



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

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

12 May 2019

FOCUS by *Fr Ronaldo Rodriguez*

THE BEST GIFT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

This weekend is Mother's Day. We have to lift them up and gratefully celebrate this day because as we all know, a mother is always a mother in all circumstances. They are giving unconditional love and care for life as best as they can.

I am thinking of the best gift for mothers as token of recognition and gratitude. Among the list is a technological device loaded with latest programs and apps, be it smartphones, computers, iPad, ultra-high-definition TVs.

I am trying to analyse its cost and benefits. Well, on the one hand, the gadget brings them good benefits: it will make everything easy, efficient and quick; it will give instant answers; it will provide satisfaction and enjoyment; it will produce virtual reality that evokes fantastic feeling. For instance, they can quickly send or receive messages by texting and emailing; they can quickly do on-line banking and purchasing; they can enjoy spectacular movies in the comfort of their rooms; they can be prettier in the photos; they can do research without going to a library (making the library obsolete and irrelevant).

On the other hand, technological device will make them dependent on the gadget, without it they can't do anything; it will peel them off and disengage them from natural, real, personal, family and communal relationships and/or social engagement; it will diminish their mental and physical abilities; it will reduce their sense of wonder of what is truly real and/or conventional; it will disconnect them from the real earth and world. Moreover, they will constantly be pushed to buy the latest device which brings undue pressure to their hard-earned money.

From my experience, for instance: before, I was good in mental calculation but now no more; I am becoming good in sports video games but becoming clumsy in actual/real games at real times. Before, I was contented without a gadget but now I will certainly be terribly sad and/or grumpy without a smartphone and computer.

Based on my simple observations here in Australia and the world and of people in all walks of life, '**POSSESSING**' the latest technological device has become an obsession. Consequently, it will have a huge and irreversible impact on the fabric of society, e.g. screen addiction.

Here are my questions to ponder: When is the end of this obsession? How does a gadget-filled future look like? Would we be considered a gadget, too? Are we only valued if we can still be useful and productive and be thrown and forcibly be ceased to exist quickly? Are we going to be replaced with machines or expected to act and behave like a machine? Are values of love, justice and peace, respecting human dignity and promoting common good still our guiding and lasting principles for the way we live? To whom shall we go? Who can answer us on our quest for meaningful living? Can technological devices give and bring us truth, joy, lasting peace, justice, eternal happiness and fullness of life?

After all this uncalculated analysis, observation and questions, I believe that the best gifts for the mothers this weekend are all of the following: true love and care, prayers, sincere conversation and hug, beautiful flowers, and a good meal with the whole family.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS, GREAT GRANDMOTHERS!

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

When I was little, I would always cling to the same routine each night before going to bed. I would say to my parents, "Good night." They would respond, "Good night." I then would say, "See you tomorrow, okay?" I would await their response, and if they did not respond, I would say it again louder, "See you tomorrow, okay?" I somehow felt that if they did not assure me that I would see them tomorrow, it would possibly not happen. What would happen to me if I awoke and no one was there? It seems silly now, but to a small boy, it was very serious.

In our lives, many of us have somehow bought into the notion that there is so much in the world that can take us away from God. We believe that worldly values, immorality, or evil itself can take us away from God's love and protection. But there are few greater lies than this. The reality is that if we find ourselves far away from God, the only force that carried us away was our own choices.

In John's Gospel, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me... No one can take them out of my hand." Yes, we are tempted at every side, but no temptation can take us away from him. Unfortunately, sometimes after initial choices, we find ourselves in addiction or dependency, making our reconciliation with God impossible without the help of friends and loved ones. But make no mistake, no one or nothing can take those who are His sheep away from God.

When you think about this, you realize the importance of your actions. The power of your stewardship is great, because by utilizing your gifts, you determine if you will draw closer to or wander away from God. The world can't do that. The devil can't do that, nor can the wishful words of a little boy in the night.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

The International Day of Families is this Wednesday. We give thanks for our families, the love, support and life we share. Aussie families are called on to support those worst affected by climate change – the world's poorest, living in countries like Fiji, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kiribati where rising sea levels affect their crops, fresh water and housing. www.caritas.org.au

BUNDABERG NET TEAM

Last Sunday the team assisted the confirmation and communion students in learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit at their rehearsal/retreat day. On Monday and Tuesday the team facilitated primary school RE classes at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's, led by John. Inspired by the gospel of 'doubting Thomas', the main message of the lesson was that "seeing isn't always believing". At Shalom, the team played music for the Adams House Mass. They also held a dance party for VISION youth group and attracted an attendance of over 120 students during lunch! The week concluded with two social events on Friday night where the men and women of the parish young adults group attended brotherhood/sisterhood nights that were enjoyed by many.

NOTICES

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS OF KEPNOCK GROVE AUXILIARY: Past members are invited to afternoon tea on Monday, **13th May** from 1.00pm at the Pavilion of Carinity Kepnock Grove. Please RSVP to Debbie McCormack by 29 April at 4131 2222

CWL YOUNGER SET: Meeting on Tuesday, **14th May** 6.30pm at Sabrosa Steak House. If any younger ladies would like to join us, you would be very welcome. For further information or to book, please phone Maureen before Tuesday lunch time 0407 964 753.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Family and friends of our recently deceased are invited to a Memorial Service on Wednesday, **15th May** at 7:00pm in Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Please RSVP to the parish office if attending. All welcome.

BUNDABERG PASSIONIST GROUP: Lunch on Sunday, **19th May** 11.30am at Bucca Pub. Please join for a fun afternoon with music and fellowship.

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.

