



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

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

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

Ph: 07 4151 6666 PO Box 79 Bundaberg QLD 4670

Email: sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au www.bundabergcatholic.net.au

www.facebook.com/thecatholicparishbundaberg

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

15 September 2019

FoCuS by Fr Ronaldo Rodriguez SVD

IS MY MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

Usually when I wake up in the morning the questions that come into my mind are, "Am I gifted with another 24 hours of my life?" and "What are the things that I want to accomplish today?". At the tennis court, my friend asked me the similar question, "What are you up to today, Ronaldo?". I did not answer straightaway because I did not have the "to-do-list" at hand and I failed to plan today's work. Then a couple of seconds later I said to him that I would write a short reflection. But as the end of the day drew near, my plan to write did not actually happen. My focus was diverted. Instead I did other things - shopping, laundry, watching US Open tennis, etc. I rationalised that what I did for the day were necessary. I thought I was doing right. However, it made me question deeper, "Did I do the right things? Am I journeying in the right direction? As human and as a religious -missionary priest, what's my mission?".

What's your mission? Should we live our life to win the race or any competition such as tennis or any sport for that matter? Should our goal be beating somebody or building partnership? What does really matter in order to have a wonderful and meaningful life? Should it be power, prestige and wealth? Should it be joy, happiness, peace and love?

Those questions I am posing are not uncommon. They seem very simple to answer. But for me they are vital, lifelong and very difficult. The answers could easily be beautifully written but very challenging to put into action. They entail a lot of thinking, planning, controlling and above all, giving the best of our talents not primarily for our own vested interest, but for others and the human society.

Looking back at one of my questions about my mission, I am now reminded by the statement of my current Superior General about evangelization: "The ultimate goal of all our missionary endeavours, be it in parish work, formation or social projects, should always be to promote the values of the Gospel, to be on the side of the poor in the fight against the unjust structures and systems, and to safeguard nature as the home for all." Moreover, our SVD 18th General chapter states: "When St. Arnold Janssen (our SVD founder) says that 'the proclamation of the Gospel is the most sublime expression of love and neighbor,' it resonates for us with the program of Jesus and his main interlocutors: the poor, the marginalized, the broken, the captives, the sick, the oppressed, in short those who suffer and have their lives and hope cut off." Pope Francis writes in EG: "No one must say that they cannot be close to the poor because their lifestyle demands more attention to other areas....none of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and social justice: 'Spiritual conversion, the intensity of the love of God and neighbor, zeal for justice and peace, the Gospel meaning of the poor and poverty, are required of everyone" (201).

Well, I may be dreaming the impossible dream. But I also realise that I have 24 hours every day to live out my mission through which I can make my day matter. Moreover, I believe that my more important mission and your mission too, is not really impossible to achieve. After all, it's not our mission, it's Christ's mission, it's God's mission.

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 Bargarra

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

Patience in All Things

St. Francis De Sales said, "Have patience with all things, but, first of all with yourself." Life has a way of knocking us down or off the path we are traveling. If it is a path that God has called us to, then it will be easier to get back to the journey, but nevertheless, it is difficult. The hardest thing to bear is that too often what we blame on life is really about our own choices or shortcomings. The refrain of many a blues singer sounds something like, "Nobody to blame but me!"

What is the Good News? God's patience is far superior to our own. We do need to follow the words above and cultivate in ourselves a greater sense of patience in all things. However, we should take great comfort in knowing that God's patience will always be there as we struggle to grow and advance in our life as a disciple.

You're trying to live a stewardship way of life but keep falling onto the side of the road? God wants you to reach Him on the road but will wait for you. You want to be holier and more committed to your faith? God will take what you give Him. The danger is when you lose your patience and stop moving toward Him. You decide that it doesn't really matter and that what you can offer God doesn't amount to anything of worth. We must never cease our journey. You and I may get fed up, but our God never will. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

Caring for ecosystems demands far-sightedness, since no one looking for quick and easy profit is truly interested in their preservation. But the cost of the damage caused by such selfish lack of concern is much greater than the economic benefits to be obtained. Where certain species are destroyed or seriously harmed, the values involved are incalculable. We can be silent witnesses to terrible injustices if we think that we can obtain significant benefits by making the rest of humanity, present and future, pay the extremely high costs of environmental deterioration.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

The International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer is Monday. This year we celebrate that parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of 1-3% since 2000. We must remain vigilant by phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are potent climate-warming gases. *Pope Francis tells us: 'The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. We are called to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat his warming or at least the human causes which aggravate it.'*

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 Baptised: Yuna Emilia Antonio, Zaria Shirley Garden

Recently Deceased: Arogyamma (Mary) Kodavatikanti, Agostino "Gus" Asnicar, Pearl Agnes Phelan, William Desmond Anderson, Charles Geoffrey Hall, Joseph Formosa, Brian Francis Nicolson

