

GOSPEL REFLECTION

"This saying is hard; who can accept it?" The words of Jesus' disciples in today's Gospel must sound familiar. At some point in our lives, you and I have said it about some article of our faith. Christianity makes firm demands on our ethical behaviour and gives no easy answers for suffering. Many disciples were confused and dismayed by Jesus' words in the Bread of Life Discourse. Not all of them, however, had the same reaction.

When the disciples question Jesus' teaching, he confirms its truth. *"The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* For some, Jesus' reassurance was not enough. These disciples do not question Jesus further or wrestle with their lack of understanding. The mighty deeds Jesus has done fade to the background. *"Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."* For them, their doubt proves too much.

Jesus turns to the Twelve, knowing that confusion lives in their hearts as well. Peter answers. *"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."* Notice this is not a confession of perfect understanding. It is a confession of faith in Jesus. The precise words may still confuse them, but they believe the One who said them.

In our own lives, we face doubt, confusion, and disillusionment in our Christian faith. The same choice available to the disciples is available to us. Do you have faith in Jesus, even when you lack perfect understanding? Will you stay or will you go? What do you do with your doubt?



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 Jomon Poothara

Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan

Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

Mrs Denise Tuzes

Visitation & Bereavement Co-ordinator

Mr Norm Whyte

Business Manager

Mrs Diana Pippia

Administration & Finance Co-ordinator

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: 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

Jesus' teaching is hard and challenging. In fact, many who originally believed in him left and returned to their former way of life. They were not able to accept what he had to say or to make the changes that are necessary to conform their lives to the Gospel. We often water down our faith and make it more about securing our place in heaven than leading a life in pursuit of the kingdom of God. Following Jesus and living the Gospel require action now. The Gospel demands that we change the way we conduct the business of our lives. Sadly, many are still afraid of taking risks and cannot accept change. Are we really ready to venture forth into the unknown, or would we prefer to simply return to our old ways of doing things?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

My wife has a hope chest filled with items from her past. Some memories contained in there are joyous, while others are painful and filled with sorrow. However, all those memories helped to make her the person she is today. They have become a part of her very being. Traditionally, a hope chest contained linens and clothing for a woman's wedding day. It was a chest filled with the hope for the future. As time goes by, many of our hopes are fulfilled. However, life never goes exactly as planned. Some hopes are dashed by unfortunate circumstances or bad choices we have made.

Our hearts are like hope chests that long for the day when we are joined for eternity with our God. Along the way, our chest may accumulate additional items that we collect on our life's journey. If we are gracious and generous along the way, our chest will fill with fruit to abundance. If we live more with a focus on ourselves, we will find our hope chests nearly barren. We will, in fact, lose hope. May the hope chest of your heart be overflowing with love that you have freely given and that has come back to you tenfold. May your generosity provide hope for the hopeless, and may your hope always remain strong.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

DISCERNING GIFTS & TALENTS by Anne Sheehan

Thank you to the near 250 people who last weekend offered their *Time and Talents* to serve others in this Parish. We have been preparing for this renewal since the beginning of July, encouraging everyone to discern their Gifts and Talents and how best to use them in our Parish.

If you were away last weekend and missed out on completing a Form you have the opportunity to do so this weekend. Forms are available at the doors of all Churches. Don't forget to look on the back page of the Form for the Prayer and Youth activities.

Those who co-ordinate the Ministries and Groups would love to see their Ministry overflowing with offers of assistance or new members.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Today is Refugee and Migrant Sunday for which Pope Francis has chosen the theme "*Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees*". We are called to welcome migrants and refugees into our community and into Australia which begins with an open heart and an open mind; to defend their rights and dignity independent of their legal status and ensure they are empowered to achieve their full potential. To genuinely encounter these people as we learn and contribute positively to society.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Bevan McGarvey; Alfio Vecchio; Eta Kovacs (Sydney); Sr Ita Cavanagh; Don Hancock; Anne-Maree Falco; Patty Kernke (Brisbane).

Anniversaries: Charles Halpin; Elizabeth Ballinger; Gem Ireland; Hannah McCall; Alma Della; Emanuel Borg; John Orvad; Graham Moohen; Beatrice Ball; Agata Leonardi; Nell Gunn; Clem Healey; Mary Priesa (USA); Sergio DePaoli; Edna Christensen; Frances Steemson; Harry Fincham; Joseph Jendra; John Clarke (Senior); Ross Andrewartha; Brian Woodward; Reta Murphy; Leonard Coop.

NOTICES

Petition Against Termination Bill - October 16th: Continue to pray in groups or personally for our parliamentary members; Go on-line to Cherish Life <https://www.cherishlife.org.au/lifecampaign/sign-the-e-petition> and sign a petition against the proposed **Termination Bill**; Write to your local State member, Mr David Batt, expressing your views; or Sign the petition at the doors of the Church. Your voice needs to be heard on this matter.

From **Monday, 27 August 2018** in Holy Rosary Church, prayer for this issue will be held each day beginning with the Angelus at 12noon followed by Mass (Tuesday & Friday), and/or Rosary during Exposition and Adoration for half an hour.

Retreat ~ The Hospitality of God: presented by Fr John Daly, **9.00am to 3.00pm on Thursday, 30 August 2018** at St James' Catholic Church, Bargara. Morning Tea & Lunch provided. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Parish Office by Monday, 27 August 2018. For more information please contact Denise Tuzes at the Parish Office. **All welcome.** Attendance by Visitation Ministers would be appreciated.

Christian Unity Prayer Group: are meeting at 10am next Thursday, 30 August 2018 in the North Transept of Holy Rosary Catholic Church followed by fellowship afterwards in the Novakoski Centre. All welcome.

