



# 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



28<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.” - Mt 22:2

## 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**  
Administration & Finance Co-ord.

**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 Fr Andrew Hogan

On Monday, we will once again gather to pray with members of our community who have suffered the loss of a child. Death is difficult to deal with in the most perfect of situations – a long happy life that has come to its natural end. It is especially difficult, when the one who has died is so young, still in need of our nurturing and care.

Some of the most profound and difficult moments of my priesthood so far have been praying with parents who have lost their child. Its difficulty comes from the fact that there is nothing that can prepare you for that situation and in that moment of deep grief words are cheap but they are all we have. These moments have been profound because I am always amazed at the strength and faith of the grieving parents in such a difficult time. It is certainly an occasion when God's grace is active.

In his Letters and Papers from Prison Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, *"Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love. ... It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn't fill it, but on the contrary, God keeps it empty and so helps us keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain. ... The dearer and richer our memories, the more difficult the separation. But gratitude changes the pangs of memory into a tranquil joy. The beauties of the past are borne, not as a thorn in the flesh, but as a precious gift in themselves."*

We place our hope in God, we trust in God's unfailing compassion. We commit our beloved little one to his care, and we look forward to the day when we will be with them, face to face, and with God, in the light of his divine glory.

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## LIVE THE LITURGY

Pope Francis constantly reminds us of the wideness of God's mercy and its unconditional character. God is always patiently loving his children and opening the doors to his heart. We must, however, freely choose to accept God's invitation and join in the feast of his love. We desire many things and we have restless hearts. We often attempt to quench our desire with things that are short-lived and shallow. All of us long to be satisfied and at peace. How do we announce to the world, in ways that are convincing and without judgment, that it is really God whom we seek?

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## STEWARDSHIP

Art Buchwald, the longtime humorist for the "Washington Post" who died in 2007 is credited with saying, "The best things in life aren't things." As Christians, we know this statement to be true. Certainly the best things in our lives are not those items that money can buy or things we can create in the material world. Faith, hope, and love are more precious than anything we can see with our eyes. Yet, as humans we often find ourselves longing for the very things that we claim are not nearly as valuable. We lose sight of what is real and true.

The flesh seeks what it wants, but the spirit seeks what it needs. In a stewardship way of life, we must always remind ourselves that true wealth never comes from material possessions and money. True wealth comes from the love we share, the faith we develop, and the hope we bring to others. The best things in life aren't free, though. They require work, commitment, and fortitude. We need to cultivate these things daily. If we are serious about living life in this way, we will find that when our days on this earth are through, we really had it all.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

In this Anti-Poverty week we can reflect on:- *Will you help to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity? Will you make it your mission to transform hearts and minds in the Australian community inviting them into just and compassionate partnership with the poor?* ([www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au))

## LITURGIES

28<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

### Monday 16 October

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass  
7.00pm Holy Rosary - Memorial

### Tuesday 17 October

**St Ignatius of Antioch**  
9.00am St James - LWC  
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

### Wednesday 18 October

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

### Thursday 19 October

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

### Friday 20 October

11.25am Shalom - Mass  
12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

### Saturday 21 October

7.30am St Mary's - LWC  
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

## NEXT SUNDAY

22 October 2017

### 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

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

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

### Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

### Gospel

Matthew 22:15-21

## NOTICES & EVENTS

### Anti-Poverty Week : 15 - 21 October 2017

**Life in the Spirit Seminar:** Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 7pm in the Novakoski Centre. For more information or to register, please contact Sr Mary Della at the Parish Office.

**Creating A Dementia Friendly Church Seminar:** Thursday, 19 & 26 October 2017 from 5.30pm - 7pm in the Parish Office. For more information or to register, please contact the Parish Office.

**Children's Sacramental Dates: Parent Information Session:** Sunday, 15 October 2017 at 10.30am in the Parish Office. **Parent/Child Session 1:** Sunday, 29 October 2017 at 10.30am OR Wednesday, 1 November 2017 at 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

**Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Service:** For the parents of babies who died too soon: before, during, or after birth. Holy Rosary Catholic Church Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7:00pm.

**ACRATH - Human Trafficking Workshop:** from 7pm - 8pm, Wednesday, 25 October 2017 in the Novakoski Centre. Workshop Topic: Is it possible to have a combined churches response to raising awareness of human trafficking? Please register your attendance to Sr Margaret Schofield (0438 757 235) by Friday, 20 October 2017.

**Southern Deanery Regional Assembly:** Bishop Michael McCarthy has expressed his desire to meet with the people of his Diocese to discuss matters that are pertinent to the local communities and the future of the Local Church. This Assembly, which includes the Parishes of Bundaberg, Gladstone, The Callide Valley & The Dawson Valley is to take place from **9.00am to 12noon on Saturday, 28 October 2017** in the Parish Hall, Gladstone. Please contact the Parish Office by Monday, 16 October 2017 if you are interested in attending.

