



# The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8:30 - 3:30 Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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**Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church**

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

1 September 2019

**FoCuS** by Joe McCorley

## HOW OLD DO YOU THINK GOD IS?

Many billion years?

Sr Ilia Delia, a world recognised Franciscan scientist, suggests that in the process of creation, God enabled Nature to take part in its own creation. Thus the Natural World as we know it evolved over 5 billion years before humans were created.

Humans also are part of the evolution history! We have existed on earth a relatively short time compared to nature. "God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female." (Genesis 1:27)

I have for a long time believed God was not a very old man, with a long white beard. However, I have never realized that God was young!

Pope Francis has changed my mind! In a recent letter to all Young People and to the entire people of God, Francis writes: "God is always young! In eternal life, God is beyond time. There is only the present moment in God's life. God is able to renew Himself and all things. God has energy, spontaneity, and desire for change - all youthful qualities to fight the many problems facing our Church and our world."

With God on our side Pope Francis talks about what is essential for young people and us, "the one thing we should never keep quiet - the three great truths":

1. God loves you!

"Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life, at every moment you are infinitely loved."

2. Christ is alive!

Jesus Christ is not just a memory from a distant past but an experience of the "inner Christ" in which Jesus is still alive and present to us in Spirit.

3. The Spirit gives life!

"The Holy Spirit fills the heart of the risen Christ and then flows over into our lives."

My final question, "How old do you think your Spirit is?"

*From Pope Francis' booklet "Christ Lives". Available at the Parish Bookshop \$9.50.*

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev Peter Tonti PP**  
Parish Priest

**Rev Jomon Poothara**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev Ronaldo Rodriguez SVD**  
Associate Pastor

**Mrs Anne Sheehan**  
Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

**Mrs Denise Tuzes**  
Visitation & Bereavement Co-ordinator

**Ms Anne Carlsen**  
Parish Safeguarding Representative

**Mr Norm Whyte**  
Business Manager

**Mr Jeffrey Caluag**  
Administration & Finance Co-ordinator

**Mrs Raquel Arriola**  
Reception

**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**  
**Judy Pidcock:** 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.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### Give Graciously

I love the verse in Sirach where it says, "My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." This is an interesting concept for those of us who think a stewardship way of life is all about the giving of gifts. When we start to think that all we are called to do is give for the sake of giving, we have missed the point.

We are called to be gracious givers. We are called to allow the Jesus in us to encounter the Jesus in others. Humility does not mean that we hide away after we give, but we give in a way that has less to do with us and more to do with the one in whose name we give. Our world needs philanthropy and generosity, but it needs Jesus even more. We want to be good examples to others of how to be generous, not because we want them to be like us but like Jesus.

Give all things with a gracious heart and disposition. Do not take any credit for that generosity but instead let it point to Jesus. After all, it is Jesus who calls us to a mature faith where we answer the call every day regardless of the cost. Without that maturity and answering the call, would we really be driven to be generous givers? Knowing that left to our own devices we would probably not be very successful as a giver of gifts should make us very humble anyway. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

It is not enough, however, to think of different species merely as potential "resources" to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves. Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

## LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Today begins the month long **Season of Creation** which this year has the theme "The web of life." This reflects the role humanity has as stewards of creation, but also the "urgent need" to protect biodiversity. According to the UN an estimated one million species are under threat of extinction, primarily due to "our way of life."

*We can pray in thanksgiving and rejoice in the gift of creation. In caring for creation, as responsible citizens, we may need to make changes to our way of life or advocate for those suffering as a result of the change in climate.*

## BUNDABERG NET TEAM

**NEW YOUTH GROUP TIMES - Echo Junior:** Primary School Youth Group (Years 4-6) Thursdays | 4pm - 5:30pm | Holy Rosary Youth Centre. **Echo Senior:** High School Youth Groups (Years 7-12) Fridays | 3:30pm - 5:30pm | Loyola Centre in Shalom College. **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** (17-39 years old): NOW ON Fridays | 7:00pm-9:30pm | Parish Conference Room in the Parish Office.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Recently Deceased:** William Desmond Anderson, Charles Geoffrey Hall, Joseph Formosa, Brian Francis Nicolson, Diane Lorraine Barrett, Adrian Herman Verdel, Ruth Eyles

## NOTICES

**ADULT FAITH BY FR PETER TONTI:** Monday, **2 September** 1:00 pm repeated at 5:30 pm at the Parish Centre. *Topic: 15 Essential Biblical Texts N.T. Wright - Genesis 1:26-31.* Please bring your Bible and notebook.

