



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St Ph: 07 4151 6666 Email: sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au PO Box 79 Bundaberg Q 4670



16th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Then the righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.” - Mt 13:43a

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Peter Tonti PP
Parish Priest

Rev Andrew Hogan
Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan
Liturgy & Sacramental

Mrs Denise Tuzes
Visitation & Bereavement

Mrs Carmen Wyatt
Stewardship Co-ordinator

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

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.

FOCUS by Anne Sheehan

Catholic Education Week begins a week of celebrations for our Catholic Schools' families. The theme of this year's Catholic Education Week is "*Sharing the Journey*". Pope Francis has said:

Today, we need a Church capable of walking at people's side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey. The whole journey of life is a journey of preparation ... to see, to feel, to understand the beauty of what lies ahead, of the homeland towards which we walk. What is important is the whole journey by which we arrive at the mission the Lord entrusts to us.

Since the first Catholic School opened in Queensland in 1845, Catholic education has expanded to include 300 schools in metropolitan and rural settings; 39 in the Rockhampton diocese. Through the years Catholic schools have grown, largely due to the efforts of religious congregations, and continue to work towards enhancing the life of each student. Today's Catholic schools can take credit especially for developing a sense of stewardship, social justice and moral conscience within our young people.

"*Sharing the Journey*" implies partnership, destination, a goal. Parents entrust their child/ren to the care of the Catholic School for 13 years. It's a long time to journey together. An element of trust is involved, but with Christ at their centre, Catholic Schools are "*doing more than simply listening to them (students, parents, staff) but accompanying them on their journey.*" (Pope Francis)

We congratulate and thank our four Catholic School communities on their efforts to educate young children and adults in all walks of life.

(Excerpts from: www.catholiceducationweek.com.au)

LIVE THE LITURGY

Today we are presented with the parable of the weeds and the wheat. We struggle with the imperfection that exists in our world. This imperfection shows itself in human sinfulness with its consequences -- disease, natural disasters, suffering, and even death. We wonder why God did not simply make everything perfect right from the beginning so that harmony, peace, and tranquillity would be the norm. God builds free will into us and into our world so that we can learn to freely love him. Anything less than this would not provide the freedom to choose to acknowledge and develop our relationship with our Creator. For now, the weeds and the wheat must coexist. Our faith teaches us that we live and walk in hope that when the harvest comes only the wheat of God's love will remain.

STEWARDSHIP

It sounds great to say to a child, "You can be anything you want to be." But at the core of this statement is often the lie that true happiness lies in fulfilling your will for your life. I have seen many people in my life that reached their goals only to find an emptiness and longing for something more. The reality is that our ultimate fulfilment and joy is becoming the person, not that we wanted to be, but the person that God created us to be. This does not mean that we are stuck in some predestined situation. There are many ways we can live out our destiny and use fully the gifts God gave each of us. But it does mean that we have chosen a path based on where God is leading us and informed by an insight of the distinct gifts with which we have been created. At the end of that path is a life filled with joy, peace, and contentment.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

The Gospel values of Justice and Love are fulfilled only if each person, contributing to the common good, according to one's own abilities and the needs of others, also promotes and assists the public and private institutions dedicated to bettering the conditions of human life. (Gadium et Spes #30)

LITURGIES

16th Week of Ordinary Time

Monday 24 July

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 25 July

9.00am St James - LWC

9.30am Gracehaven

- Anointing Mass

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 26 July

Sts Joachim & Anne

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 27 July

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

10.00am St Mary's

- Anointing Mass

Friday 28 July

10.30am Mater - Mass

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 29 July

St Martha

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

30 July 2017

17th 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

5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

NOTICES & EVENTS

Bundaberg CWLA Younger Set: are meeting for dinner on Tuesday, 25th July 2017 at 6.30pm at Sabrosa Steakhouse. If any younger ladies would like to join us, you would be very welcome. *For further information or to book, please contact Maureen ~ 41532 1263 before Tuesday lunchtime.*

St James' Day Celebrations: next **Sunday, 30 July 2017** after 7am Mass at St James' Catholic Church, Bargara. Sausage Sizzle & Raffle. All welcome. *(Please note change of date).*

Jubilee Celebration Invitation: Bishop Michael McCarthy invites you to the Jubilee Celebrations of Presbyteral Ordination, especially of Fr Frank Gilbert (60 years) and Fr Alex Kannikattu (25 years), on Friday 4 August 2017 at St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton for 10.30am Mass. All are welcome to attend.

The 13th Annual National eConference: Thursday, 10 August 2017 from 10.30am to 2.45pm in the Parish Office Conference Room. At this year's eConference, prominent international and national speakers and panellists will reflect upon these uncertain and turbulent times and discuss them in the context of Pope Francis' unique style of leadership. For more information or to register your attendance, please contact the Parish Office on 4151 6666. Registrations close Tuesday, 8 August 2017.