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival ACYF:** is being held from 7 - 9 December 2017 in Sydney and will kick off the Year of Youth in Australia. The event is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops and is for Youth from Grade 9 up to 30 years of age. Many of our Catholic High Schools are already arranging School Groups to attend. For more information visit: [www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au](http://www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au) or if you would like to be part of the Diocesan Group please email your interest to [youth@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:youth@rok.catholic.net.au).

**Save the Date: Bethlehem Live ~ 19 - 22 December 2017** from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Please contact Carmen at the Parish Office to register your interest.

**Confirmation & First Communion:** Please keep **Teresa Fitch & Aaron Tom** in your prayers this week. During the 6.00pm Mass next Saturday, with Bishop Michael presiding, Teresa will complete her initiation by being confirmed in the Spirit and receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Aaron, will also be confirmed during the same Mass.

**Christmas Mass Ministries:** Would all Liturgical Ministers who are here this Christmas please write your name on the lists at the doors of the church. Rosters for the Christmas Masses need to be compiled now. Thank you.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Newly Baptised:** Logan Glenn Cosgrove; Dominic Newton; & Chet James Stevens;

**Recently Deceased:** Russell McDonald; Janet McDonald; Carmela Fava (Home Hill); Kevin Steindl; Andrea Valesini; & Keith Wain.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

### Matthew 22:1-14

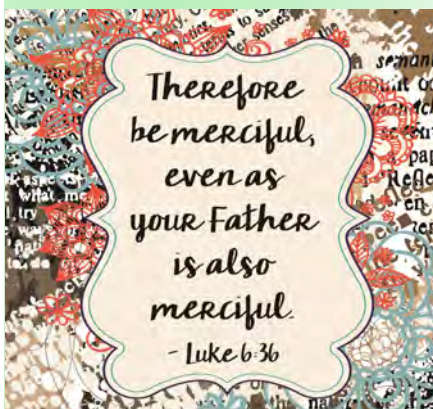
Jesus' parable of the wedding feast ends in a startling way. How do you know if you are properly dressed for the wedding feast (the return of Christ)?

### Isaiah 25:6-10a

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah foreshadows the messianic age to come with lush imagery. What does this imagery reveal to you about God's nature?

### Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Paul informs the Philippians he has learned the secret of living well under any circumstance: find strength in Christ. How is this true in your life?



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

## SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

The parable, about the king who welcomed to his son's wedding all who could be found, when those who had been invited refused to come, has a message similar to that of the parable we heard last week (which it immediately follows in Matthew's gospel). Old Israel has not responded to God's call, and now a New Israel will include all peoples, giving expression to God's inclusive ways as it carries forward the designs of God. Again, we can recognise that the original parable of Jesus has been modified, as it was retold by the Church's early preachers. Comparing Matthew's presentation with Luke's account of the same parable (Lk14: 15-24) makes it possible to recognise the additions Matthew has made. Luke's much simpler presentation is no doubt closer to the parable as Jesus told it. Matthew's presentation is embroidered with additions that give us a valuable insight into the themes that gave expression to the faith life of that early Christian community – themes that can help enrich our faith.

In Luke's account, Jesus responds to the remark of someone at table with him ('Happy those who will share the meal in the kingdom of God') beginning his parable, 'There was a man who gave a great banquet'. Matthew takes up and develops the theme of joy and celebration essential to Christian faith implied in this beginning, and opens the parable, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding'. The espousal theme was fundamental to the biblical tradition. The prophets compared God's relationship with the chosen people with that of a loving and faithful husband. For the first Christians, the Saviour was 'the Bridegroom' (Mk 2:20), and the life they shared in the Church was described as joining in 'the wedding feast of the Lamb' (Rev 19:9). A banquet - especially that which celebrates a wedding - is an outstanding moment of fellowship. In the traditions of Israel, familiar to Matthew's community, the blessings promised by God to those who have been faithful were likened to sharing in a banquet at the Lord's table – as we hear in the reading from Isaiah in today's liturgy. As they heard this reading, and rejoiced in its fulfilment in Christ, this community would have given thanks for the universality of God's generous designs: 'all peoples and nations' will share in God's blessings 'everywhere on earth', the prophet declares. Already, they knew, the faith was beginning to spread. Long familiar with the biblical themes, they would have seen the prophet's associating of the messianic blessings with, 'this mountain' as a reference to the old temple. But if, as is likely, the old temple had already been destroyed by the Romans (A.D.70) when Matthew's gospel was written, they would have been reminded that the shared life of Old Testament faith was only a foreshadowing of the eternal realities brought by Christ.

Matthew's account includes the note of urgency characteristic of the outlook of the first Christians – three times, the king declares that all is 'ready'. The final age has come, all must be ready to respond to the Lord's call. And so, along the same lines, Matthew concludes his presentation by adding the short parable about 'the man without a wedding garment' – that would originally have been quite independent of the original story. Again the lesson is clear: although, in the present age, Matthew's Church receives 'the good and bad alike' to rejoice at the wedding feast of the Lamb, let them know that their presence must be more than nominal adherence – they must be converted and live a life worthy of their calling.