



33rd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." - Mk 13:31

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

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

As we edge closer to the closing of the liturgical year, the Church selects readings that remind us of the final close: the second coming of Christ. It's easy, perhaps, to forget that this is a dogma of our Catholic faith. We see this dramatic end times language in today's Gospel. "The sun will be darkened and the stars will be falling from the sky."

As Christians and as human beings, we know all things will come to an end. "But of that day or hour, no one knows." The "end of the world" and end of time at Jesus' coming is in a future unknown. But God has given us beautiful reminders of this truth. We see the signs and symbols of ending all around us -- nightfall at the end of each day; a seed dying as it produces the next life cycle of crops coming alive, bearing fruit, and being harvested; our own death. That, too, will come at an unknown day and hour. But that is the way of things. Even as God created in Genesis, He gave us a sense of time -- the sun rising and setting, a beginning and an end - to mark our days.

So how do we welcome these built-in forms of measurement? Do we take time to quietly recollect at the end of each day? Do we see every morning as a fresh start for mercies new? Do we observe the seasons and reflect on what they might be speaking to us of God and His glory? "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my works will not pass away." The little beginnings and little ends are opportunities to renew our faith in Jesus, if only we have the eyes to see!



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

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

"But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." None of us knows when the world will end. All we know is that it will end. All things do. Many people choose to live a somewhat carefree life by living as if life will never end. They go from one day to the next, never giving a thought to the fact that today may be their last. If you knew exactly when your life will end, what would you do differently? As Christians, we are called to be people of beginnings and endings. God is in all of life even when we think that life cannot get any worse than it is. Creating life out of death is what God does best. We are asked to live vigilantly, seeing God in all things and being ever prepared to meet him, whenever that time comes.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The ancient Greek dramatist, Euripides, wrote, "No one can confidently say that he will still be living tomorrow." We seldom focus on that reality and often act like we are confident of a tomorrow. However, we all know names of those who died suddenly, maybe in tragedy or simply in the quiet of sleep. Calling those names to mind will probably still not force most of us to contemplate our own mortality tonight before placing our head on the pillow but perhaps it should.

We don't need to obsess about dying or fear the unknown, but realizing the gift of today and reflecting on the possibility that it may be our last day can cause us to act differently. We might forgive more easily, argue less, and embrace one another. Rather than procrastinate, we might act now. We could become more mindful of our surroundings, see the needs in people, and reach out to those who are lost

I write these Everyday Stewardship reflections every Sunday. You might read them in your parish bulletin, on a website, or in social media every Sunday. Just in case this is the last Sunday you ever have a chance to read these reflections, what is God calling you to do now before it's too late. If you are still here next Sunday after taking all this seriously, you might wonder at what it was to live more fully and to give of yourself more freely. Don't let a single day pass you by without truly loving others and your God. One thing you can be confident about: This day will never come again.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

On this World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis has chosen the theme

"The poor man cried and the Lord heard him."

We can reflect on these words:

Will you work towards a just and fair world, a world in balance, at peace and free of poverty?

Will you help to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity? (www.caritas)

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2018-2019

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: This weekend we see the children who have begun the journey to initiation celebrate a Ritual of Remembering Baptism. This is the start of their preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Please keep them in your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Angela Stocco, Kathleen Salmon; Debbie Prosser (UK), Lola Comas (Ayr); Dorothy Castle; Martin Thomas; Zeny Borrás (Philippines); Felicidad Angel Rivera (Philippines).

NOTICES

Expression of Interest — Parish Receptionist

Expressions of interest are called for the Permanent Part-time position commencing Monday 03 December 2018. Applicants can access the Parish Receptionist Role Description by contacting the Parish Office at Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra Street Bundaberg or email bundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au. The primary focus of this role is to provide a professional, pleasant and welcoming first point of contact at the Parish Office.

Applications close Friday 23 November 2018

Diocesan News: The Round Two *listening sessions* throughout the Diocese have been completed. In each of the 5 regions of the Diocese, working groups have been examining the collated materials from these sessions. A Diocesan Assembly is proposed for 2019 from Thursday evening 28 March to Friday 29 March concluding midday Saturday 30 March. *Please keep this important process in your prayers.*

St Patrick's School has advised that construction workers, trucks and equipment will be accessing the school grounds from 08 November, using the laneway between St. Patrick's church and the school's Powers Street car park. Project management has been advised of St. Pat's Mass times. Please keep the laneway access open, and remain vigilant for your everyone's safety.

The Word Among Us : Advent 2018 edition is now available for collection from the Parish Office.

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. Remember a Gift for Secret Santa. For more information contact Maureen - 4152 1263.

Memorial Service: Family & friends of our recently dearly departed are invited to a **Memorial Service, 7.00pm, Wednesday, 21 November**, Holy Rosary Church. Please RSVP to the Parish Office. All welcome.