**BUNDABERG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** Bring a friend to the September Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, **3 September** at Café 1928, 11.30 am for 12 noon. The proceeds from the raffle on this day will be donated to charity. You might like to bring a raffle prize. Cost \$5.00. If you wish to attend, please contact Maureen (4152 1263) by Sunday night September 1st.

**UNITED HEARTS CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** Tuesday, **3 September**, 7:00 pm at Novakoski Hall. Please feel free to come along and join in a time of prayer and service.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ONGOING FORMATION IN FAITH:** The Diocese of Rockhampton has secured a partnership with the University of Dayton, Ohio to provide online adult faith formation through its Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). This partnership arrangement gives all adults within the Diocese access to a very comprehensive range of 3 and 5-week courses. ***If you enrol and complete the September course, Study of Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis), the Diocese will refund your course fee of \$US 50.*** You can access the VLCFF website at: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/about/>. If you enrol for a course, let Judith Gardiner (Diocesan Coordinator) at [judith.gardiner@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:judith.gardiner@rok.catholic.net.au) know so that we can offer some ongoing support throughout the course. If you would like more information please contact Judith on 4887 3070 or the email above.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE:** The Annual "Good News" Magazine Project is underway, with the focus this year "Care for Our Common Home". The Magazine Committee would again appreciate your monetary sponsorship, either in big or small amounts. Please consider helping in this way. Sponsorship forms available at the Parish Office.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL BUDDIES DAY:** If you would like to volunteer or refer a child for the Buddies Day please call 3010 1073 or email [youth@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:youth@svdpqld.org.au). For more information please see notice on the noticeboard.

**CLERGY SUPPORT FOUNDATION APPEAL:** This weekend we will have a second collection for our retired priests. Envelopes are available on the end of the seats. This is a tax deductible appeal.

### DATE CLAIMER:

- ⇒ Tuesday, **22 October**, Carinity Kepnock Grove Bumper Cent Sale commencing 9.30 am at Kepnock Grove Community Centre
- ⇒ Sunday, **27 October**, Parish Multicultural Social Function, 10.00 am St Mary's Church ground



### WHAT CAN I DO AT MASS?

At present, Fr Jomon and Jan Aplin are visiting our Catholic Primary Schools to talk to students regarding the Ministry of Altar Service. Girls and boys who made their First Communion are encouraged to serve on the altar. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact the Parish Office 4151 6666. Fr Jomon and Jan will make contact with you as we hope to hold a training session for students and/or parents on Monday, **9 September** 5:30 pm at Holy Rosary Church. We look forward to your attendance.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

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## LITURGIES

### Monday 2 September 2019

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

### Tuesday 3 September 2019

*St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor*

9.00am St James' - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

### Wednesday 4 September 2019

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

### Thursday 5 September 2019

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

### Friday 6 September 2019

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

1.00pm Holy Rosary - Adoration

### Saturday 7 September 2019

7.30am St Mary's - Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY

**8 September 2019**

**23rd SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

**Year C (I)**

7.00am St James'

8.00am Holy Rosary

9.00am St Mary's

5.30pm Holy Rosary

## SCRIPTURES for next Sunday

**First Reading**

Wisdom 9:13-18

**Second Reading**

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

**Gospel**

Luke 14:25-33





## SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

**Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29**

Jewish sages frequently spoke of the importance of humility in life. Is this a virtue others see in you?

**Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24**

The author of Hebrews speaks of our direct access to God through Christ. How often do you take advantage of this spiritual reality?

