

**31<sup>st</sup>**

**SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

When Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." - Mk 12:34ab

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**FOCUS by NET Team**

We can't believe our time in Bundaberg is coming to a close. The past year has been incredible. From the very first moment we arrived in Bundy, we have been welcomed with open arms. We would like to thank all those who have supported us and our ministry this past year. There are honestly way too many of you to mention by name (and we would probably forget someone), but thank you for your prayers, support, chats, and smiles as this year would not have been possible without them.



At our last youth group we discussed "Where to next?" For us on the NET team, we have many different paths that we will be taking come November 17. For Sinead, this looks like returning to Brisbane and beginning university. Peter and Alex will be serving a second year with NET ministries, though they won't know exactly where in Australia they will be placed until January or February. Helen is flying back to America to begin work. Aidan will be returning to Melbourne to continue discerning what's next for him. For all of us though, there are uncertainties--and that's a consequence of life! However, we all have another thing in common--one which we hope that you share as well--we are striving to love and serve God and our neighbours with our whole beings. Although there are uncertainties, we can go with confidence, knowing that God has a plan.

Again, thank you for this year. Please keep us in your prayers as we remember you in ours.

The Bundaberg NET Team 2018  
 ~ Helen Kovach, Peter Munns, Sinead Fitzgerald,  
 Aidan Williams & Alex Hoffman

**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

Love of God and love of neighbour are intimately bound together. You cannot have one without the other. Who are my neighbour and how do I love them? It is easy to confess with our lips that we love our neighbour. But how does this get translated into action? Our neighbours are not only those who live around us or are most familiar to us. Everyone is our neighbour: those who are foreign to us, those who have come here illegally, those who have hurt us, those we envy, those we take for granted, and those who are poor. Embracing humanity in all of its forms is not always an easy task, and doing so can quickly take us out of our comfort zones. Working for justice, as God desires, often means adjusting how much I can have and sacrificing our wants and desires. The very image of God is on the faces of our neighbours, and our face can be found there as well. How much do we really love them?

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

**Stewardship** is all about giving thanks, being grateful for God's gifts, and this week we would like to say Thank You to all in ministry who gave of their time in the past few weeks to attend their training and formation sessions and/or the Integrity in the Service of the Church training. Principle 5 in our Integrity training says that all Church workers will strive for excellence in the service of the Church and your attendance shows this. Each year some form of training is necessary. For those who were unable to attend, a second opportunity will be offered to you some time in November. You will be contacted regarding this. All in ministry will then be commissioned and blessed during the weekend Masses, 24/25 November.

## LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Let us remember the human dignity of each person, and their right to receive a wage that guarantees them a reasonable standard of living not one that sees them living in poverty barely able to make ends meet.

*When we become aware of situations where people are not paid correctly we can speak out or write to appropriate people expressing our concern.*

(Social Justice Diary 2018)

## FAREWELL

This weekend the NET Team's Ministry comes to an end. We have been gifted with five (5) talented and committed men and women of God who have invigorated the young people, and the young at heart in our Parish. We give thanks to God and to them for the gift they have been for us and wish them every blessing as they go from this place. Helen, Peter, Sinead, Aidan and Alex, thank you and God bless.

## CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2018-2019

**Family Session (Initiation, Sunday Mission):** at 10:30am Sunday, 11 November 2018 in the Parish Office **or** Wednesday, 14 November 2018 at 5.30pm in the Parish Office. For more information, please contact Anne Sheehan on 4151 6666.

## 2018 CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers and for being a part of the education revolution in development of comprehensive teacher training programs and the establishment of new schools, in remote areas.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Recently Deceased:** Lola Comas (Ayr); Dorothy Castle; Martin Thomas; Zeny Borrás (Philippines); Felicidad Angel Rivera (Philippines); Jim Quaité; Lawrence Doyle.

**The Books of Remembrance:** have been placed in all Churches 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.

## NOTICES

**R.C.I.A Happenings:** This **Sunday** during the 8.00am Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church for Adam Lucas, a young husband and father, baptised in the Anglican tradition. Please pray for Adam.

**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.

**Attention! Word Among Us Subscribers:** Please contact the Parish Office by **Friday, 9 November 2018** if you wish to renew or cancel your subscription to the Word Among Us Daily Meditations for 2019. (Note: 2019 Subscription Fees are \$27)

**St Joseph's Cathedral Conservation Appeal:** next weekend during all Masses there will be a 2nd Collection for the Conservation of the Rockhampton Cathedral. Please give generously. Thank you.

**The Bundaberg Passionist Mackillop Family Group:** is holding it's Christmas Luncheon at 11.30am on Sunday, 18 November 2018 at Paul & Shirley Egan's Home (33 Maynard Street, South Bundaberg). It would be appreciated if you brought along a main meal, salad or dessert to share. Please BYO Drinks. For more information or to RSVP please contact Helen on 0490 361 406 Geraldine on 0413 671 641. Everyone welcome.

**Bundaberg Catholic Women League's Christmas Dinner:** will be held on **Tuesday, 20 November 2018** at the **Brothers Club** in the Leprechaun Room at **6.00pm** (6.30pm start). Tickets: \$25. Available from the Parish Office or at the November CWLA Meeting from Monday, 5 November 2018 to 12noon Friday, 16 November 2018. Remember a Gift for Secret Santa. For more information contact Maureen - 4152 1263.