Post Funeral Support Group Meeting: 11.30am **Friday, 23 November** in the Parish Office.

Commissioning of Ministers: All in ministry who have completed their Integrity and Ministry training will be commissioned and blessed during next weekend's Masses, 24/25 November. Provisions for those Ministers yet to be trained will be provided in the New Year.

Rosters for January, February & March: will soon be started. If you will be away for four (4) weeks or more, or have changes to your Mass Ministry, please advise the Parish Office **by Friday, 30 November**.

Community Christmas Carols in Bargara: 6.30pm **Thursday, 30 November**, Uniting Church Bargara. For more information, please see the Church Noticeboards. Everyone welcome.

Musicians & Singers: next practice is 10.30am Saturday, 1 December 2018 in Holy Rosary Church. Please begin thinking about where you will be this Christmas as preparations are under way.

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.

LITURGIES

33rd Week of Ordinary Time

Monday 19 November 2018

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 20 November 2018

9.00am St James' - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 21 November 2018

The Presentation of the B.V.M.

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

7.00pm Holy Rosary -

Memorial Service

Thursday 22 November 2018

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

9.00am Carinity - Anointings

10.30am St Mary's - Mass

with Anointings

Friday 23 November 2018

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 24 November 2018

St Elizabeth of Hungary

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

NEXT SUNDAY

25 November 2018

Christ the King

Year B (II)
Hours of the Solemnity
Psalter Week 2

Saturday
6.00pm St Patrick's

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

SCRIPTURES

First Reading
Daniel 12:1-3

Second Reading
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Gospel
Mark 13:24-32

FOCUS by Dan McMahon

Last week was a very tough week. The Shalom community lost Yr 7 student Emerson Purkis and her mum Leisa in a car accident on the way to school. Tragedy, not uncommonly, rears its ugly head and we have to make sense of it. A friend of mine, Richard Leonard is a Jesuit priest. Richard has written a couple of books and, in one of them, "What Does It All Mean?", relates a story from his own life. His Mum, Joan, lost her husband when he was in his 30's leaving her with three kids aged 7, 5 & 2. Richard was the youngest. His sister Tracey went on to be a nurse. On the morning of his 25th birthday, Richard got a call from his Mum asking him to travel with her to Darwin because Tracey, who had been working in an Aboriginal township, had been involved in a car accident. They arrived to find Tracey in a bed with all sort of tubes and pulleys attached. It was clear she would spend the rest of her life as a quadriplegic. Richard takes up the story,

My mother started pacing the floor. She was angry. It was like one of the lioness's cubs had been left for dead and she was going to get whoever was responsible. As she paced, my mother started asking a series of questions:

"How could God do this Tracey?"

"How could God do this to us?"

"What more does God want from me in this life?"

And most hauntingly of all, "Where the hell is God?" These were rhetorical questions; but being a Jesuit, God is my game. So I ventured an answer. It was the most painful and important theological discussion I will ever have in my life. I told my mother that if anyone can prove to me that God sat in heaven last night and thought, "I need another quadriplegic, and Tracey will do, so let's set up a car accident to get that happening" - if this was God's active will, then I am leaving the priesthood, the Jesuits, and the Church. I don't know that God, I don't want to serve that God, and I don't want to be that God's representative in the world. So my mother came back at me, "So where is God then?" And I gently said that "I think God is as devastated as we are right now that a generous, selfless girl, who went all over the world looking after the poor, is now the poorest person we know." I did not have to choose between a God of love and a God who does cruel things to us. Like the God who groans with loss in Isaiah; and Jesus who weeps at his best friend's tomb in John 11, God was not standing outside our pain, but was our companion within it, holding us in his arms, sharing in our grief and pain.

In the book, Richard went on to reflect on the people who wrote to him after Tracey's accident and who said to him things like, 'Tracey's suffering is all a part of God's great plan' or 'God only sends great suffering to those who are strong enough to bear it' or 'God's ways are not our ways'. Like Richard, I think that theology is just awful. God doesn't wish pain on anyone. The whole point of God becoming like us in Jesus was for Jesus to be human to live life fully – even in times of despair. Jesus has grafted himself onto human history in the most intimate of ways. I can't believe in a God who 'sends' accidents or tragedy or who goes AWOL when things get tough. God holds us and is a part of all that it is to be human – especially when that is really gut-wrenchingly painful.

"EARTH HATH
NO SORROW
THAT HEAVEN
CANNOT HEAL."
—St. Thomas More

SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Daniel 12: 1-3

The prophet Daniel shares a vision he received about a coming time of divine judgement. What is your reaction to this vision as a believing Christian?

Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18

The author of Hebrews speaks of Jesus' offering of his life as a sacrifice for sins. And in this action, believers are "consecrated." How do you show appreciation for this divine gift?

Mark 13: 24-32

In the Gospel reading, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the end times and the coming of the Son of Man. How is this a message of hope for you?



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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