Annual Diocesan Gathering of Catechists: has been organised for **Friday, 18 August 2017** from 10.00am until 2.00pm. All State School RI Catechists are welcome to attend either in person in Rockhampton or via video-conference at Shalom College Bundaberg. For more information or to register, please contact either Pauline Merefield (pauline@csat.net) or Nicole Butler (nicole_butler@rok.catholic.edu.au) by Friday, 4 August 2017.

A MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Margaret 'Anne' Bullpitt; Darren Herron; Eileen Lynch; Mary Cutajar (NSW); Denis 'Bill' Hurley; Jax Willes (Mackay); Peter Gibbs; Wayne Knott; Raymond Logan; Mary Dyer; Giovanna Murtas; Margaret Spilsbury; John Chandler; David Carter.



SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

Once again our reading from Matthew's gospel brings us the teaching of Jesus about 'the Kingdom', in parable form. As before, the parables are invitations to learn what the coming of God's liberating and life giving reign should mean for us. Though our situation is very different from that of those who first heard these parables, they have a clear message for the Church of today. The gospel truth speaks to all ages. Wheat and weeds growing together – a perfect image, surely, of the world in which we live. How should Christians react in this situation?

SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Matthew 13:24-43

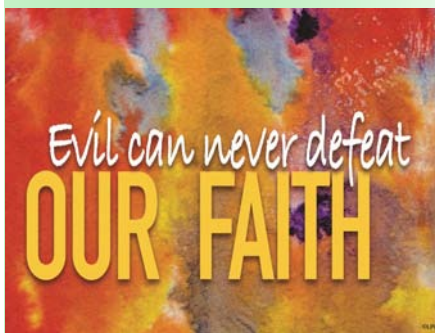
We hear today a series of parables describing aspects of the kingdom of heaven: the parable of the weeds among the wheat, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the yeast. Which parable do you find useful in more fully understanding the mystery of the kingdom of heaven?

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

According to the Jewish sage who wrote Wisdom, what are some of the attributes of God?

Romans 8:26-27

Paul writes of the Spirit aiding us in our weaknesses. In this regard, where do you see the Spirit at work in your life today?



While we must speak out for the truth, we may well be tempted to emphasise our faithfulness by our impatience and intolerance towards those who do not journey with us. The parable of Jesus warns us that this is not God's way. The reading from the book of Wisdom shows us that, as the Old Testament was drawing to a close, devout thinkers in old Israel were recognising that 'the virtuous person must be kindly to others', learning from the mysterious patience of God. Only the Lord of the harvest – whose grace is at work in a hidden way in every human heart – can sort out the good from the bad when all is gathered in at the end. We who are blessed with the gift of faith must prepare for the final harvest by becoming an exemplary crop ourselves. There is a lesson here, also, for those who belong to the new movements emerging in the today's Church. They must avoid a sectarian spirit that would see their way as the only way. There is room in God's Church for many spiritualities and traditions. True 'catholicity' shows an openness to this.

The other parables carry us further. 'The Kingdom is upon you', Jesus has announced. In the parable of the tiny mustard seed, he refers to the modest inauguration of the Kingdom. His hearers must have been puzzled, as they saw the teacher who spoke with spellbinding power gathering twelve of his followers to symbolise the New Israel. Few of these followers had much to commend them, and some would have been considered positively disreputable. Jesus, however, is carrying forward the mission he has been given by the Father. He looks confidently beyond these humble beginnings, and he urges those 'who have ears to hear' to share his confidence: 'No need to be afraid, little flock', he tells this unpromising group, 'for it has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom' (Lk 12:32). And those for whom Matthew wrote could already see faith in the Kingdom announced by Jesus spreading beyond the boundaries of Palestine. As they heard the parable of the seed that became a tree sheltering the birds of the air, they could recall that more than one of the prophets used the same image, speaking of the worldwide reign of God that was to come (cf. Dan 4, Ezek 17 and 31). As the Church's new era of evangelisation makes a faltering start, we too must take heart from the message of the parable. 'God chooses the weak to shame the strong' (1 Cor 2:27).

The parable of the yeast tells of the hidden designs of God being worked out in the chaos of history. Though we are all tempted to judge by appearances, we recognise that the good things that happen in our own faith communities are usually the fruit of long years of fidelity and generosity. 'Three measures of flour' would have made something like three dozen gallons of dough ready for baking! Though God's designs are hidden, they are boundless in their promise. The explanation of the mixed harvest parable – an addition of early Christian teachers – warns those within the Church who are unfaithful to their calling that they must be converted

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