



# 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

17<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

## 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 Denise Tuzes

The Order of Christian Funerals strongly reminds the believing Community that we have a responsibility to care for the sick and all those who die. At the death of a Parishioner we are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of someone they love.

By our Baptism we are born into the life of Christ and also into a Christian Community, a Community united in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. All liturgies, which includes funerals, are communal acts of worship, not private occasions. Having received the life of Christ in Baptism we are born into the fullness of that life on our death. At our death the Church that welcomed us at baptism gathers to bid farewell and to hand the deceased back to God. It does so as a Community united in Baptismal faith.

Having held a rightful place in the Parish Community, the death of one member is a communal event for that Parish. When one of our Community dies we need to gather as a community with the family. It is in this gathering, the funeral, that we bid farewell to our fellow Parishioner. *"The responsibility for the ministry of consolation rests with the believing Community."*

At the time of death the Community is called to recognize their relationship with and mutual responsibility for one another. The death of a Christian then, is a Church event, and we as members of that Community are called to attend the funeral.

The Order of Christian Funerals reminds us *"the Community's principal involvement in the ministry of consolation is expressed in its active participation in the celebration of the funeral rites."* (OCF 11)

## LIVE THE LITURGY

As human beings, we desire to find happiness. This desire is so strong that we often go to great lengths to discover and obtain it. Unfortunately, our search sometimes brings us to the wrong places. We mistakenly think that money, certain possessions, social status, popularity, and even power and control can satisfy the longing that exists in our hearts. Time and again, one after another, these things come up empty and we find ourselves with the same unfulfilled longing gnawing at us deep within. It is only the kingdom of God that can satisfy our desire and that ache. We are made and hardwired for this. When we discover it, we know that we have found something very special -- a pearl of great price. Then, everything comes together and is put in proper order: our relationship with God, others, ourselves, and even the universe in which we live.

## STEWARDSHIP

Could you sell all you have right now? Could you walk away from all that you have amassed and be truly free? When Jesus speaks of the merchant who sells all he has to obtain a pearl of great price, he calls us to see the pearl as the kingdom of heaven. Nothing on earth can rival the value of the kingdom. If that is true, why is it so hard to surrender everything to God to obtain it? It can be fear that keeps us from stepping out in faith. It can be selfishness that prevents us from letting go. Whatever it is, we must face the fact that we are possessed by it. The good news is that God does not expect us to conquer this obstacle on our own. But with God, all things are possible.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

Today is the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This happens in our world and in our country today. The UN estimates 2.5 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery. Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) supports victims.

*We can all do something - eg. join our local ACRATH group, heighten our awareness, buy products produced ethically, speak out against trafficking.*

## LITURGIES

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

**Monday 31 July**

**Ignatius of Loyola**

9.00am St Patrick's - LWC

**Tuesday 1 August**

**St Alphonsus Liguori**

9.00am St James - LWC  
12.15pm Holy Rosary - LWC

**Wednesday 2 August**

8.00am Shalom - LWC  
5.30pm St Patrick's - LWC

**Thursday 3 August**

**St Dominic**

6.30am St Mary's - LWC

**Friday 4 August**

**St John Vianney**

12.15pm Holy Rosary - LWC

**Saturday 5 August**

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

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**6 August 2017**

**TRANSFIGURATION of  
the LORD**

**Year A (I)**

**Hours of the Feast, Te Deum**

**Saturday**

6.00pm St Patrick's

**Sunday**

7.00am St James'  
8.00am Holy Rosary  
9.00am St Mary's  
12noon Baffle Creek  
5.30pm Holy Rosary

**SCRIPTURES**

**First Reading**

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

**Second Reading**

2 Peter 1:16-19

**Gospel**

Matthew 17:1-9

## NOTICES & EVENTS

**Homeless Prevention Week ~ 1st to 7th August 2017**

**Parish Planned Giving:** A reminder to all that next weekend will be *Gifting Sunday*, a day we remember everything that has been gifted to us, by a generous and loving God. We will be inviting all to recommit to the Parish Planned Giving Program.

**Liturgical Ministers' Formation & Training:** will be held on **Wednesday, 9 August 2017** from **9.30am - 11.00am** or from **5.30pm - 7.00pm** in the Parish Office for those Ministers of the Liturgy who were unable to attend the recent Formation Sessions with Sr Ursula O'Rourke. Please contact the Parish Office by Monday, 7 August 2017 to register. (*Note: Formation is required before the Rite of Commissioning on the weekend of the 12/13 August 2017.*)

**Rite of Commissioning:** of all Liturgical Ministers will be held during all Masses the weekend of the 12/13 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](mailto:pauline@csat.net)) or Nicole Butler ([nicole\\_butler@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nicole_butler@rok.catholic.edu.au)) by Friday, 4 August 2017.

**Christian Meditation Workshop - Living in the Present Moment!:** Gabby Nelson (Qld Coordinator of Christian Meditation) will hold a workshop on Christian Meditation on Saturday, 20 August 2017 from 10.00am - 12.30pm in the Parish Office. For more information or to rsvp contact Joe Mc Corley on 0418 727 845 or the Parish Office.

