



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8:30 - 3:30 Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

24 March 2019

FOCUS by Fr Jomon Poothara

JESUS, A FRIEND FOR ALL

Friendship is a mutual, widespread and popular word used to authenticate honest and trusted relationships. Sometime ago, I asked a group of student, "Can Jesus be your friend?" and the response was immensely positive. My next question was "Why do you call Jesus your friend?". Their answers were obvious because they were saying Jesus is kind, nice, dwells in our hearts, ready to walk an extra mile, willing to forgive, being there for people whenever they need him likewise went on. So, obviously Jesus' goodness gains Him millions of friends every day.

In marriage, a woman and a man are called to be good friends as well as husband and wife. A father or a mother can be friend to a daughter or a son and vice versa. Two sisters or two brothers can be true friends or two men or two women or two people can be true friends if honesty and trust are at the heart of that relationship.

Jesus, a friend for all, had all venerable human values which created a massive impression among multitudes of individuals. Do my actions and words confer on me the privilege to be part of the multitude of individuals whose lives are becoming a replica of Jesus? In the words of Jesus, "If you do what I command you then you will be my friend", the command of Jesus is to do what you have heard about him and be friends. By fulfilling Jesus' command, we become his friends and make friends for life. To build up a good friendship takes enormous time, energy and a thorough rationalization. To destroy that friendship does not take much time at all. We hear and read awful stories that have destroyed well-built friendships in a fraction of a second. Let bad stories not embroil your friendship and be friends for life, turn to Jesus your friend with your joys and sorrows, and He will show you the promise of your life.



Third Sunday of Lent

24th March 2019

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future.

Lives change when we all give 100%! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Peter Tonti PP

Parish Priest

Rev Jomon Poothara

Associate Pastor

Rev Ronaldo Rodriguez SVD

Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan

Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

Mrs Denise Tuzes

Visitation & Bereavement
Co-ordinator

Mr Norm Whyte

Business Manager

Mr Jeffrey Caluag

Administration & Finance
Co-ordinator

Mrs Raquel Arriola

Reception

Bundaberg NET

Youth Ministry

SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**

Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston

sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School**

Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt

stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au

Ph: 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**

Principal: Mr Mark Fox

saintpatricks.qld.edu.au

Ph: 4152 1380

Shalom College

Principal: Mr Dan McMahon

shalomcollege.com

Ph: 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Sts

St Patrick's Church

16 Powers St

St Mary's Church

Cnr Barolin & Boston Sts

St James' Church

38 See St Bargara

OTHER CONTACTS

Diocesan Safeguarding

Judy Pidcock: 4887 3080

The Diocese of Rockhampton

Response Line: 1800 830 113

Centacare: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4151 5455

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

AFTER HOURS

**Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies**

Phone 4151 6666

& follow the prompts.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

As good stewards who are called to discern how we respond to the call of Jesus Christ, we must be about ripping the weeds out of our lives so the good seeds we plant can grow. For each of us, the weeds are different: money, ego, sex, greed, etc. If we don't take a good honest look at our lives and make some tough choices, no amount of devotion or good works will make us better disciples. We will simply wait for the next Lent to do the same things all over again.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

Pope Benedict asked us to recognize that the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behaviour. The social environment has also suffered damage. Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives, and hence human freedom is limitless. We have forgotten that "man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature". With paternal concern, Benedict urged us to realize that creation is harmed "where we ourselves have the final word, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone. The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves".

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Earth Hour, a worldwide movement, is this Saturday 30th March from 8.30 to 9.30pm. We are all, individuals, communities and business, encouraged to turn off our lights as a symbol of concern for and commitment to the life of our planet. Pope Francis letter, Laudato Si, is on the Care for our Common Home, and our interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan. (#164) *We can all join this movement.*

BUNDABERG NET TEAM

Last week (10th-15th of March) was a packed, but fun week. Starting on Sunday with Mass at Holy Rosary at 8:30am with a beautiful morning tea after where we met some of the early risers in Bundaberg! We also ran ECHO Junior (year 5-8 students, from 3:30-5:10) diving into the reasons you are here, and the purpose God created you as a unique individual. Following our youth mass, which we shared a drama called 'Sitting on the Fence', we facilitated ECHO Senior (years 9-12 from 6:45-8:45pm) after mass, looking at the question of Who am I and Why am I here? On Monday and Tuesday, we ran our Primary School Classes, focusing on how we can try and react like Jesus in every situation. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we were at Shalom, we ran VISION, our youth group on Wednesday at Lunch, where we discussed how we all have a unique journey of faith. The High school RE classes we ran continued to look at Eucharist, Ignatian Spirituality, the Holy Spirit and Team building. We finished our week with the Colour Fun Run at Shalom where we got to throw coloured corn starch at students running by. Our Young Adults group, REACH, looked at how there is no mountain high enough to keep us away from Jesus. It's been a fun week and we cannot wait to do it all again this week!

Don't forget! ECHO YOUTH (Parish Based Youth Groups Facilitated by NET), Sunday, 3:30pm-5:10pm ECHO JUNIOR (grades 5-8) and 6:45pm-8:45pm ECHO SENIOR (grades 9-12)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Baptised: Caden James Lyall McKelvie

Recently Deceased: Colleen Mary Bellett, Marjorie Monsen, Marlene Pavlides (nee Moohen), Roy Dawkins, Jeanette "Jane" Eileen Dalton

NOTICES

ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP - to pray for Christian unity: Thursday, **28th March** at 10.00am in the north transept of Holy Rosary Church. Fellowship follows the prayer liturgy.