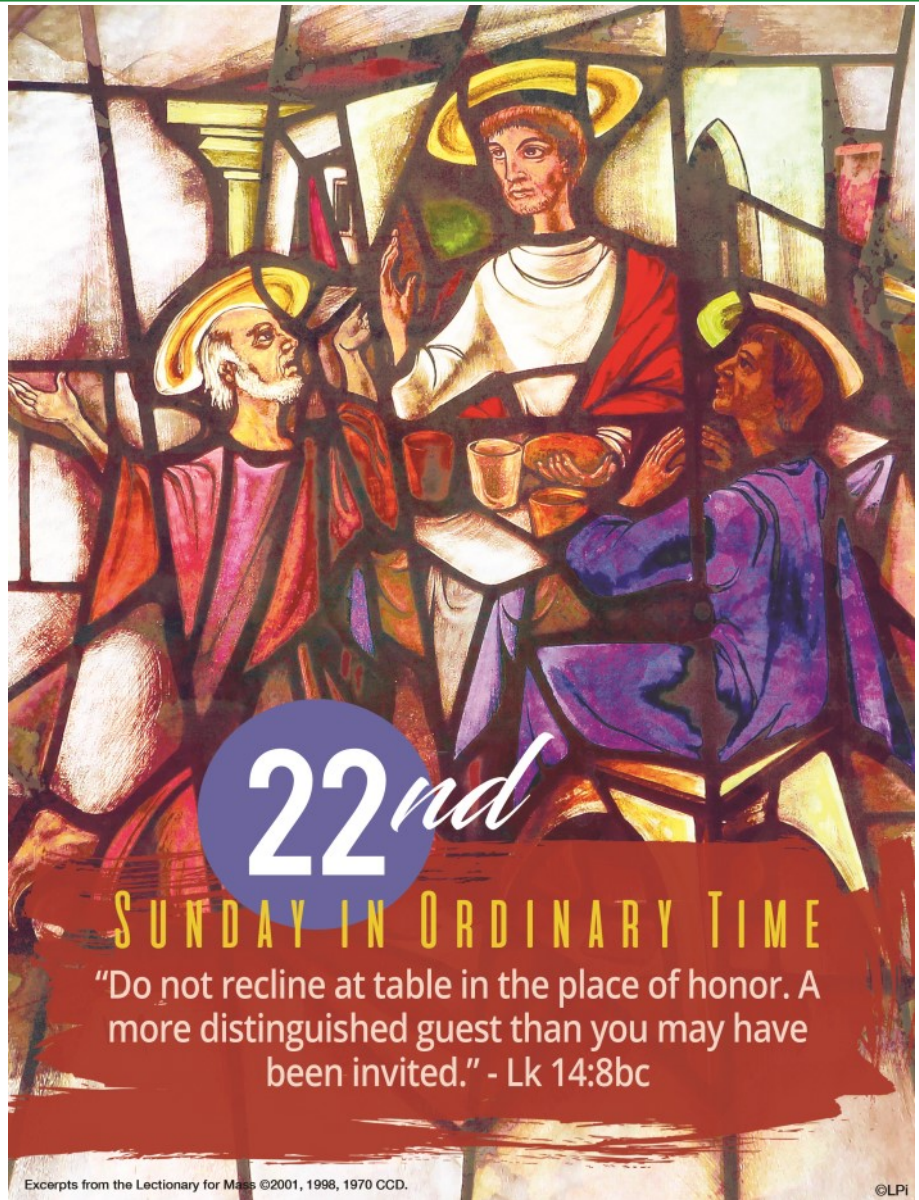
**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

Jesus encouraged the Pharisees to treat the poor and marginalized in society with dignity and respect. Why do think so many of us need to be reminded often of this message?



## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Can you imagine if Jesus threw a party? From the wedding feast at Cana, we know he wouldn't let the wine run out. From this Sunday's Gospel, we know there would be quite a lively array of guests! We also knew who the most important people would be - everyone. Jesus advises throwing a party that turns everything upside down. Everyone should assume they're the least important attendee, and the guestlist shouldn't include the neighbourhood "who's who." Rather, we should go looking for "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind" and hope they RSVP. Jesus describes a particular posture towards our own hospitality.

Parties are about the other people. "Do not recline at table in the place of honour." How often can small talk become a one-upmanship of job promotions, home renovations, and our children's achievements? We've all been to parties where being the most interesting guest is the highest achievement. Yet so often, we know the best party guests are the ones who listen well to our stories. Whether we are guests or hosts, we have the opportunity to look on others with humility and awe.

Parties are opportunities to serve. Jesus advises us to be careful who we invite "in case they might invite you back and you have repayment." Does Jesus literally mean we shouldn't invite our friends over? Of course not! But he does invite us to special consideration when we offer hospitality. When we invite people over to our home, what motivates us? Who we want to spend time with? Who we'd like to impress? These ultimately have only ourselves in mind. How about asking: Who could use some extra care right now? Who could benefit from a fun evening out? In other words, who can I serve?