

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Son of David, have pity on me!" Has the cry of Bartimaeus ever escaped your lips? Today's Gospel tells the story of a blind man with a difficult lot in life. He made a living by begging coins off passing travellers. When word reaches him that Jesus will be passing by, this is when he begins his shouts for mercy. Jesus hears Bartimaeus' cry and beckons him forward.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Last week, Jesus asked a similar question to James and John. Their response was a clutch for fame. Bartimaeus' response is much humbler. "Lord, I want to see." How strange this interaction must have seemed to the onlookers. The man is blind! Of course he wants to see! But Jesus is always teaching us. By asking us what we want, Jesus reveals the dispositions of our hearts. God already knows them, but do we? By asking James and John to name their ambition, their selfishness is exposed to them and to the other disciples. By asking Bartimaeus to name his longing, his faith is exposed to the entire crowd. Jesus invites participation in our own redemption. He doesn't save us without us!

Take some time in silent prayer today. Place yourself in this story of Bartimaeus. Imagine yourself there on the dusty, crowded roadside. Jesus is calling you! When you stand before him, his focus is on you and you alone. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asks. Search your heart. How would you respond? What part of your heart is Jesus asking you to expose? He has come to heal and to restore. May we, too, be sent! "Go? your faith has saved you."



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 **Mr Jeffrey Caluag** 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 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

As Pope Francis has reminded us, it is in living the Beatitudes that we find the path to holiness. The Beatitudes are not a list of do's and don'ts. Rather, they are a road map to finding our way to others and to the kingdom of God. It is when we enter into the human condition with all of its pain and sorrow that we discover again the creative presence of God guiding us to greater wholeness. Being poor in spirit? being meek and humble? mourning our sorrow and losses and walking with others through theirs? hungering and thirsting for righteousness? being merciful? maintaining a clean heart? pursuing peace? daily taking up the challenge of the Gospel. All bring us into the mystery of humanity and indeed into the mystery of God. The pathway to our relationships and the blueprint detailing our responsibilities are revealed. Are we ready to roll up our sleeves and get dirty?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Rather than searching to get what we think we deserve or trying to beat out others for a better position in this world, our God calls us to focus on helping others to experience the many gifts available to them in this life. We are called to serve instead of be served. Our mission is to sacrifice ourselves and what we desire on this earth for the Kingdom of God. .

.--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all who assisted with the installation of the screens into St James', St Mary's and St Patrick's Churches. A special mention to Norm Whyte, Anne Sheehan, Kaye Andersen, Paul Egan and Justin Prickett and all the computer operators for their understandings and expertise.

Overall the process worked well. The technical difficulties will be addressed as soon as possible. Feedback is welcome so we can ensure the screens will operate to their optimum. Thank you for your patience and I am looking forward to the range of capabilities the screens can offer.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. (Laudato Si 23)

In response to this statement what change can I make?

2018 CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL

This weekend our Parish will be holding the Annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal. Please give generously to support the development of comprehensive teacher training programs and the establishment of new schools, in remote areas.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2018-2019 Parent Information Session - Initiation; Mission; It's All About Sunday: on Sunday, 28 October 2018 at 10.30am in the Parish Office or Wednesday, 31 October 2018 at 5.30pm in the Parish Office. For more information, please contact Anne Sheehan on 4151 6666.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Dorothy Castle; Martin Thomas; Zeny Borras (Philippines); Felicidad Angel Rivera (Philippines); Jim Quaite OAM; Lawrence Doyle.

Anniversaries: Bessie Walker; Julie Cross; Terry Whitworth; Merv Steindl; Marie Mooney; Brendan Emerick; Renzo Crappa; Bill Della-Vedova; Hiram James; Anne Thorne; Rita Johnston; John McIntyre; Alice Blyde; Georgio Asnicar; Percival Jansen; Gloria Black; Julia McConville; Gloria Jennings; Ronald Attwood; John Gunn; Cesarina Della-Vedova; Alwyn Moohen.

NOTICES

R.C.I.A Happenings: The Rite of Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church is the rite during which persons baptised in a separated ecclesial community are received into the Church. Next **Sunday, 4 November 2018**, during the 8.00am Mass, we will celebrate this Rite for Adam Lucas, a young husband and father, baptised in the Anglican tradition. Please pray for Adam in these last days.

Children's Sacramental Program: has begun, this Sunday, 28 October 2018 at 10.30am, or Wednesday, 31 October 2018 at 5.30pm in the Parish Office for Parents only. It's not too late to register your Child for preparation. Come along to either of these sessions or contact Anne Sheehan at the Parish Office.

All Souls Day Mass: will be celebrated at 6.00am on Friday, 2 November 2018 in the Catholic Cemetery (Fitzgerald Street). BYO Chairs. In the event of wet weather, Mass will be celebrated at 6.30am in St Mary's Catholic Church.

The Books of Remembrance: will be placed in all Churches this weekend for you to record the Name/s of your loved one/s who have died. These and all the departed will be remembered in our Masses during the month of November.

