



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God."

- Mt 5:7-8

PASTORAL TEAM

Very Rev John Daly PP VF
Parish Priest

Rev Andrew Hogan
Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan
Liturgy & Sacramental

Mrs Denise Tuzes
Visitation & Bereavement

Mrs Diana Pippia
Office Manager

Mrs Kaye Andersen
Receptionist

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
Daniel Donnini: 4931 3632

Diocesan Response Line
Melissa Davey: 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

FOCUS by Denise Tuzes

Every year I try to participate in a retreat. It is a great opportunity to recharge spiritually, and if we are to minister to one another we need to continually examine our own lives, how are we coping, spiritually, health wise, work wise.

I need to find time and space to pray.

In Daniel O'Leary's book *Prism of Love* he sets out a guideline for happiness:

“Decide to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in little things.

Life is a mixed bag. Each day brings mixed emotions.

You cannot please everyone.

Learn to laugh at yourself. Trust in God and in your friends.

Be your own person. You only have to account to yourself and God.

Carry God's dream for your happiness within you. You can make that dream come true.

Do not be controlled by negative voices.

Trust in God's extravagant love for you.

Think of others. We become happier the more we take care of others.

Live for today. There is only the present moment. Life is short enough. Enjoy every second of your one.”

This year we are hoping to present some one day retreats in our Parish. I hope you will be able to take the time to attend and to renew your life.

LITURGY

In today's competitive world, many people do not see justice and humility as virtues to acquire. Yet Jesus makes a big point of giving us the beatitudes as the blueprint to follow for our lives. Being poor in spirit, meek, thirsting and hungering for righteousness, being merciful, clean of heart, and peacemakers are all hallmarks of the true disciple and a child of God. After doing all these things, however, the true disciple must be prepared for persecution. Are you really ready to become a true disciple?

STEWARDSHIP

In his book, "Life of Christ," Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, eternally speaking.

JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

“The Environment is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next.” Laudato Si' 159

We can each ask ourselves 'what do I do to ensure the environment I pass on is better than it is now?'

LITURGIES

Monday 30 January
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 31 January
St John Bosco - Memorial
9.00am St James - LWC
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 1 February
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 2 February
Presentation of the Lord - Feast
6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 3 February
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 4 February
7.30am St Mary's - Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

5 February 2017

5th Sunday
Ordinary Time

Year A (I) Psalter Week 1

Saturday
6.00pm St Patrick's

Sunday
7.00am St James'
8.00am Holy Rosary
9.00am St Mary's
12.00pm Baffle Creek
5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading
Isaiah 58: 7-10

Second Reading
Corinthians 2: 1-5

Gospel
Matthew 5: 13-16

NOTICES & EVENTS

Sacramental Program: A Family Session on the Eucharist will be held Sunday, 5 February 2017 at 10:30am and Wednesday, 8 February 2017 at 7pm in the Parish Office. For more information contact Anne on telephone no. 4151 6666.

Secondary Students' Sacramental Preparation: A program will begin in February for any young person who wishes to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation or First Communion. Please contact Anne Sheehan at the Parish Office on telephone no. 4151 6666.

Religious Instruction State-School In-service Day: Tuesday, 14 February 2017 from 9.00am - 2.00pm in the Apostolic Church of Qld. Morning Tea & Lunch provided. Agenda incl. Guest Speaker, compulsory Education Qld paperwork & allocation of Classes. Any enquiries please contact Pauline via email pauline@cqsat.net or in the evenings on telephone no. 41593272. (*Note: This In-service is compulsory for all Teachers wishing to teach RI in the State Schools in 2017*).

menALIVE Men's Breakfast: Saturday, 25 February 2017 at 7:30am in the Parish Office. Guest Speaker is Dr Andre Conradie (Cardiologist). Cost: \$10. Please RSVP to the Parish Office by Wednesday, 22 February 2017.

The Mass of Chrism: The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated during the evening of Wednesday, 5 April 2017 at 7:00pm at St Joseph's Cathedral. All Priests & People of the Diocese are invited to join Bishop Michael at this Mass when the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed and the Oil of Chrism is consecrated.