**Diocesan Conference – Grace of Baptism:** Bishop Michael McCarthy, along with the Diocesan Prayer and Ministry Groups invite you to a weekend of Praise, Song & Teaching from **Friday, 25 August - Sunday, 27 August 2017**. Guest Speaker is Shayne Bennett. Cost is \$25 (*includes Saturday Lunch and Morning & Afternoon Teas*). Brochures available from the front door of all Churches this weekend. To register, please contact Sharon McDonald on telephone no. 0409 632 074 or via email [smcd22\)37@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smcd22)37@bigpond.net.au).

**Support the Homeless of Bundaberg:** by purchasing a ticket in the menALIVE Raffle being sold at the front door of all Churches over the next two (2) weekends. Proceeds will go to providing hospitality, showers & laundry facilities for the Homeless of Bundaberg. Raffles will be drawn after Mass on the weekend of 5/6 August 2017. Proudly supported by the Blanket Buddies & menALIVE. Please show your support.

**Have Your Contact Details Changed?:** Have you moved address or changed your contact details recently? If you answered yes, then please call or email the Parish Office to advise of any changes ~ Thank you.

**Tax Receipts:** The 2016/2017 Parish Planned Giving Tax Receipts are available for collection from the Parish Office.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Newly Baptised:** Chase Shane McGibbon & Logan Nelson John Scott.

**Recently Deceased:** Br Thomas Hickey (Brisbane); Margaret 'Anne' Bullpitt; Darren Herron; Eileen Lynch; Mary Cutajar (NSW).

**Anniversaries:** Sylvia Dinneen-Markinson; Clare Neibling; Joyce Lines; Bridget Mullins (Toowoomba); Alby Murphy; Erin Walker; John Maltby & Anastacio Jandusay.



## SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

The collection of parables of 'the Kingdom' that we conclude today is the centrepiece of Matthew's gospel. He closes this section with an autobiographical note. As he tells the story of Jesus for a community from a Jewish background, he sees himself as 'a scribe of the Kingdom'. The scribes who are often mentioned in the gospels were the rabbis who interpreted and taught the Law of old Israel. Matthew sees himself as an interpreter of the fulfilment of all the hopes of Israel brought by the Saviour. From the first, the apostles and their companions taught that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus were 'according to the scriptures'. If the essential message of the scriptures was making known the ways of God, these ways were given a dramatic and final expression, they announced, in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is the new Moses, bringing the New Law of the Sermon on the Mount; he inaugurates a new Covenant in his blood; he establishes the new Temple that is his own body; he is the new David, the messiah exercising divine rule over God's final Kingdom. As one great writer put it, in the light brought by Christ, the Scriptures 'opened their heart for the rejoicing and astonished apostles'. The old figures and shadows have given way to realities beyond all the imagining of old Israel. Matthew shares in this enthusiasm, and sees himself as a 'scribe of the Kingdom', as he relates the old to the new.

But this fulfilment is mysterious, as the parables we have seen already make clear. A conversion is necessary if one is to recognise and appreciate the coming of the Kingdom announced by Jesus. Each parable presents a challenge – we must leave behind our too human way of seeing things and identify with the ways of God that have constituted the essential message of the scriptures from the beginning.

The parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price emphasise this need for conversion. Identification with the ways of God that shape the Kingdom must be unconditional. In our Australian land, buried treasure is the stuff of fairy tales; but in Palestine, with its long history of kingdoms and empires, the possibility of finding a treasure trove was real. And if this happened, the treasure belonged to the owner of the site. One who had such a stroke of good fortune, Jesus says, would do all that he could to buy the field - and in a similar way, no other allegiance will rule the life of one who has found the joy of letting God's word and God's ways to be the measure of his or her life. The pearl for which the merchant sells everything has the same lesson. For ancient peoples, a pearl was the loveliest of possessions. The merchant of the parable will do whatever is necessary to acquire the pearl he has found that is without compare. This does not mean that he saw no beauty and value in the other pearls that he came across. Our choice of the values of the Kingdom does not mean that we should despise other worthy causes. The parable teaches us, however, that identifying with the Kingdom announced by Jesus means getting our priorities right. The parable of the dragnet has a message similar to that of the wheat and the weeds. It is not for us to make final judgment of the good and the bad - that belongs to the Lord. Meanwhile, the Church - through which the Kingdom is 'present in mystery' - is made up of a 'haul of all kinds'. Following the example of Jesus, who reached out to prostitutes and sinners, the Church will never turn its back on those who are still struggling with the issues of life.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

**Matthew 13:44-52 or 44-46**

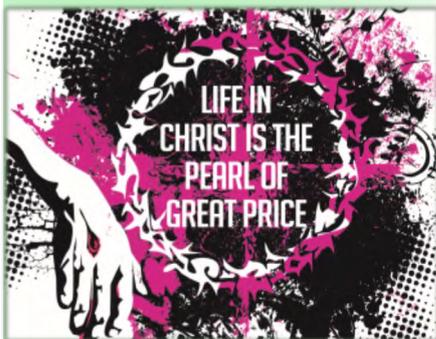
In the Gospel reading, Jesus offers a series of "end of the age" parables to the disciples -- buried treasure, fine pearls, and the large catch of fish -- and adds that every "scribe" (disciple) should make use of "the new and the old" from the storeroom. What do you think Jesus means by this statement?

**1 Kings 3:5, 7-12**

Solomon asks from the Lord the gift of a wise and understanding heart, so as king he could know what is right by his people. What gift would you ask from the Lord?

**Romans 8:28-30**

Paul speaks of believers being "called" according to God's purpose. In what ways do you experience this sense of "call"?



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