



FOCUS by Dan McMahon

Fr Greg Boyle sj writes in his recent book, *'Barking to the Choir'*, 'In a recent *New Yorker* profile of American Baptists, the congregation's leadership resigned itself to the fact that 'secular culture' would always be "hostile" to Christianity. I don't believe this to be true. Our culture is hostile only to the inauthentic living of the Gospel. It sniffs out hypocrisy everywhere and knows when Christians aren't taking seriously, what Jesus took seriously. It is, by and large, hostile to the right things. It actually longs to embrace the gospel of inclusion and nonviolence, of compassionate love and acceptance. Even atheists cherish such a prospect.'

Recently in our Parish, through the loss of three beautiful young lives, we've seen the Church at its most authentic and best. Our four Catholic schools in Bundaberg were all affected by the ties that they have to these different people. Those communities were strongly supported by our Parish and particularly our parish ministers – clergy and lay. Compassion flooded forth. There was never any judgement on lives lived but rather an embracing of those who most needed that. Leadership was evident and practical assistance abounded. Others supported leaders. It was an outstanding example of the Church in action and stewardship shared.

Greg Boyle writes that the hallmark of the Church should be 'inclusive kinship and tenderness'. Being deeply and inextricably linked to the community must also have been in the minds of the early followers of Jesus as they struggled to create 'church'. As Boyle says, 'there is no them and us – it's just us, and we need to love and care for one another deeply and honestly.'



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

"Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love." So many people hunger for love. All of us desire to be intimately connected with others, God, and our world. Many things can work against this and cause us to feel alienated and even profoundly sad. Pope Francis tells us that our "infinite sadness can only be cured by an infinite love." We have been touched by God's love. We are called to bring that love to others so that their sadness and wounds can be healed. We must do this even for those we do not particularly like or who have hurt us. We cannot let anything stand in the way of love.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

"Get Together" was a popular song in 1967 by the Youngbloods. I was not alive when the song was released, but it was a song I played frequently learning how to play guitar when I was younger. The song called for all of us to come together and "try to love one another right now." It was a song that came out in the Vietnam War era and during somewhat of a hippie revolution, but perhaps the words belong to no real moment in time. They are simply the commands of Jesus.

Sometimes we minimize the power of love by cute pop songs and slogans that mean little without action. However, we can never underestimate the power of love. Love can tear down barriers between people, change tears to laughter, and mend relationships torn apart by sin.

No option exists for disciples of Jesus Christ to not love others. Not only are we commanded to do so, but love is a gift we must pass on freely. If we give of our time, talent, and treasure, but choose not to love, we cannot claim to be truly committed disciples and good stewards. As this Easter season draws ever closer to an end, we must allow our love to bear witness to the source of all love, the Risen Jesus. This is our calling until, as the words of the Youngbloods' song states, "the one who left us here returns for us at last."

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS -

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

On World Fair Trade Day we are conscious of the farmers and workers in the developing world who often work in poor conditions and receive little money. Fairtrade addresses injustices and enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

*As we shop or have a tea or coffee
we can be conscious of supporting Fair Trade products.*

(Social Justice Diary 2016)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Newly Baptised: Aidan Sontoufitat

Recently Deceased: Rina 'Rene' Nella; Harry Arirao (Philippines); Robin James Wüst; Gemma Louise Henrickson; Lachlan Roll; Mattia Pini (Italy); Phillip Joseph Marano; Alexander McPherson Dalton; Marian Wolstenholme (Beenleigh) and Laura Spiteri (Malta).

Anniversaries (May): Eugene Ferris; Orazio Leonardi; Agnes Lucke; Tony GLode; Helen Faulkner; David Thorne; James Gunn; Beverley Jones; Alice Gunn; Lloyd Horwood; Edna McGarry; Ian Timson; Ron Brieschke; Grace McConville; Judith Koczan; Eric Stitt; Margery Brodrick; Giovanni Dalzilio and Laurie Gahan.

NOTICES

Prayer Cards for Children: This weekend the children will participate in a small ritual, a Ritual of Belonging, anticipating their belonging to our Eucharistic family after their First Communion on 26/27 May. They will be giving out Prayer Cards to members of the gathered assembly who are then asked to pray for that child in the weeks of preparation.

The Parish Office: will be closed on Monday, 7 May 2018 for the Labour Day Public Holiday.

The Bundaberg CWLA Younger Group: will meet for dinner at 6.30pm Tuesday, 8 May 2018 at Sabrosa Steakhouse. For more information or to RSVP, contact Maureen ~ 4252 1263.

Children's Sacramental Program: Eucharist Family Session - Next Sunday, 13 May 2018 at 10.30am **or** Wednesday, 16 May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

Expressions of Interest: are invited for the position of Parish Cleaner for the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg. This position is a casual position of 24 hours per fortnight. For more information or to obtain a copy of the Position Description, please contact the Parish Office on 4151 6666 or via email bundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au. Applications close 5.00pm, Monday 14 May 2018.

Parish Stewardship Council Vacancies: Due to transfers and retirements, four (4) vacancies exist on our Council. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Council or would like more information, please speak with a Council Member or contact the Parish Office.

Bundaberg Passionist Family Group ~ Mackillop Family Group: invites you to join them for Lunch at the Bucca Hotel (Bundaberg's Favourite Country Pub) on Sunday, 20 May 2018 at 12noon. For more information, contact Geraldine ~ 0413 671 641.