2019 CHRISM MASS: Bishop Michael McCarthy invites you all to join our Priests for the very special and solemn celebration of Chrism Mass which will be celebrated on Thursday, **28th March** at 11.00 am at St Joseph's Cathedral. The Mass will be live-streamed : <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY: Thursday, 28th to Saturday 30th March. Invitations to the Assembly are offered to those who have attended at least one of the Assembly Listening Sessions held in Gladstone.

ADULT FAITH: The next session will be held Monday **1st April** at 1:00 pm and repeated at 5:30 pm at the Parish Conference Room. **Topic 5: The Location (Google Earth) and Journey of the Unfolding Biblical Story.** Presented by Father Peter Tonti. All welcome! Please bring your bible.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GATHERING: For those committed to a Gospel-based response to injustices, beginning 6.30pm, **5th April – 6th April**, Duhig Centre, Bishop's Office, West St, Rockhampton. Guest speaker, Mr Mark Copland, former Executive officer for the Social Justice Commission in the Toowoomba Catholic Diocese for 16 years. RSVP 23rd March. Contact Sr Pat Wood rsm, 0419203677, marypatricia.wood@gmail.com, or locally, Sr Margaret Schofield 4153 4631. Registration forms available at the Parish Office.

EUTHANASIA SUBMISSIONS: The *Queensland Parliamentary Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee* (the Health Committee) has called for submissions on aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. **Voluntary assisted dying, also known as euthanasia is assisted-killing.** Cherish Life QLD encourages you to send in a personal submission on this critical matter. **Submissions are due by 15 April.** Please visit <https://www.cherishlife.org.au/issues/euthanasia-in-queensland> for information on how to send yours. **Every submission counts.**

DATE CLAIMER: Working Bee to make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday, Friday, **12th April**, beginning at 9.00am in the Novakoski Centre. BYO Lunch.

HEARTS ON FIRE CONFERENCE: Led by Fr Ken Barker MGL on Friday, **12th April**, 7pm to Sunday, **14th April 2019**, 11.30am at Kevin Castles Centre, West Street Rockhampton. Cost is \$50 including lunch on Saturday and morning/afternoon teas. Please contact Sharon McDonald to register at 0409 632 074 or email Smcd2237@bigpond.com

RCIA SCRUTINIES: The initiation rites called the Scrutinies occur on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent for those chosen for the Easter sacraments (the Elect) - in our parish, Will Mizzi and 5 children. The purpose of each of the scrutinies is "to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect" and "to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" (RCIA, 141). "For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ." Will will be present at the 5.30pm Mass for the Scrutinies.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Family session: Sunday, **31st March**, 10.30am or Wednesday, **3rd April**, 5.30pm in the Parish Office. **Topic: Eucharist.**

FRIENDS OF CARINITY KEPNOCK GROVE AUXILIARY ANNUAL MAYTIME MORNING TEA: Tuesday, **21st May** at the Kepnock Grove Pavilion (Community Centre) from 9.30am. Admission \$5.00 (includes home made morning tea, fashion parade by Target, mini cent sale, lucky door prizes and competitions) Please come along for a very enjoyable morning. To book a table, phone Lyn 4151 6724 or Casimir 4151 4888.

CHERISH LIFE QLD INC. BUNDABERG BRANCH: We would like to thank all the people who donated goods and assisted at our garage sale. - Shirley Pitts

EASTER MINISTRIES: Could all ministers who haven't yet contacted Anne about your availability to assist at the Easter liturgies please add your name to the list at the door of the church or email. Thank you.

LITURGIES

Monday 25 March 2019

The Annunciation of the Lord
9.00am St Patrick's - LWC

Tuesday 26 March 2019

9.00am St James' - LWC
12.15pm Holy Rosary - LWC

Wednesday 27 March 2019

8.00am Shalom - LWC
5.30pm St Patrick's - LWC

Thursday 28 March 2019

6.30am St Mary's - LWC

Friday 29 March 2019

12.15pm Holy Rosary - LWC

Saturday 30 March 2019

7.30am St Mary's - LWC
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

31 March 2019

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

Year C (I)

Hours of the Sunday

Psalter Week 4

7.00am St James'
8.00am Holy Rosary
9.00am St Mary's
5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES for next Sunday

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Second Reading

2 Corinthian 5:17-21

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

LENT

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL97, 1251-52).



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

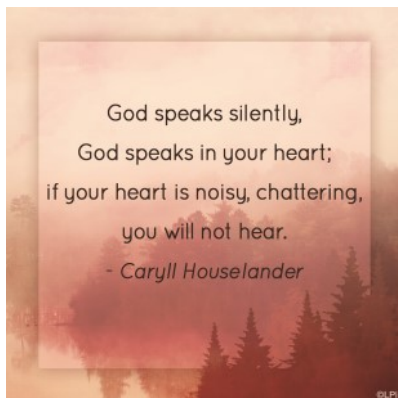
In his call and commission of Moses, God reveals his name as "I AM" - our God lives in the eternal present moment. When have you experienced God's spirit in the here and now of your life?

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 1-12

Paul instructs the Corinthians that the desert journey of ancient Israel serves as an example for all future generations of believers. During this Lenten journey, what do you do to make sure you do not fall?

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus repeatedly warns against the dangers of not repenting. How do you keep the need for repentance part of your spiritual exercises?



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

**In relationship with Christ,
empowered by the Holy
Spirit, we serve joyfully as a
people beloved and called by
God.**



3rd Sunday OF LENT

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.'" - Lk 13:7a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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GOSPEL REFLECTION 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion. "For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down." The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also? it may bear fruit in the future.'" How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.