Palms Australia Encounters: *Share Meals, Share Games, Share Life Stories.* A Palms Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor is an experience to share this Easter and beyond. Palms long-term volunteers guide this intimate, immersive, inter-cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding. 2017 Dates are: 2 - 14 April; 2 - 14 July & 26 September - 6 October. For more information visit www.palms.org.au/encounters or telephone (02) 9560 5333.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: "Come Walk Where Jesus Walked" pre-Easter Pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Fr Noel Milner & Bishop Michael McCarthy. Return trip from Rockhampton, 12 - 30 March 2017. A brochure is available from the Parish Office or email colleen@harvestjourneys.com or telephone 1800 819 156 & mention Tour **7PV19**. Limited places available.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Allen Dowley; Vittorio 'Vic' Marano; Marian Palu; John Faircloth; Janette Pappalardo; Paul Galea; Thomas Chalmers; Francis Fisher.

Anniversaries: Geoff Perry; Sylvia Jendra; Alan Funge; Pat Funge; Alfred Barry (Mackay); Alvin Shemlowski; Barbara Maltby; Frances Muriel McGaw; Robert Potter; Christina Barry (Mackay); John (Charlie) Cross.



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Matthew 5:1-12

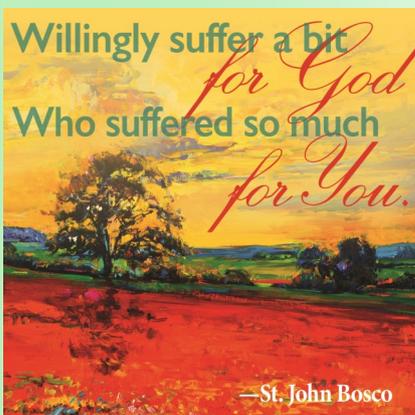
We hear today the beatitudes, the opening of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Which beatitude do you most easily resonate with, and which do you find most challenging?

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Why do you think the prophet Zephaniah places such a high value on the virtue of humility?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul evokes an examination of conscience among the Christians.



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

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

Happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Today we begin reading from 'The Sermon on the Mount' - Matthew's masterpiece, gathering together central teachings of Jesus. Singled out in our Christian tradition with this special name, this sequence of Matthew's gospel is the most famous passage in all Christian literature. In today's reading, Jesus instructs us on the nature of true happiness – what the ever-restless human heart is seeking: something beyond life's passing joys and satisfactions, something that we know we are made for, in the depths of our being.

Matthew's all-to-familiar presentation of the 'Beatitudes' has lessons concerning the nature of true happiness that may surprise us - lessons that are as meaningful today as when they were first given. Matthew's gospel, as we have seen, is written for a Christian community made up of Jewish converts; it aims to help them appreciate how Jesus is the fulfilment of all that is dear to them in 'the law and the prophets' (Mt 5:17). As he relates the teaching of Jesus to the biblical tradition, Matthew helps us to appreciate the profound continuity that exists between the two Testaments.

'Blessed (happy) are you'. These words of joyful congratulation, addressed to those to who have known the joy brought by God's blessings, echo down the ages in the story of the scriptures. 'All generations will call me blessed', Mary declares. The Beatitudes have a common pattern: relating the attitudes of those who have taken to heart the Good News of the Kingdom to the corresponding blessings that will be theirs, as God's gift. These blessings are shown by Matthew's presentation to be a magnificent fulfilment of the ideals of old Israel. True disciples of Jesus are 'poor in spirit' - they know that the God of Israel's faith is the champion of the powerless, who will certainly 'hear their cry'. It was in this spirit that the authentic faith of Israel's covenant lived on; and it was in this spirit that Jesus lived out his mission. The 'meek' are those who resist the temptation to rely upon human self-sufficiency and arrogance, finding their security in the Lord. For those who first heard Matthew's gospel, the attitudes of the true believer were summed up in the 'justice' that was the faithful Israelite's right relationship with their God. For this community, therefore, those who 'hunger for justice' do more than take up the cause of the oppressed; they seek the fullness of 'justice', by living according to Christ's new Law of Love. The 'merciful' are those who, faithful to their covenant relationship, have learned from the Saviour how to identify with the generous ways of God. 'Pure in heart' has a far broader meaning than we may tend to assume – the 'heart', so often spoken of in the psalms, is the person's innermost self; and this Beatitude speaks of nothing less than an undivided and generous commitment to the Gospel. 'Peacemakers' are those who identify with the hope at the heart of the biblical tradition – 'peace' (shalom), human wellbeing at every level, God's own gift.

The happiness proclaimed in the Beatitudes is not our achievement, but God's gift: 'Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased the Father to give you the kingdom' (Lk 12:32); 'A peace which the world can not give is my gift to you' (Jn 14:27).

The other readings of our liturgy confirm the central place of the spirit of the Beatitudes in the ongoing story of God's people.

John Thornhill sm