



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



33rd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'" - Mt 25:21

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 Barga

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

SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY: Our preparation program for the Children's Sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Eucharist has begun. Over the next few months, we will see the children at Mass with their families, participating in Children's Liturgy of the Word, and coming to know Jesus more through his words and our actions. They began their preparation by remembering the beginning of their journey in faith, their baptism.

We spoke about journeys having a starting point and a destination, with food and drink to sustain the distance, and a map or GPS to guide us along the right course. Journeys of significance need preparation and planning and are most importantly undertaken in the company of family or friends. They are never travelled alone.

Our journey of faith, hopefully, is a long and winding journey to our eternal reward. For us, the regular sharing in the food and drink, the Body and Blood of Christ, of the Eucharistic meal will sustain us along our journey with regular indulgences in prayer and works of charity. We tell the children they will not travel alone on this journey of faith, or the immediate one leading to the completion of their initiation into the Church family. They will have the company of their faith community, as well as their families and friends, to pray for them and give encouragement.

The most challenging sentence in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is: *"The initiation of catechumens is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful."* (RCIA-4) Note the word "within". Gone are the days when our Catholic schools prepared children for the sacraments. It is now the responsibility of the parents, the school, **and** this faith community together.

"Let the little children come to me", Jesus says. *"Do not stop them"* when you see them wriggling in their seats, crying, talking, turning around, or making paper planes with bulletins. Be an example of welcome, hospitality and compassion as Jesus showed us. For many families going to Mass is difficult with young children. Let's do our part to make the children's continuing journey in faith pleasant and memorable.

LIVE THE LITURGY

Every one of God's children is a unique creation with talents and gifts that are found in no one else. Each of us is asked to bring our special "twist" to life and to living the Gospel, leaving our impact on the world in a way that no one else can. Are we ever afraid to use our gifts or to be who we are?

STEWARDSHIP

We have all been given talents and gifts by God to be cultivated and offered back to him and those around us for his glory. As time has passed, hopefully we have taken seriously our stewardship of these gifts. But sometimes out of fear, misunderstanding, or even apathy, we have taken one or more of our gifts and buried them, hiding them away from others and stifling all growth. This is no way to honour God and certainly not a path to fulfilment in life.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

The theme for Pope Francis' First World Day of the Poor is *"Little children, let us not love with words but with deeds."* We are called to touch the body of Christ in the suffering bodies of the poor not only by our generosity and voluntary work but by following Jesus in his own poverty. Poverty is an interior attitude that avoids looking on money, career and luxury as our goal in life and creates the conditions for freely shouldering our personal and social responsibilities.

LITURGIES

33rd Week of Ordinary Time

Monday 20 November

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 21 November

Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary

9.00am St James - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 22 November

St Cecilia

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 23 November

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

10.00am St Mary's

- Mass with Anointings

Friday 24 November

St Andrew Dũng-Lac & Companions

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 25 November

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

26 November 2017

**Our Lord Jesus Christ
King of the Universe**

Year A (I)

Hours of Solemnity

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

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

NOTICES & EVENTS

St Joseph's Cathedral Conservation Appeal: a second Collection will be held during all Masses this weekend for the St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton Conservation Appeal. Thank you.

The Books of Remembrance: have been placed in all Churches for you to record the name/s of your loved one/s who have died. These & all the dead will be remembered in our Masses this month.

Cherish Life Qld Inc (Bundaberg Branch): will present the film **Euthanasia Deception**, on Monday, 20 November 2017 at 1.15pm in the Novakoski Centre. Tea & coffee provided. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. All welcome.

Christmas Mass with Children: will be held on **Christmas Eve** at **4.00pm** in **Holy Rosary Church**. Each year we invite young children to take part in this *Christmas Mass with Children*. Secondary students make excellent readers & singers. There are parts in the Gospel dramatization for Joseph, Mary, Angels, Shepherds, Sheep & Cattle. If you would like to be involved in this Mass, either in the dramatization, reading or singing please come along to the Novakoski Centre (behind Holy Rosary Church) on **Wednesday, 29 November 2017** at **3.30pm** where parts will be allocated. For more information, please contact Anne Sheehan at the Parish Office on 4151 6666 or Pauline Merefieid on 4159 3272.

Community Christmas Carols in Bargara: 6.30pm Thursday, 30 November 2017 at the Uniting Church, Bargara. For more information, please see the Church Noticeboards. Everyone welcome.

