



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Judgment tends to have a bad reputation. We often associate it with condemnation, and in the Gospels, we associate it with the Pharisees. Today's Gospel features the Pharisees doing exactly what we expect. *"They observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands."* The Jewish people had strict purification laws that applied to all areas of life. The Pharisees attempt to accuse Jesus of not following the ancestral traditions. Jesus doesn't take offense at their judgments per se. He instead points out the hypocrisy of their words. *"You hypocrites? this people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."*

From there, Jesus turns his attention to the concerns of the heart. *"The things that come from within are what defile."* He lists off a number of sins, including some the Pharisees were likely struggling with, including evil thoughts, envy, and arrogance. When we examine the list, perhaps we're reminded of our own trips to the confessional! As we strive to follow Jesus and live with integrity, we must be aware of our hearts. We must judge our own actions. Are they leading us closer to God or away from Him? Are we growing in love of our neighbour, or are we becoming more closed in on ourselves?

As we move into this week, consider the state of our own heart. Perhaps you are overly scrupulous in less important areas. Perhaps there are large areas of overlooked sin that you've excused for too long. Whatever it is, the judgment of God need not cripple us. He offers us a share in His mercy as soon as we turn to Him. This week, allow your heart to be transformed!



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

In response to how the Pharisees and scribes lived their faith, Jesus said, *"This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."* Both good and evil impulses come from our hearts. Which one has the upper hand depends on how well a person has taken on the mind and heart of God. How well we live our faith is determined by the same. As Pope Francis tells us, Jesus is present in all of our brothers and sisters, especially those who endure suffering like his own. Our world is full of tragedy, conflict, and suffering: slave labor, diseases, wars, terrorism, exploitation, famine, human trafficking. We cannot simply pay lip service to the evils of the world? We must act!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Justice is a concept under attack in today's world. When I watch the news, I see so many distortions of justice. One person's notion of fairness is sometimes far from another's understanding of justice. Perhaps the issue is that human justice often becomes corrupted by selfishness and greed. Justice for one's self always seems more important than justice for another. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to use what we have been given not only to fight for human justice alone, but also to offer a more benevolent justice that can only come from God.

We are called to offer all we have to God for His greater intentions. Our gifts cannot only level the playing field for some but can serve as instruments of grace for those who, in the eyes of the world, do not even deserve it. In God's framework of justice, second chances and overflowing generosity are commonplace. Everyone created in the image of God deserves love regardless of their state in life or the actions they have taken against another. The world will never understand this type of justice. Humans have a hard enough time figuring out the simple concepts of equity or fair play. For those who do not believe in Jesus, his justice seems even more difficult to comprehend. In fact, it can appear downright crazy.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Today is Child Protection Sunday beginning Child Protection Week, which is a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the community to think about how we can work together to keep all children safe. We all have a part to play in protecting children, whether it is being a good role model, taking the time to listen to them, or in some other way.

We can reflect on the words of Jesus: *"Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

SOCIAL JUST STATEMENT 2018-2019

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September 2018. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled:

'A Place to Call Home : Making a Home for Everyone in our Land'.

The Statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australia Catholic Social Justice Council website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Newly Married: Toni-Jo Smith & Daniel Nicholas Vaisey.

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

NOTICES

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the position of Human Resources Manager for the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

Responsible for promoting a positive organisational culture that is focussed on catholic values, performance and accountability, the Human Resources Managers is a permanent, full time position.

An attractive remuneration package commensurate with skills and experience is on offer to the successful applicant.

A copy of the Position Description is available to download from www.rok.catholic.net.au/hrmanager or for further information contact Vicki Oliver on 4887 3090 or via email hr@rok.catholic.net.au.

Applications close 9.00am Monday, 10th September 2018.

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 Against Termination Bill** located at the front door of all Churches. Your voice needs to be heard on this matter.

From Monday to Friday prayer for this issue will continue in Holy Rosary Catholic Church, beginning with the Angelus at 12noon followed by Mass (Tuesday & Friday), and/or Rosary during Exposition and Adoration for half an hour.

Fr Peter Tonti: will be on leave from Monday, 3 September through to and including Friday, 5 October 2018.

