



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

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

20 October 2019

FoCuS by *Anne Sheehan*

TOOLS IN THE TOOLBOX

There was great excitement in my household last weekend. I started and completed a project that I'd been looking at for months, thanks to the purchase of the right tool and the help of my brother. Not only did I complete the project, I learnt a new skill and am now looking forward to using them both again. As an aside, little did I know that, tucked away in a toolbox, was the very same tool that I bought!

Last Sunday we gathered with 35 parents who are interested in preparing their child for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. The young parents of our parish come from a variety of backgrounds, religious affiliations, and faith experiences. Not all who have registered are Catholic. Not all of them come to regular Sunday Mass. Some are familiar faces among us. However, the one thing they all have in common is the love for their child and a desire to do the best for them in all aspects of their lives, including their faith life.

They have a project – to prepare their child for the sacraments, with this parish family's help and support. We are one of the "tools" needed to complete their job. Most parents don't realise they already have the tools within them and around them to enable them to bring their child to the sacraments. In fact, many have been "doing the job" without effort since the day their child was born and, soon after, baptised. Initiation into a faith community is all about bringing them into a relationship with God, who is Love, through the person of Jesus. It's all about love!

What does this job entail? To show love in all its forms, to offer comfort, show compassion and forgiveness, and to care for all creation. Children learn from good example. A workbook or catechism is not going to teach them about Jesus or show them the need to satisfy the hunger of the poor and downtrodden, the need for forgiveness, the mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, or the need for Eucharistic sustenance. Sacraments come from lived experiences. Using the tools at our disposal, our faith community, prayer, worship and example, makes the preparation easier.

Since baptism, we have all received the gift that enables us to live as Christians, the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit working within us will enable us to do our job. Sometimes we forget that we already have the tools required to do the job. We just need to rediscover them, rely on the innate skills within each of us, be open to the help and support of others and be guided by the Holy Spirit to create something truly beautiful – children in love with God, Jesus, and others.

Please pray for our young parents as they begin this next phase of their responsibility as Christian parents.

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.

FOCUS RESPONSE

The Focus article written by Mr Dan McMahon 13th October has provoked a number of responses. The full article *Plenary Council 2020: Joint Parish Statement* can be found through the link:

https://www.ourladyofthepineschurch.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/here.pdf

The article includes a number of contentious statements that clearly challenge the present practices of our Church.

The Plenary Council 2020 was determined by the Bishops of Australia as a means of exploring the future practices and strategies of our Church in Australia. The whole Church, through prayer and discernment, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has been asked to make decisions about our Church structures and strategies. Decisions will require the approval of the Pope and the Church Magisterium to ensure harmony with the wider universal Church's doctrines and disciplines. It is important to appreciate that the Plenary Council has invited the whole Church to present their individual responses with the acknowledgement that there will be differences of thought and considerations.

We are presently in the discernment phase of the Preparation Stage. The Implementation and Celebration stages are to follow. The Preparation Stage requires the Church to listen to all people including to the people from all cultures, to those on the margins, to the poor and the needy. We listen in prayer to the Holy Spirit and the Living Word of God. Many of us will be aware of the proactive and inclusive role of our Bishop Michael McCarthy in the Plenary 2020 process. Each one of us was invited to participate and offer our thoughts and considerations. We participated in the Diocesan Gatherings in Gladstone (2017/2018) which focused on Listening and the Diocesan Assembly in Rockhampton 28th March 2019. The Diocesan Assembly provided an excellent platform for us to participate and a number of many and varied responses were shared and noted.

Bishop Michael established a number of Diocesan Taskforces in response to the Diocesan Assembly. These Taskforces include *Evangelisation, Technology and Communication, Mission to those on the Edge, Governance and Leadership Formation, Governance Structures, Roles and Co-responsibility for Mission-Ordained and Lay*.

This coming Wednesday 23rd October from 5:30pm to 7:00pm we are all invited to a 90-minute workshop titled *Serving the Mission through Governance and Administration*. The workshop will provide a practical and theological approach to the governance and administration of the Church, and the role of Lay People.

We are living in challenging but exciting times. We have the opportunity to plan the kind of future our Church needs. Please continue to participate and pray for the success of the Plenary Council 2020.