NOTICES

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: We celebrate Social Justice on Sunday, **29th September**. This year's Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled 'Making It Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world'. It shares Pope Francis' challenge to us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world'. It points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this world, but active citizens shaping it. For further details, visit the Office for Social Justice website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call 02 8306 3499. Order the statement online at bit.ly/socialjusticeshop. Follow us on Facebook @socialjusticeACBC or Twitter @JusticeCatholic

ANNOUNCEMENT: JACQUELINE MAREE RAMSEY (Sr Mary Dominica), formerly from Goovigen, will make her Vow of Perpetual Profession on **7th October**, at St Brendan's Church in Ganmain, NSW 11.00am. She is the 3rd daughter of John and Trudy Ramsey, sister to Daniel, Kate, Bernadette, Patrice, Thomas, Joseph, Benjamin and Gina, and a former student of St Josephs Catholic School, Biloela.

CHILDRENS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Children who are baptised and 8+ years old are able to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist (First Communion). The Parish preparation program will begin in Term 4. An Information morning is scheduled for **Sunday, 13th October**, 10.30-11.30am, in the Parish Office, Level 1/66 Woongarra Street. This session is especially for new parents to the program. Registration forms are available at the parish office beforehand. For more information, please contact Anne Sheehan, Sacramental Co-ordinator, 41516666.

PLENARY COUNCIL: The Plenary Council invites people to continue to participate in the journey towards the Council sessions in 2020 and 2021. The "Listening and Discernment" phase recently opened and a guide has been developed to encourage groups to take part in communal discernment on the National Themes for Discernment. Learn more about the Christian practice of discernment and download the guide, "Let's Listen and Discern", at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

DATE CLAIMERS:

- ⇒ Tuesday, **8th October** Cherish Life AGM, 7.00pm at the Rockhampton Leagues Club
- ⇒ Public Rosary, Saturday, **12th October** 1.00pm at St Mary's Church ground and Sunday, **13th October** after the 8.00am Mass at Holy Rosary Church
- ⇒ Thursday, **17th October** Combined Churches of Bargara Morning Tea, 9.30am at Coral Coast Christian Church 596 Windermere Road Bargara
- ⇒ Sunday, **20th October** Mass by the Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Adolfo Tito Yllana to mark the occasion of World Mission Sunday, 9.30am at St Joseph's Cathedral, William St Rockhampton
- ⇒ Tuesday, **22nd October**, Carinity Kepnock Grove Bumper Cent Sale commencing 9.30am at Kepnock Grove Community Centre. To book please phone Lyn 4151 6724
- ⇒ Monday, **23rd October** Parishioner Participation Workshop, 5.30pm to 7.00pm at the Parish Centre
- ⇒ Sunday, **27th October**, Parish Multicultural Social Function, 10.00am St Mary's Church ground

PARISH HUMOUR

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

VACANCY – St. Mary's Hall: From 1 April next year, St. Mary's Hall will be available for hire on Tuesday evenings. This had previously been booked for weekly use by the Combined Clairvoyants, however the booking has now been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

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LITURGIES

Monday 16 September 2019

Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr and Cyprian, bishop, martyr

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 17 September 2019

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

Wednesday 18 September 2019

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

Thursday 19 September 2019

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 20 September 2019

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 21 September 2019

St Matthew, apostle, evangelist
7.30am St Mary's - Mass
9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

22 September 2019

**25th 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
Amos 8:4-7

Second Reading
1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel
Luke 16:1-13