Rosters: are being prepared for October, November & December. It is extremely important that you ring the Parish Office *before Friday, 7 September 2018* if you need to make changes to your Ministry &/or your contact details, or if you will be away for an *extended* period of time during these three (3) months. ***No changes can be made to the Rosters after Friday, 7 September 2018.***

Parish Christmas Magazine: the Annual "Good News" Magazine Project is underway, with the focus this year "*Be Prepared*". The Magazine Committee would again appreciate your monetary sponsorship, either in big or small amounts. Please consider helping in this way. Sponsorship Forms are on the back of this weekend's Hymn Sheet.

History Project: Bishop Michael would like to gather together some people of our Diocese who have a passion for recording and reflecting on the past, present and future of the Diocese. If you are one of those people, you are invited to a twilight gathering at the Duhig Conference Centre in West Street Rockhampton on 25 October 2018 from 4.00pm to 7.00pm to begin a new venture of ensuring that the history of the Diocese remains a central priority of our Diocese. A light meal will be provided. Please RSVP to Judith Gardiner via email: bishopsoffice@rok.catholic.net.au or telephone no.: 4887 3070.

Transport to Mass: Centacare has offered our Parish the use of a Bus to transport Parishioners to Sunday Mass. It is proposed that this Bus would pick-up Parishioners for both 8.00am Mass at Holy Rosary and 9.00am Mass at St Mary's and return everyone to their residences after Mass. If you know of anyone who would be interested in using this free service or who has a 'C-Class' Drivers License willing to be rostered as a regular driver, please contact Denise Tuzes at the Parish Office.

Word Among Us: September edition is now available for collection from the Parish Office.

Diocesan e-Newsletter: the latest edition of the Diocesan e-Newsletter is available to read on all Church Noticeboards. Alternatively, to receive a copy direct to your in-box, send an email with your name to: catholiccq@catholic.net.au or contact the Parish Office to organize a copy.

LITURGIES

21st Week of Ordinary Time

Monday 27 August 2018

St Monica

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 28 August 2018

St Augustine

9.00am St James' - LWC

9.30am Gracehaven

- Mass with Anointing

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 29 August 2018

The Passion of St John the Baptist

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 30 August 2018

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 31 August 2018

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 1 September 2018

7.30am St Mary's - Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

2 September 2018

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (II)

Hours of the Sunday
Psalter Week 2

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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Second Reading

James 1:17-18, 21-11, 27

Gospel

John 6:60-69



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

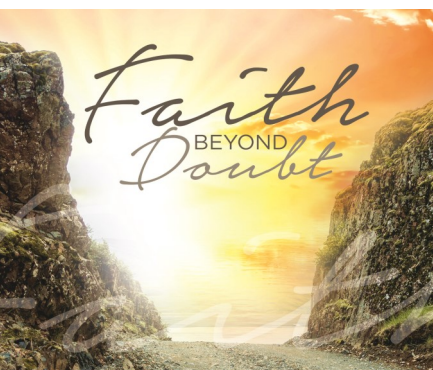
Just prior to his death, Joshua (who succeeded Moses in leading the Israelites into the Promised Land) declared his complete fidelity to the God of Israel: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." How do you bear witness to your faith to family and friends?

Ephesians 5:21-32

In the closing part of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul addresses household codes of conduct for believers. In this regard, Paul speaks of the love between husband and wife as analogous to the love between Christ and the Church, concluding "this is a great mystery." What do you find compelling in Paul's words on marriage?

John 6:60-69

The Bread of Life Discourse concludes with John reporting that many of Jesus' disciples "no longer accompanied" him. How do you react to family or friends who choose to walk away from Jesus?



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

FOCUS by Fr Peter Tonti

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Loving God, you are Creator of all that is and we praise you.

For creatures unique to this Great South Land – fish and birds, animals and plants, flowers and trees in their diverse kinds.

For the stunning beauty and diversity found only under the Southern Cross.

For the ancient peoples of this land who maintained its sacredness for tens of thousands of years.

For convicts and settlers who bore hardships of wrestling with a harsh and different environment.

For migrants down through the years who have provided a diversity of culture that enriches an already bounteous land.

For those who seek to enter our country in search of freedom, safety and new hope.

For our poets and writers who give us maps of meaning.

For artists who show the deeper levels of seeing we could never know alone.

For musicians who paint the beauty of sound and impress it on our hearts.

For prophets who show us what is possible and where we need to change.

For those with clean hands and pure hearts
who do justice and act with mercy,

who have integrity and do not waver when the strong winds blow.

For all of these and so many more, Loving God,
we praise and thank you this day.

Migration to Australia 2016-2017

India	38264	China	29604	United Kingdom	16982
Philippines	12180	Iraq	9771	Syria	8229
New Zealand	8199	Pakistan	6315	Vietnam	5579
Australia	5425	South Africa	5379	Malaysia	4398
Nepal	4318	Thailand	3344	Ireland	3330
USA	3304	Iran	3253	Korea	3195
Sri Lanka	3153	Afghanistan	2944	Bangladesh	2457
Indonesia	1892	Brazil	1814	Hong Kong	1813
Singapore	1758	Italy	1701	Canada	1620
France	1533	Myanmar	1472	Germany	1436
Lebanon	1377	Taiwan	1311	Egypt	1283
Japan	1199	Columbia	1056	Zimbabwe	1056
Fiji	1035	UAE	943	Samoa	922
Kenya	797	Russian Fedtn	771	Cambodia	725
Ethiopia	710	Nigeria	695	Turkey	634
Poland	618	Netherlands	587	Saudi Arabia	586
Jordan	486	Mauritius	469	Spain	448
		Ukraine	447		

(ABC Australia News 20/8/2018)

Asia accounts for fifty-six percent of Australian migration. We are becoming more aware of our geographical location. May we be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. Amen.