Chosen - Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2017: is a 72 page pocket-size book containing short Daily Reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2017) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2018). Available at the Parish Office & at the entrance to all Churches until sold out.

Pageant of Lights ~ Thursday, 7 December 2017: the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg will be again entering a float in the Christmas Parade. If you have a child who would like to participate in the parade, or if you yourself would like to walk as part of the Parish Community, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Christmas Celebration: the Parish Stewardship Council invites everyone to join them for a Christmas Celebration from **3.00pm - 5.00pm Saturday, 9 December 2017** at **Rossolini Place** (Parish Office). Food & Drinks provided. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Parish Office by Monday 4 December 2017.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: is happening again this year. Please buy a Gift & bring it along to Mass over the next 3 weekends. Leave Gifts in the basket provided to be brought up during the Procession of Gifts during Mass. This year, St Vincent de Paul has asked that only Gifts for **Children, infants to 12 years old, be donated**. Don't forget to leave your Gift/s unwrapped. The last weekend for the collection of Gifts is the **9th/10th December 2017**. Thank you.

Christmas Carols at St James': Sunday, 17 December 2017 from 4:30pm at St James' Catholic Church, Bargara followed by a Cuppa & some Christmas Goodies. Everyone welcome.

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 in being part of the Parish display or set-up team.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Olvino Targato; Irene Hansen, Patrick Dalton; & Leslie Kirkham.



SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

The parable in today's gospel reading is so well known, that the word, 'talent', has become part of our language. The original story of Jesus, however, had a far more serious message than the development of natural gifts. The 'talent' Jesus refers to was an enormous quantity of precious metal (26 kgs of gold or silver). The immensity of the wealth entrusted to the servants was far beyond the experience of Jesus' hearers. The parable challenges them to recognise that God's immense blessings bring great responsibilities.

The sharp edge of the parable, as Matthew reports it, seems to indicate a background of controversy. It may well be that the original parable of Jesus was a challenge to the Sadducees – the conservative Temple establishment who were not open to wholesome developments that had taken place in the biblical tradition, and were opposed, therefore, to the mission of Jesus. Scholars find grounds for this in the wording of the parable. The master 'hands over' the talents; this term was associated in old Israel with the passing on of the traditions of God's people. The term 'gained' - applied to the profits made by the servants - was associated with the winning of converts. In their self-centred conservatism, the Sadducees had no concern to carry forward Israel's mission to be 'a light to the nations'. As the parable was recalled in Matthew's community, however, it may have been directed against the dangers of complacency in that community - that settled for the minimum requirements of life as the Lord's disciples, and was not ready to set out upon the great adventure of putting into practice the program of the Sermon on the Mount. The conclusion, 'To anyone who has will be given more; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away' – a saying of Jesus that appears several times in the gospels – was probably added by Matthew, to drive home the point of the parable. Its meaning for Jesus was that one who is spiritually open will enjoy God's on-going blessings; whereas one who is closed will miss the opportunities offered them. Matthew emphasises the seriousness of the parable's lesson by concluding his narrative – as he does in other places - with reference to the 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' in store for those who have no place in the Kingdom.

The parable of Jesus points to the 'Day of the Lord' when God's people will be called to account for the responsibilities brought by the great blessings they have received. In today's reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, Paul continues his instruction concerning the Lord's return, echoing the imagery used by Jesus in the gospels. Life must go on; it is not given to us to know the 'times and seasons' of the final reckoning; the 'Day of the Lord' will come 'like a thief in the night'; God's people must 'stay awake and sober', living as 'children of the light'. It is not difficult to see that these themes provide the background of today's parable. The master is a long time in coming, and arrives unexpectedly to 'go through the servants' accounts'. The servants who have administered well the wealth entrusted to them are to be entrusted with 'greater things'; they will share in 'their master's happiness' – a clear reference, for those who have ears to hear, of the blessings of the final Kingdom.

If we appreciate the greatness of the blessings brought by faith in Christ, we will be aware of the responsibilities they bring.

SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Matthew 25:14-30

How do you know if you have been a "good and faithful servant" of the Lord?

Proverbs 31:10-13; 19-31

Why do you think this Jewish wisdom writer talks about the value & virtues of "a worthy wife"?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

What do you do to maintain a focus on the eventual return of Christ?



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