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

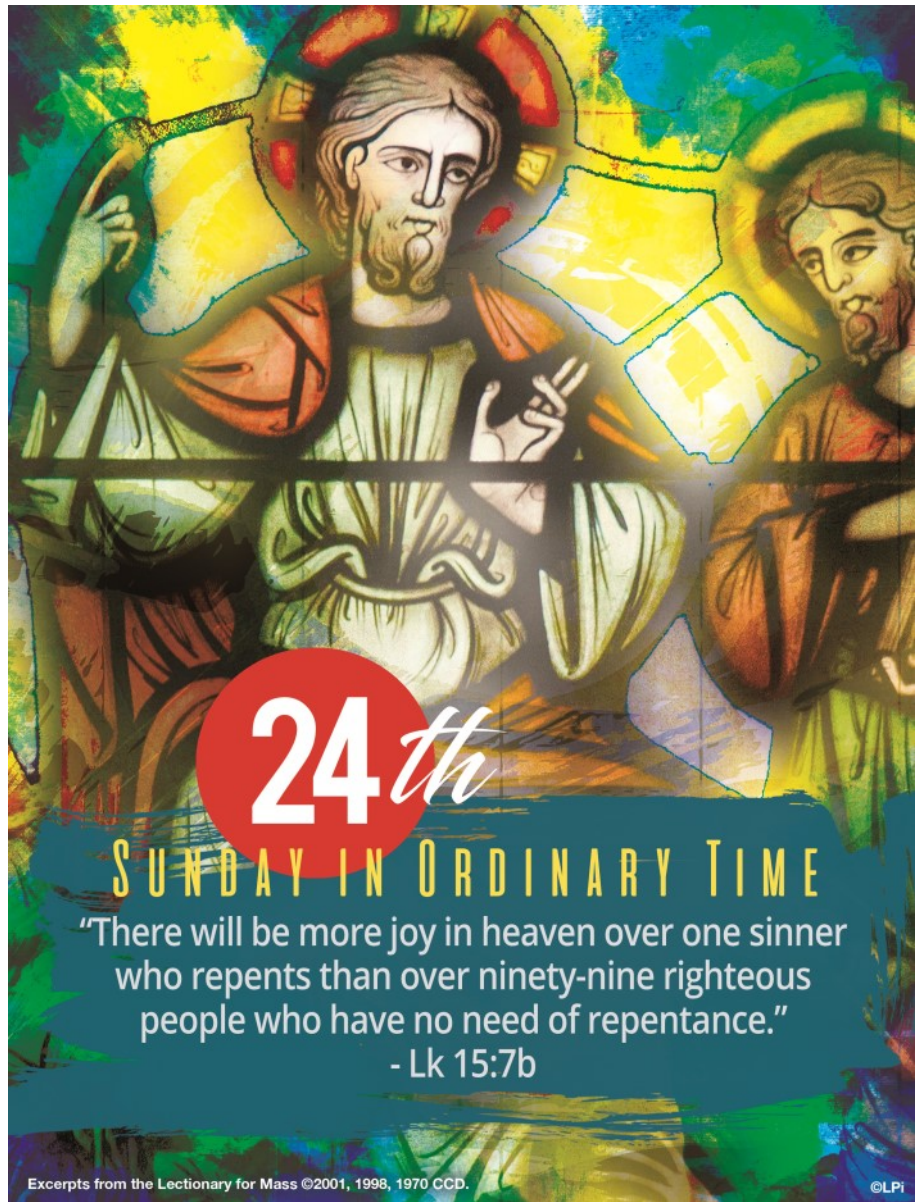
Moses petitions God not to punish the Israelites for the apostasy of making a golden calf and worshipping it. Who should you pray for in your life who has gravely sinned?

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Paul uses his own life as an example of the depths of divine mercy. Who do you know needs to hear this message of God's mercy?

Luke 15:1-32

God's love for us is reflected in the reaction of the Father's embrace of his lost (prodigal) son who has returned. When have you shown this depth of love to another?

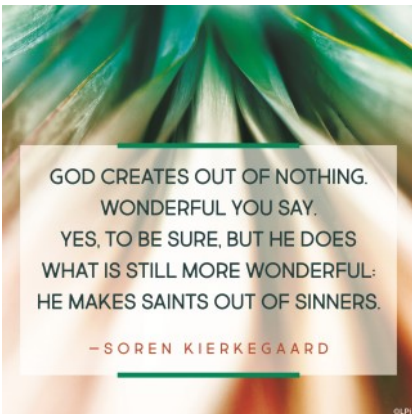


GOSPEL REFLECTION

"Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain?" In this Sunday's Gospel, we learn the context for the forthcoming parables about the lost and found. A great mixed crowd surrounds Jesus. The religious elite are present, along with all manner of local lowlifes. The Pharisees seem a bit upset that this wasn't the lecture series they were hoping for. Why would Jesus welcome sinners?

Jesus responds as if it's the most obvious thing in the world. "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep... rejoice because I have found the coin that I lost? let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine... was lost, and has been found!" Each of the parables features a dramatic example. Of 99 sheep, one has gone astray. Of 10 coins, one has gone missing. The welcomed son has previously been a covetous scoundrel. Jesus' point to the Pharisees is clear. If the Gospel really is "good news," if our faith really has the power to save, why wouldn't we want everyone drawing near? Why wouldn't we do everything in our power to eke out that possibility for every single person, no matter where they have wandered? After all, if this message is not of value to everyone, why is it of value to anyone?

Our Christian faith is not a matter of rule adherence for the perfectionist elite. In our own ways, each of us is the lost sheep, the prodigal son. There is no one who "has no need of repentance." The Church is a mixed crowd. And we are mixed people. And the Gospel has good news for each of us today! There is no one Jesus doesn't go after, no one he does not catch sight of "while... still a long way off," no one to whom he does not run to embrace and welcome home.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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