



FOCUS by Anne Sheehan

Have you ever tried sitting on a stool with only two legs? It doesn't work. The stool is ineffective. It topples over. It needs at least three legs to be complete. This is one analogy for the sacraments of initiation. Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation". Our initiation into the life of the Church is incomplete until all three sacraments are celebrated.

On Saturday morning, 64 children received the sacrament of Confirmation. Whether they fully understand the significance of the sacrament at their young age and the implications it has for them as baptised Christians, they are very aware that the sacrament is closely linked to their baptism and the workings of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Our role as a community now is to support them in prayer as they continue towards the completion of their initiation into the life of the Church, their First Holy Communion at the end of May.

Confirmation has a complex history and its practice continually evolves. The experience of Confirmation has changed considerably since I was confirmed. The age, the order, and the preparation for the sacrament, as well as the meaning of the sacrament, have all changed since then. In fact our experience with the whole of Christian initiation has changed dramatically. We now have a process (not a program) for preparing those wanting to be Catholic. At our recent Easter Vigil adults *and* children were baptised, confirmed and received communion for the first time. We will continue during the Easter season to celebrate the initiation of children of catechetical age during Sunday Mass.

As our experience of the whole of Christian initiation differs from that of thirty years ago, so our understanding of initiation is affected. Perhaps the best that we should do is to emphasise the unity of the sacraments of initiation. Without all three we are incomplete, we may topple.



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

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Peter Tonti PP

Parish Priest

Rev Andrew Hogan

Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan

Liturgy & Sacramental Coordinator

Mrs Denise Tuzes

Visitation & Bereavement
Coordinator

Mrs Diana Pippia

Administration & Finance Coordinator

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: 4887 3080

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.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." Real love, especially unconditional love, cannot exist apart from action. We are called to bear much fruit and become Jesus' disciples. We live in a world that is suffering so badly. By our actions and the way we organize our lives, we can model the Gospel values that many no longer see as important. We can be healers who put mercy into action. We can choose to unconditionally respect human life and challenge those who do not. We can live nonviolent lives, resist the lust for power, and avoid greed in all its forms. It is difficult to live the Gospel message of love. We will often be met with rejection. We need to allow God to prune away everything that makes it difficult to love. Then we have to take the risk and call others to a higher standard, no matter the price.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNISE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

When I was a teenager, I had an experience that truly changed my life and helped me to give Jesus all of myself. I had been baptized Catholic and always had faith, but it took a specific event to really shake me out of the comfort of my life and set me on a path devoted to God. I didn't get thrown off a horse or find an open tomb, but for me it was powerful enough to make a huge impact.

Testimonies of how people came to live as intentional disciples have great power. Often the stories do not include singular events or people; instead they speak of a gradual unfolding of faith. It is often the culmination of several events and the work of more than one person that brings a person to the point of real decision.

Living as good stewards, we can help move people forward in their journey with God. Giving of ourselves freely can move human hearts like few other forces. God working through us can bring others to see that simply saying that Jesus is the Savior of the world does not mean we live our lives differently. It takes more thought and reflection on our part to move past words to intentional acts with intentional results. I don't know if all those involved in that event when I was a teenager knew what an effect their good stewardship would have on me, but I am so thankful they provided a way for God to touch me. I've spent my entire life trying to pay them back by allowing God to touch others through me. Just what person might God touch through you today?

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Peace is both a divine gift and a human achievement, Pope Francis reminds us.

All people of good will are summoned to work for peace, with their hearts, minds and hands.

Peacemaking and the pursuit of justice go together. (Crux Oct 19 2017)

Let us be people of peace as we live out the command to 'Love one another'. Pray for the gift of peace for ourselves, our family and the people of the world.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Robin James Wüst; Gemma Louise Henrickson; Lachlan Roll; Mattia Pini (Italy); Phillip Joseph Marano; Alexander McPherson Dalton; Marian Wolstenholme (Beenleigh); Laura Spiteri (Malta).

NOTICES

AN INVITATION: Bishop Michael invites you all to think and pray about "The Holy Spirit" during the Easter Season, which lasts for 50 days. To help you in this, resources for parishes, schools and individuals are available on this site: <https://www.eastertopentecost.com.au>

SU Qld, a Christian interchurch youth & children's agency, invites applications for **School Chaplains** at: *Thabeban State School *Bundaberg South State School *Bundaberg East State School *Branyan Road State School. Applicants need to demonstrate their suitability to provide support & care to young people. Training & experience in youth work, pastoral care &/or teaching desirable. Minimum qualifications required. For more information and to apply online at: apply.su-chaplain.com or contact Lisa Hardie 0414983353.

MAYORAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT BREAKFAST ~ Tuesday 15 May, 6.30am-8.30am Bundaberg Civic Centre, \$37 per person (to be purchased by Monday 07 May - phone 4130 4100 or in person at the Moncrieff Theatre). Enquiries 1300 883 699 or events.admin@bundaberg.qld.gov.au Guest speaker: Lachlan Smart. Support our local school chaplains and the important work they do within our regional schools.

