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/>
To view the Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk commitment statement and policy: www.rock.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html