Bundaberg CWLA September Meeting: will be held at 12noon on **Tuesday, 4 September 2018** in the St Mary's Community Centre. Guest speaker is Fr Jomon. Remember to bring your own lunch. For further information, please contact Maureen on 4152 1263

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.**

Drought Relief: There are two (2) opportunities for you to assist those in our Diocese affected by Drought:

- **Diocesan Appeal:** a Second Collection on Sunday, 30 September 2018 (*Social Justice Sunday*) will be held with all monies going to Rockhampton to be distributed to Centres in need.
- **Drought Angels:** a *Drought Relief Transport Run* from Bundaberg to Jericho will leave on Friday, 14 September 2018. Non-perishable items are required. Baskets for Donations will be placed at the front doors of all Churches. For more information please contact Elizabeth Bell on 0432 495 423.

Public Square Rosary: join the public nation-wide rosary for Our Lady for the repentance & conversion of our Nation on **Saturday, 13 October 2018** at 1pm at St Mary's Catholic Church. BYO: chair; sunshade & water. Contact Sue Greenwood on 0447 039 823 for more information. All welcome.

~ HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ~

LITURGIES

22nd Week of Ordinary Time

National Child Protection Week
(2 - 8 September 2018)

Monday 3 September 2018

St Gregory the Great

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

12.00pm Holy Rosary

- The Angelus & Exposition ...

Tuesday 4 September

9.00am St James' - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary

- Mass followed by Exposition ...

Wednesday 5 September 2018

8.00am Shalom - Mass

12.00pm Holy Rosary

- The Angelus & Exposition ...

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 6 September 2018

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

12.00pm Holy Rosary

- The Angelus & Exposition ...

Friday 7 September 2018

12.15pm Holy Rosary

- Mass followed by Exposition ...

Saturday 8 September 2018

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

9 September 2018

23rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Year B (II)

Hours of the Sunday
Psalter Week 3

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

Isaiah 35:4-7

Second Reading

James 2:1-5

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

The Book of Deuteronomy contains a series of speeches that Moses delivered to the Israelites prior to their entry into the Promised Land. In today's speech, Moses emphasizes the importance of carefully observing the Lord's commandments as key to being a great nation. Why do you think believers often fall short of following God's laws?

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

The letter of James is a prime example of early Christian wisdom literature. What advice does James offer in regard to practicing one's faith?

John 6:60-69

The Pharisees and scribes, concerned about Jewish purity laws, learn a lesson today from Jesus about where defilement resides -- within people's hearts. How do you work at being clean of heart?



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

THE QUEENSLANDER PRAYER

In the year 2015, twenty-seven (27) babies of five (5) month's gestation survived, only to be left to die on the birth tables of our Queensland hospitals because the children were unwanted. The number of babies left to die had doubled from the year 2009 and over tripled since the year 2005. The child had no choice. The medical staff were given no choice.

We must ask the questions regarding the support and alternatives available for women when they are confronted with difficult, life changing decisions. It is a tragedy that many women feel forced to accept circumstances that may seem to render them powerless. In a culture that promotes abortion, deciding not to abort can require great courage, especially if the male partner does not support the pregnancy or if he threatens the relationship should she not abort.

Where are the fathers? What does fatherhood mean if not protection and support? Abortion would be much less frequent if men were more respectful of a woman's capacity for motherhood. The separation of sexual intimacy from reproduction has done great damage to the significance and sacredness of motherhood and fatherhood.

Where are the voices of the family, our churches and leaders in society in the protection of the most vulnerable? Where is the voice of the child? It is estimated that last year over fourteen thousand abortions were performed in Queensland. That is the equivalent of two classrooms of young Queenslanders every working day. Each child created in the image and likeness of our loving God.

We are now being further challenged by the **Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018** which, if passed, **will allow for sex-selective abortions, significantly reduce the safeguards for the unborn child, prevent the conscientious objections of doctors and their medical staff compelling them to be part of the process and the banning of anyone objecting to the terminations if they are in close vicinity of the abortion clinic.**

As a Society we are unprepared for the consequences of our actions. As we devalue motherhood and fatherhood we become more likely to be treated as sex objects. We must reclaim the extraordinary phenomenon in which a real life comes into existence. A phenomenon which forms a unique relationship between child and mother, child and father, child and siblings, mother and father. The status and nature of the mother is changed. The status and nature of the father is changed. The status and nature of the family is changed.

As a Church let our voice be heard. We must reach out to those facing circumstances that may appear to render them helpless and be forthcoming with alternatives and support including those struggling post abortion. Let us pray for wisdom and understanding so our actions will be true, relevant and always in love. Let us respond to the call of that little voice that cries out in each one of us.

The Parish Bulletin today provides, in the Notices column under the heading **Petition Against Termination Bill 2018**, a number of ideas on how we can respond.