POSITIONS VACANT ~ The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg is seeking a full-time **Business Manager** to undertake a range of financial, contractual, building maintenance and general office supervision to assist the Parish Priest fulfil his administration responsibilities.

It is a full-time position, contracted for 12 months with options to extend for a further two years. To secure an Application Kit, contact Fr Peter Tonti or the Parish Office or bundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au Applications will close 5.00pm Monday 30th April 2018.

The Parish is also seeking a **Parish Cleaner** 24 hours per fortnight. For Job Description details please contact the Parish Office or bundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au. Applications close 5pm Monday 14 May.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUIRED ~ Due to transfers and retirements, 4 vacancies exist on our Parish Stewardship Council. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Council or wish to find out more about the Council, please contact a Council Member or the Parish Office as soon as possible.

CHERISH LIFE QLD INC BUNDABERG BRANCH will present the Movie **HUSH** at 12.30pm on Monday 30 April in the Novakoski Centre, introduced by Rev Brian Robertson. Please bring a plate of Finger Food - Tea and Coffee available. A gold coin entry would be appreciated.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ~ Family and friends of our recently deceased are invited to a Memorial Service, which will be held in Holy Rosary Church on Wednesday 09 May at 7.00pm.

EMILY'S VOICE ~ You are invited to a fundraising and celebration dinner at Rowers on the River on Saturday, 9 June at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. More details on the noticeboards at all churches.

THE GIFT: A JOURNEY TOWARD A FULLER LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT ~ To be held at the Kevin Castles Centre, 152 West Street, Rockhampton on 1st, 2nd and 3rd June. Full details in the sample Registration Form attached to the notice board in each of the Bundaberg Churches. Cost: \$30 ~ a response to Ms Sharon McDonald (0409 632 074) is required as soon as possible.

LITURGIES

Monday 30 April

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 01 May

9.00am St James - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 02 May

St Athanasius

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 03 May

Sts Philip and James

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 04 May

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 05 May

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

06 May 2018

6th Sunday of Easter

Year B (II) Psalter Week 2

Saturday

6.00pm St Patrick's

Sunday

7.00am St James'

8.00am Holy Rosary

9.00am St Mary's

12.00noon Baffle Creek

5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading

Acts 10: 25-26,34-35,44-48

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10

Gospel

John 17: 11-19



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

First Reading

Today's reading records the initial reaction of the Disciples to Paul's conversion. What do you think would have been the Disciples' main concern?

Second Reading

John challenges his community to love one another in both word and deed. What obstacles stand in the way of this charge?

Gospel Reading

What do you think Jesus means when he says believers are "pruned" by God in order to bear more fruit?



Parish Mission Statement

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's gospel reading, 'I am the true vine', brings us another of John's 'I AM' meditations. It takes up an important theme developed by the Old Testament prophets and one of the psalms: the old Israel was Yahweh's 'vine', lovingly planted and tended; but it brought forth only bitter fruits. In Jesus, however, this divine project has been taken up again by the Father – coming forth from his Paschal Mystery, he is the true vine which will bear fruits which give eternal 'glory' to the Father.

Thus our liturgy carries forward our Easter reflection upon what the Saviour's Paschal Mystery means in our lives and in the life of the Church. One of the central themes of the New Testament is the solidarity we have with Christ through what was achieved by God through his death and resurrection. For Paul we live 'in Christ', we are 'limbs of his body'. John often repeats that Christ (and his Father) now 'dwell' or 'make their home' in us.

We could easily overlook the fact that what comes through clearly in this gospel is the call to fruitfulness – sharing with the Son all that makes him the 'true' vine, beloved of the Father who has given him over for the sake of the whole world. The vine's branches are 'pruned' by the Father by means of 'the word' – a clear call to nourish our Resurrection life through a knowledge and love of the Scriptures. The fruits we will bear are primarily the witness we must give to others, and the outreach through which we are called to embody the Saviour's presence in our world. Israel was called to be 'a light to the nations' but failed; the New Israel, brought into existence through our solidarity with Jesus in his Paschal Mystery, must fulfil that great mission – an apparently impossible task, until we recall that what is at stake is the Father's great design in creation, and we recognise that all that is to be achieved derives from the One who is 'the true vine'.

In the first reading from Acts, the story of the apostolic Church, energised by its Resurrection faith, continues. The conversion of Paul – through his meeting with the Risen Lord - is a great turning point in this story. As now, the difficulties to be overcome, if the community of believers was to bear life-giving fruits, were both internal and external. It was not easy to accept and trust as a brother the man who had been so violent against them. And the message of life - brought to a lost world - was hated by those who preferred darkness to the light.

If the fruits of life 'in the vine' stressed in the gospel are the Church's effective witness and outreach, the 'discipleship' referred to at the end of the gospel's teaching brings great personal blessings to each believer. The reading from John's letter spells out some of them: learning from the Saviour what authentic 'love' is; finding the trust in God which overcomes all our deepest fears and self-doubts; the unspeakable privilege of the divine indwelling; and finally the gift of God's own Spirit.