Maytime Morning Tea, Fashion Parade & Mini Cent Sale: hosted by the Friends of Carinity Kepnock Grove Auxiliary is being held Tuesday, 22 May 2018 at 9.30am in the Kepnock Grove Community Centre. Admission: \$5. For bookings, contact Casimir ~ 4151 4888 or Lyn ~ 4151 6724.

Emily's Voice Fundraising & Celebration Dinner: is being held at Rowers on the River on Saturday, 9 June 2018 at 6.30pm. Tickets: \$55 RSVP by Friday, 1 June 2018. Please see the Church Noticeboards for more information. All welcome.

The Gift ~ A Journey Towards a Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit: hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton Diocesan Prayer and Ministry Groups is to be held from Friday, 1 June 2018 to Sunday, 3 June 2018 in Rockhampton at the St Joseph's Cathedral and Kevin Castles Centre (152 West Street). Cost: \$30. To register, please contact Sharon McDonald on 0409 632 074 or refer to the Church Noticeboards for more information.

Relay for Life High Tea: 10.30am Saturday, 14 July 2018 in St Patrick's Hall. Tickets are \$30/person & will be available from the Parish Office from Monday, 4 June 2018. (Tables of 10 available). Donations towards the High Tea's Continuous Raffle would be greatly appreciated - Thank you.

The 16th Annual Ecumenical Luncheon: will be held on Saturday, 25 August 2018 from 11am at the Bundaberg RSL. More information will be available at a later date.

2018 National Pilgrimage ~ In The Footprints of Mary MacKillop: presented by the Sisters of St Joseph departs Melbourne on Tuesday, 23 October 2018 and concludes in Sydney on Saturday, 3 November 2018. For more information, contact Sr Therese Leydon ~ 0417 683 123 or Sr Annie Bond ~ (02) 8912 4818 or email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au.

LITURGIES

6th Week of Easter

Monday 7 May 2018

9.00am Holy Rosary - Mass

Tuesday 8 May 2018

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

Wednesday 9 May 2018

8.00am Shalom - LWC
5.30pm Holy Rosary - LWC
7.00pm Holy Rosary
- Memorial Service

Thursday 10 May 2018

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 11 May 2018

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass
2.30pm Pioneer South
- Mass with Anointing

Saturday 12 May 2018

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

NEXT SUNDAY

13 May 2018

The Ascension of the Lord Hours of Ascension

Saturday

6.00pm St Patrick's

Sunday

7.00am St James'
8.00am Holy Rosary
9.00am St Mary's
11.00am Carinity
5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-13

Gospel

John 16:15-20



As we look forward to celebrating the Lord's Ascension and Pentecost's coming of his promised Spirit, our Easter season is drawing to a close. The mood of today's liturgy is reflective, inviting us to take in more fully the deep implications of our Easter faith.

Standing out in today's readings is the theme of love. What more important theme is there for our restless human hearts? Yet it is so often trivialised and distorted in today's popular culture. From our earliest years we have learned to know what genuine love is, not from lessons in words, but by being loved ourselves. Today's readings invite us to recognise that the Paschal Mystery that is the centre of our Easter celebration is an expression of God's love for us, and an invitation to enter into the love of Jesus and his Father, and to give it expression in our own lives. True love expresses itself in action rather than in words. The Father's love, John's letter tells us, was expressed in our midst when he 'sent into the world his only Son, so that we could have life in him'. The words of Jesus in John's gospel remind us how complete is the gift which he brings, as an expression of the love which he shares with the Father: 'A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friend'.

Genuine love is an unselfish gift. It seeks the good of the beloved rather than its own benefit. God's love is an outreach of utter generosity; it comes before any response on our part, as John's letter points out. (As the continuation of our passage puts it 'God loved us first'.) And our response can give nothing to God except the joy in the heart of the selfless giver. As we contemplate the mystery of God's generosity, we are reminded that, in the end, love is the most precious of all gifts. If it is true that true joy is the finding of what our hearts are made for, then a love that is genuine brings a joy which is without compare: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you ... I have told you this that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete'. The fruit of genuine love is the intimacy of friendship – sharing all that matters in one's life with the beloved: 'You are my friends ... I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father'.

Coming to a deeper appreciation of the love the Father and the Son have for us, expressed in the Paschal Mystery, we will find new enthusiasm and energy for the outreach which must express our life in Christ during the coming week: 'You did not choose me, no I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit' (We are reading the continuation of the passage about 'the true vine').

In the first reading continues the story of the early Church. As Peter baptises Cornelius, the first gentile convert, we are reminded of our theme: God's generous love is for all, 'God does not have favourites' anybody 'who fears God (i.e. has a loving reverence before God) and does what it right is acceptable to him'. Like Cornelius, we too have, through our baptismal sharing in the Paschal Mystery, been given to share in the mystery of the love of the Father and the Son.

**SCRIPTURE
REFLECT & RESPOND**

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Peter's insight--"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality"-- led to the acceptance of Gentiles into the early Church. How can this insight be applied to the Church today?

1 John 4:7-10
John taught his faith community that "God is love" and God's love is shown to us by sending his Son into the world to atone for our sins. What does this tell us about humanity?

John 15:9-17
Jesus taught his disciples that there is "no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." When have you seen someone follow this command?



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