THE WILD GOOSE DVD SERIES – LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: The 2019 Life in the Spirit continues from this Tuesday, **14th May** through to Tuesday, **4th June** 7.00pm at the Parish office. In this professionally filmed and stunning series, Fr Dave Pivonka will lead you on an unforgettable journey into the very heart of God. You are warmly welcome to attend.

2019 MAYORAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY: Breakfast on Tuesday, **21st May** 6.30am -8.30am at Bundaberg Multiplex Convention Centre. Guest speaker: Andy Gourley, Founder and CEO of Red Frog Australia. From \$30 per person. Must be purchased by 13 May at bundabergregionevents.com.au or by phone 4130 4100 or in person to Moncrief Entertainment Centre. For enquiries phone 1300 883 699 or email events.admin@bundaberg.qld.gov.au.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Saturday, 10th - Sunday, 11th August 2019 at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct. Register before 20th May for \$20 or between 20th May and 5th August for \$30. If you would like to register as a member of the Bundaberg Catholic Parish Relay for Life Team please visit the Cancer Council Office at 41 Woongarra Street or register online.

ROSTERS FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER: Rosters for next term will be commenced soon so they can be distributed mid June. It is important that that you advise the office by Friday, 31st May if your details have changed or you will be away for an extended period of time. No changes can be made after the end of May.

2019 HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY APPEAL: There will be a second collection next weekend for our future priests. Your prayers and financial support are of great encouragement to our Seminarians in their journey. All collections will be forwarded to the Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane. Please keep them in your prayers as they undertake their preparation and journey at this Seminary this year.

ADULT FAITH (Breaking Open the Scriptures) by Fr Peter Tonti

Monday, **13th May** 1.00pm repeated at 5.30pm at the Parish Centre

Topic: **The Outline and Structure of the Unfolding Biblical Story using Google Earth.**

All welcome! Please bring your Bible and Sacred Scripture handout.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Confirmed & Given First Communion: 53 young children of the parish

Recently Baptised: Shaun Allan Murphy

Recently Deceased: Jan Heaton (Perth), Edna Blake, Patricia Eileen McKenzie, Edward Arthur "Ted" Burton, Iris Fallini nee Vella (Mackay), Betty Fry (Blackall), Barry Hunt, Lynette Mary Swan, Mary Aura O'Keefe

LITURGIES

Monday 13 May 2019

9.00am Holy Rosary - Mass

Tuesday 14 May 2019

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

Wednesday 15 May 2019

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

Thursday 16 May 2019

6.30am St Mary's - Mass
11:30am Shalom - Mass

Friday 17 May 2019

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 18 May 2019

7.30am St Mary's - Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass



Diocesan Vocations Prayer

God of creation and mercy, bless men and women to respond to your call with courage. May the Holy Spirit kindle their hearts and Jesus be their role model to discern priesthood and consecrated life. Henceforth, they can use their given talents to lead a life of holiness, make Jesus real to all people, bring hope to despair, safeguard the mother earth and proclaim the gospel with precision. **Amen**

NEXT SUNDAY

19 May 2019

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year C (I)

Hours of the Sunday

Psalter Week 1

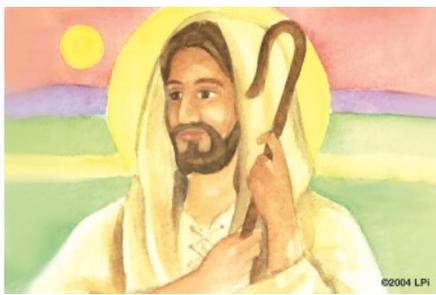
7.00am St James'
8.00am Holy Rosary
9.00am St Mary's
5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES for next Sunday

First Reading
Acts 14:21-27

Second Reading
Apocalypse 21:1-5

Gospel
John 13:31-35



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Acts 13:14, 43-52

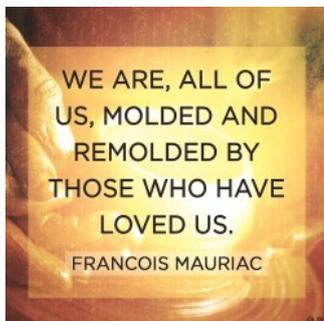
Luke records in Acts how and why Paul and Barnabas took their gospel message of the crucified and resurrected Messiah to the Gentiles. How do you imagine history would have changed if the Jews had accepted Paul's gospel message?

Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17

John's vision speaks of the eternal and heavenly rewards for those who suffer for the faith. To whom should you communicate this saving message?

John 10:27-30

In what ways do you find Jesus' metaphor of the sheep and shepherd appealing?



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28b

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We all face obstacles in life. Perhaps it's a lost job, the death of a loved one, a sudden accident that places an unexpected dent in our finances. Sometimes the challenges are of our own making. Perhaps we've developed patterns of sin in our personal lives or our family relationships. We've all felt the jolting shock of, "This is all my fault." How do these things affect our relationship with God? Or, perhaps more poignantly, how do we now view God's relationship to us?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' words to us are encouraging ones. "No one can take them out of my hand." Did you catch that? In case you didn't, Jesus reemphasizes the point again a few verses later. "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand." God's grip of providential care and mercy is so strong that nothing can separate us. We might think things take us out of God's hand - life circumstances, tragedy, our lukewarm attitudes towards faith - but Jesus tells us otherwise. Nothing, no one, can take us out of the Father's hand, and we can't take ourselves out! We can't remove ourselves from Him, not entirely. Even when grievous sin hardens us to grace, His love is still sustaining us in existence. And His mercy is always awaiting our repentance.

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." This Sunday, let us heed the voice of the Good Shepherd. Whatever we feel might take us from God's hand, we can turn back to Him. God is always inviting us to follow Him and to trust in His care and be sustained by His hand.