



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday

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Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." —Jn 4:10

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 Anne Sheehan

LENT: The Holy Spirit is working in and through many in our Parish at this time as they come to know God better through a life with Christ. Our Parish is a whirlpool of sacramental activity, as it should be, during the Lenten season.

The two Lenten focuses (Baptism and Reconciliation) are diminished in parish life without candidates for Baptism at Easter. In the early Church, Lent was the time for the Elect to have a more intense interior reflection on their willingness to become a Christian. This is a period, for both the elect and the faith community, for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery. The "24 Hours for the Lord" on Friday, 24 March, is one way in which the whole community can spend time in prayerful preparation for the Easter celebrations.

The Elect of our Parish, Angela Samways and her two children, Alyssa & Harrison, Alanna Lawrence, Grace Black, Jessica Cullinan, Lachlan Roll, Lachlan & Brayden Scott, are focussing more closely on the word of God each Sunday during Lent, being dismissed from the 5.30pm Mass to spend more time with the gospel. Beginning this Sunday, for the next three Sundays, they will celebrate the Scrutinies during the 5.30pm Mass too. (See Liturgy Spot). We present the Elect with the Creed, the statement of our faith, during the 5.30pm Wednesday Mass next week too.

We have six baptised Christians among us who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church in June: Zane Groves, Tanya O'Shea, Gail Bock, Jed Morley and her daughters, Alani & Kiele.

Nearly 70 children of our Parish celebrate their First Reconciliation next Wednesday evening. Lent, with its penitential nature, is the ideal time for this to happen. They then continue to prepare for their Confirmation and First Communion in June.

Much is happening during Lent. Many are preparing to enter fully into the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Prayers are needed please.

LITURGY

Since the 4th century Lent has been the season for proximate preparation of the candidates for initiation and a reminder for the whole Church of the grace of baptism. During the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent the elect (those chosen for the Easter sacraments) will participate in the RCIA Scrutinies. These are ancient rites and they may, at first, seem strange to us but they are profoundly rooted in our human experience. We need to examine (scrutinize) how we are, the areas of our lives where we are tempted, or seriously sin - in what we do and what we fail to do. We really need healing and the strength that can come from the support of our sisters and brothers. The Scrutinies have 5 main parts: 1. Silent Prayer; 2. Intercession for the Elect; 3. Prayer of Exorcism, 4. Laying on of Hands. 5. Dismissal of the Elect.

CARITAS: PROJECT COMPASSION

First Australian Uncle Richard is a survivor of the Stolen Generations forcibly removed from his family as a child and taken to Kinchela Boys Home (KBH) in NSW. Hundreds of Indigenous boys were incarcerated there between 1924 and 1970, losing every aspect of their identity – their names, their culture and their families. Uncle Richard attributes the beginning of his healing to something even more powerful than his creative work, his reconnection with former KBH boys.



The KBH Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) was established by KBH survivors to reunite with one another and begin healing. KBHAC's Unlocking the Past to Free the Future Program works to restore the social and emotional wellbeing of the survivors and their families. The former KBH boys have realised that their shared suffering has created a brotherhood.

JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

Pope Francis said that "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral - and not simply an economic act."

When buying Easter Eggs choose slavery-free chocolate not chocolate made with cocoa beans picked by enslaved people.

LITURGIES

Monday 20 March
St Joseph - Solemnity
9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 21 March
9.00am St James - LWC
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 22 March
8.00am Shalom - Mass
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 23 March
6.30am St Mary's - Mass
10.00am St Mary's
- Mass with Anointing

Friday 24 March
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 25 March
The Annunciation - Solemnity
7.30am St Mary's - LWC
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

26 March 2017

4th Sunday
LENT

Year A (I) Psalter Week 4

Saturday
6.00pm St Patrick's

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

SCRIPTURES

First Reading
1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Second Reading
Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel
John 9:1-41

NOTICES & EVENTS

Sacrament of Penance (First Reconciliation for Children): Wednesday, 22 March 2017 at 7.00pm in Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Easter Ministries: All Ministers who are available for Ministry at any or all of the Easter Mass & Liturgies please write your name on the list provided at the front door of the Church.

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent at 5.30pm at St James' Catholic Church & 7pm at St Patrick's Catholic Church.

Adoration & Benediction During Lent: will be held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church after 5.30pm Mass on the Sundays during Lent.

Harmony Day: is held Tuesday, 21 March 2017 & celebrates how all of our differences make Australia a great place to live!. Visit: www.harmony.gov.au.

Australia Catholics & Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans (ACRATH) Information Night: Sr Janine Bliss (ACRATH Co-ordinator Queensland) will hold an information evening at 7pm, Thursday 23 March 2017 in the Novakoski Centre.

Twenty-Four (24) Hours for the Lord: From 12.15pm Friday, 24 March 2017 in Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Every Parishioner & Prayer Group is asked to spend one hour with the Lord in prayer and adoration. Please write your Prayer Group's name or your name on the Roster located at the front door of each Church.

Bundaberg Catholic RI Group: The Gladstone Catholic RI Group invite the Bundaberg RI Teachers to a presentation with Carole Danby on Saturday, 25 March 2017 from 11am to 3.30pm in the Gladstone Events Centre. For more information contact Pauline Merefield - 0407 589 023.

The Mass of Chrism: 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 Wednesday, 5 April 2017 at 11am in St Joseph's Cathedral followed by a light lunch in the covered area.

Memorial Mass: Bishop Michael McCarthy extends an invitation to all Parishioners to attend the Memorial Mass being held for Fr Danny Moore on Thursday, 6 April 2017 at 8am in St Joseph's Cathedral.

Easter Liturgy Times

Holy Thursday
Holy Rosary Church at 7pm

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross : Holy Rosary Church at 10am;
Celebration of the Lord's Passion : 3pm
at Holy Rosary, St James' & St Patrick's Churches

Easter Vigil
Holy Rosary Church at 7pm

Easter Sunday
7am St James' Church; 8am Holy Rosary Church & 9am St Mary's Church.

Maytime Morning Tea, Fashion Parade & Mini Cent Sale: held by the Friends of Carinity Kepnock Grove Auxiliary is on Tuesday, 23 May 2017 at 9.30am in the Kepnock Grove Community Centre. Admission is \$3. For Bookings contact Casimir ~ 4151 4888 or Carmel ~ 4152 5979.

Position Vacant: The Thabeban State School is seeking a Religious Instruction Teacher for their younger classes on a Wednesday afternoon. Lesson Plans & Training provided. For more information contact Pauline Merefield; Marie Smrek or the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Faye O'Leary (Brisbane); Livio Masotti (Brisbane); Michael Handley (Gin Gin); Kevin Woods; Donald Ferguson; Fr Tom Sheeran (Toowoomba); Colleen Pearce (Murgon); Nelly Wallace; Rosina Caruso; Fr Bruce Little.



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

John 4:5-42

Only the Gospel of John records the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. What do you see as the defining moment in this episode?

Exodus 17:3-7

Three thousand years ago, the Israelites tested God in their desert journey by questioning Moses, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?" How does our contemporary society challenge and question God?

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Paul speaks of attaining "peace with God" through one's faith in Christ and experiencing the "love of God" through the work of the Holy Spirit. What does this reveal about our triune God?



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

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us. Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognize that she has found what her heart has been seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself, 'I AM he'.

His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries. And this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke alone – the gentile convert - shows any sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them - and for us - in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'

John Thornhill sm