NET Farewell: Sunday, 4 November 2018 after 5.30pm Mass in the Novakoski Centre. Pizzas provided. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Parish Office by Wednesday, 31 October 2018. Everyone welcome.

Altar Servers: Young boys and girls who are fully initiated into the Church are able to assist the Priest at the Altar during Mass. For all those interested, Fr Peter will hold training for this Ministry at 3:30pm on Wednesday, 7 November 2018 in Holy Rosary Church. Please RSVP your attendance to the Parish Office.

Memorial Service: Family & friends of our recently deceased are invited to a **Memorial Service** which will be held on **Wednesday**, **21 November 2018** at **7pm** in Holy Rosary Church. Please RSVP to the Parish Office if attending. All welcome.

Save the Date: Bethlehem Live ~ from 6.00pm to 9.00pm Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 December 2018 in the Bundaberg Central State School grounds (Corner Barolin & Crofton Streets).

Donations to the NET Team: If you have previously donated or loaned items for the NET Team and would like them returned, please contact Norm Whyte at the Parish Office to organize their return.

Christmas Mass Ministries: Would all Liturgical Ministers who are here this Christmas please write your name on the lists at the doors of the church. Rosters for the Christmas Masses need to be compiled now. Thank you.

Rosters for January, February & March: will soon be started because of School Holidays. If you will be away for four (4) weeks or more, or have changes to your Mass Ministry, please advise the Parish Office before Friday, 30 November 2018. <u>Note</u>: No changes to the Rosters can be made after this date.

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

LITURGIES 30th Week of Ordinary Time

Monday 29 October 2018

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 30 October 2018

9.00am St James' - *LWC* 12.15pm Holy Rosary - *Mass*

Wednesday 31 October 2018

8.00am Shalom - *Mass* 5.30pm St Patrick's - *Mass*

Thursday 1 November 2018 All Saints Day

6.30am St Mary's - *Mass* 5.30pm Holy Rosary

Friday 2 November 2018 All Souls' Day

6.00am Catholic Cemetery - Mass 12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 3 November 2018

7.30am St Mary's - *Mass* 9.00am Holy Rosary - *Penance*

NEXT SUNDAY

4 November 2018

31st 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 12noon Baffle Creek 5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

First Reading
Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Around 600 B.C., the prophet Jeremiah foreshowed the Lord's deliverance of Israel's exile in Babylon. What do you think Jeremiah is teaching us about God's mercy and providence?

Hebrews 5:1-6

Hebrews speaks of Jesus as the eternal high priest who intercedes to God on our behalf. What would be your intercessory prayer to Jesus today?

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus attributes his healing of the blind man, Bartimaeus, to the depth of the man's faith. Who are the people in your life with strong faith?



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 NATIONAL APOLOGY

The National Apology to victims of institutional child sexual abuse is a welcome and significant step in the attempt to provide a sense of healing and justice to the countless number of victims that have suffered so horrendously over the generations of years. Each and every victim is a person of innate dignity and respect.

As a church we must engage fully in the healing and justice process. The process must be far more than Financial Redress, Safeguarding Policies and Bookkeeping, as important as they are, in order to achieve a sense of healing and justice. As a church we need to explore the causes that created such a profound and prevalent disease in our church ministry and leadership.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Franciscan priest, Father Richard Rohr, offered his thoughts for consideration in his Statement on the Sexual Abuse Catastrophe in the Church during his homily 19th August 2018. It is one consideration in a complexity of comments that we will hear and engage in over the coming period of time. The following is a summary of Richard Rohr's statement.

We come together in prayer and public lamentation. We come in public ownership, repentance and reform of our very immature teaching in regard to sexuality in general. Male power issues in particular, and our required and enforced understanding of celibacy, which will predictably produce this kind of result, need to be explored.

Celibacy is a charism. Charism means a free and empowered gift. Only someone who has an alive and warm inner experience of God is capable of celibacy at all. It is a contradiction in terms to think you can mandate a gift. It is clearly not necessary for ministry, and can be a liability creating an aura of spiritual superiority in the priest. We need to explore whether the charism of celibacy produces priests who are healthy and happy men. We need to inquire whether we can disconnect celibacy from ministry and explore the consequences. We need to own and be fully accountable for our position.

Let all of us pray and try to live more authentic, sexual and spiritual lives ourselves. We must not be about blaming but grow as a people, as a Body of Christ.

The full text can be heard by way of podcast: Richard Rohr Statement on the Sexual Abuse Catastrophe in the Church or from the website https://cac.org

OUR OPPORTUNITY

We live in difficult and challenging times. These times provide us with the opportunity to speak the truth in love and justice. The upcoming 2019 Rockhampton Diocesan Assembly and 2020 Church Plenary will be our opportunities to participate in authentic dialogue and reform. Let us go forward in prayer, and let us contemplate the gifts that we have been given through the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you and in the Blessing of our Church, always. Amen.