**Memorial Service:** Family & friends of our recently deceased are invited to a **Memorial Service** which will be held at **7.00pm** on **Wednesday, 21 November 2018** in Holy Rosary Church. Please RSVP to the Parish Office if attending. All welcome.

**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**. *Note: No changes to the Rosters can be made after this date.*

**Parish Christmas Celebration:** the Parish Stewardship Council invites all parishioners to join them for a **Christmas Celebration** on **Saturday, 1 December 2018** from **3.00pm - 5.00pm** in the **Parish Office**. Food & Drinks provided. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Parish Office by Monday 26 November 2018.

**Why Do We Monthly Presentation?:** Please make note in your diaries, that there are **NO** November or December presentations.

**Christmas Carols at St James' Church, Bargara:** from **4:30pm Sunday, 16 December 2018** followed by a cuppa & some Christmas goodies. Everyone welcome.

**BIG Thank You:** from the Friends of Kepnock Grove Auxiliary (Carinity) for all the donations and attendance at their recent Cent Sale. From all reports the President and members were thrilled with the result.

**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.

## LITURGIES

### 31<sup>st</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

#### Monday 5 November 2018

9.00am St Patrick's

- *Mass with Children*

#### Tuesday 6 November 2018

9.00am St James' - *LWC*

12.15pm Holy Rosary - *Mass*

#### Wednesday 7 November 2018

8.00am Shalom - *Mass*

5.30pm St Patrick's - *Mass*

7.00pm Holy Rosary

- *Memorial Service*

#### Thursday 8 November 2018

6.30am St Mary's - *Mass*

#### Friday 9 November 2018

**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

10.00am Mater - *Cancelled*

12.15pm Holy Rosary - *Mass*

2.30pm Pioneer South

- *Cancelled*

#### Saturday 10 November 2018

**St Leo the Great**

7.30am St Mary's - *Mass*

9.00am Holy Rosary - *Penance*

## NEXT SUNDAY

11 November 2018

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (II)

Hours of the Sunday

Psalter Week 4

#### 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

1 King 17:10-16

### Second Reading

Hebrews 9:24-28

### Gospel

Mark 12:38-44



## SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

### Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses reminds the Israelites to teach their children and grandchildren the greatest commandment given to them by God just before they were entering into the Promised Land. What are you teaching your children and grandchildren about God?

### Hebrews 7:23-28

The author of Hebrews continues to emphasize Jesus as the perfect and eternal holy, heavenly high priest who intercedes to God for us sinners. For what sins in your life do you need Jesus' intercession?

### Mark 12:28-34

We hear today a positive encounter between Jesus and a scribe. Jesus affirmed the scribe because he answered Jesus "with understanding." Why do you think so many of the religious leaders of Jesus' day misunderstood him?



### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

## There is No Commandment Greater Than These

Jesus approaches the end of his journey. He has already entered Jerusalem when a 'scribe', who is evidently well disposed, asks which is the greatest of the commandments of the Law. As interpreters of the Law, the scribes had listed 613 ordinances calling for observance; it is not surprising that they often discussed their relative importance. This man seeks Jesus' view on the matter. This last exchange Jesus has with the leaders of Israel, in Mark's account, raises an issue important for his disciples. The incident illustrates how Jesus taught with an 'authority' that was different from the approach of the scribes (Mt 7:29). The scribes backed their interpretation by appealing to the authority of recognised interpreters; the response that Jesus gives is backed by his own authority. He underlines the commandment given in today's reading from Deuteronomy, familiar to all faithful Jews as part of their daily prayer: 'You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' – in other words, with your whole being; to love anything in preference to the Lord is idolatry. Jesus is calling his hearers back to the radical faith and trust that so often finds expression in the Old Testament – especially in the prophets and the psalms – a faith and trust that was a true response to the God who had entered into covenant with the chosen people. Jesus goes on, however, to show great originality and wisdom, by linking the 'first' commandment with a 'second': 'You must love your neighbour as yourself' (Lev 19:18).

The Covenant was intended to make old Israel 'a light to the nations' – their life, shaped by the ways of God, learned through the covenant relationship, was to be an invitation to all peoples of the earth to find the one, true God – 'The Lord our God is the one Lord' – and the blessings life with God can bring. The Saviour links the two commandments under the rubric of 'love'. The love true believers have for fellow human beings is a love that has been learned from God.

The theme of 'love', so important to every human heart, was soon to emerge, we know, as the very heart of the Gospel, the good news that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'. (For Paul, 'Love is the fulfilment of the Law', Rom 13:10; as we live 'in Christ', God's own love 'has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit', Rom 5:5. Similarly, according to John, a 'new commandment' rules our Christian life, 'Love one another just as I have loved you', Jn 13:34; indeed, John declares, 'God is love', 1 Jn 4:8). The response of the scribe and the praise it won from Jesus, 'You are not far from the kingdom', point towards this fulfilment. Mark is reminding us that not all the leaders of the people were closed to the message of Jesus. Is it not likely that this scribe was soon to share in the faith inaugurated by the Lord's Paschal Mystery? This faith is interpreted in the reading from Hebrews, where Christ's saving work is compared with the role of priests of the Old Testament. But there is also a great contrast. The old role ended with death, and was compromised by sinfulness. The Old Testament ideal of clinging to God with one's whole being must have seemed a daunting, almost impossible one; now however faith in the Paschal Mystery assures us that the risen Saviour – 'holy, innocent and uncontaminated', and 'made perfect for ever' – gives us a share in his life with the Father.