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: Hugh Patrick Tomlin

Recently Deceased: Mary Patricia Stanley, Bernard Charles Luton White, Johna Ogwo (Fr Matthia's father), Antonio "Frank" Nella, Honora Frances (Noreen) Plath

NOTICES

PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP: Wednesday, **23rd October**, 5.30pm to 7.00pm at the Parish Centre, a 90-minute workshop titled *Serving the Mission through Governance and Administration* will be led by Mrs Judith Gardiner, Executive Office of the Bishop's Office, Rockhampton. The workshop will benefit those who seek to understand the governance structures of the Church, who currently serve on Parish Councils and committees and those who might wish to consider making themselves available for governance roles in the future. **Please ring the parish office if attending 4151 6666.**

CWL OLD DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDRAISING: Raffle tickets \$1.00 available at the parish office. Draw is on Friday, **25th October**. Prizes: 1st - Christmas patchwork cloth, 2nd - bottle of wine.

CHILDREN SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM BEGINS soon for children 8+ years old who are baptised. Registrations are being taken for the 2019-20 Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist group. Registration forms are available from the parish office, Level 1/66 Woongarra Street, 41516666. The first session for children and parents is on Wednesday, **30th October**, at 5.30pm **OR** Sunday, **3rd November**, at 10.30am. All sessions are held at the parish office. Contact Anne Sheehan for more information.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: Thursday, **31st October** 10.00am at Christ Church Anglican Church. Fellowship follows after the liturgy.

VISITATION MINISTRY MEETING: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the visitation meeting has been moved to Thursday, **31st October** 10:30am at the parish office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Looking for some people who are willing to clean St Mary's Church. It would require 30-45 minutes of your time every 7 weeks. For further information please contact the parish office.

DATE CLAIMERS:

- ⇒ Saturday, **2nd November** 6.00am All Souls' Day mass at the Catholic Cemetery. Please bring a chair.
- ⇒ Sunday, **10th November** Marriage Anniversary Mass, 9.30am at St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton
- ⇒ Wednesday, **20th November** 6.00pm Mass to celebrate with Father Stephen Hanly his 30 years of Priesthood at St Joseph's Church, Grendon St, North Mackay, followed by shared meal in the Parish Centre. RSVP by **1st November**.



Reach out. Give life.



Next weekend our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Ghana, as they provide ongoing protection and development of children who are vulnerable.

In line with traditional beliefs, in parts of Ghana, children born with a disability, or whose mother passes during childbirth, are considered to

be 'spirit children', and thus at risk of being harmed or killed. The Church in Ghana is dedicated to protecting these children and educating families to ensure every child has a chance to live a full life. Next week you will learn more about Sister Stan and the Nazareth Home for God's Children, which is leading these efforts in the diocese of Yendi.

You will be offered the opportunity to personally partner with the Church in Ghana as a monthly giving partner, with all gifts specifically directed

to life-saving projects for children in need – please come prepared to give generously.

Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/Ghana



Are you a new parishioner?
We'd love to meet you. Please write your name and details in the new parishioners book at the church door or contact the parish office at 4151 6666.

LITURGIES

Monday 21 October 2019

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 22 October 2019

St John Paul II, pope

9.00am St James' - LWC

9.30am Gracehaven - Anointing

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 23 October 2019

St John of Capistrano, priest

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 24 October 2019

St Anthony Claret, bishop

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

10.00am St Mary's - Anointing Mass

Friday 25 October 2019

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Saturday 26 October 2019

7.30am St Mary's - Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

27 October 2019

30th 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

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Exodus 17:8-13

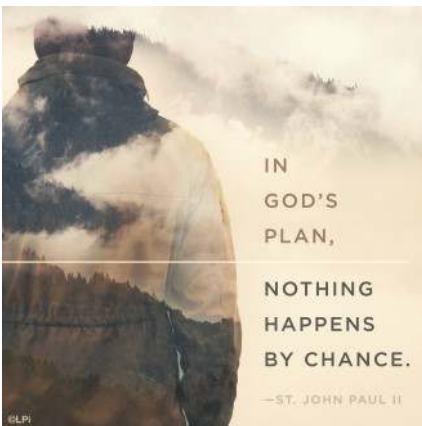
Moses relied on Aaron and Hur to help him accomplish the task of defeating Israel's enemies. Who do you consider a close ally in your spiritual journey?

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Paul teaches Timothy an important biblical principle: "All Scripture is inspired by God." How would you explain this idea of "divine inspiration" of Scripture to a non-believer?

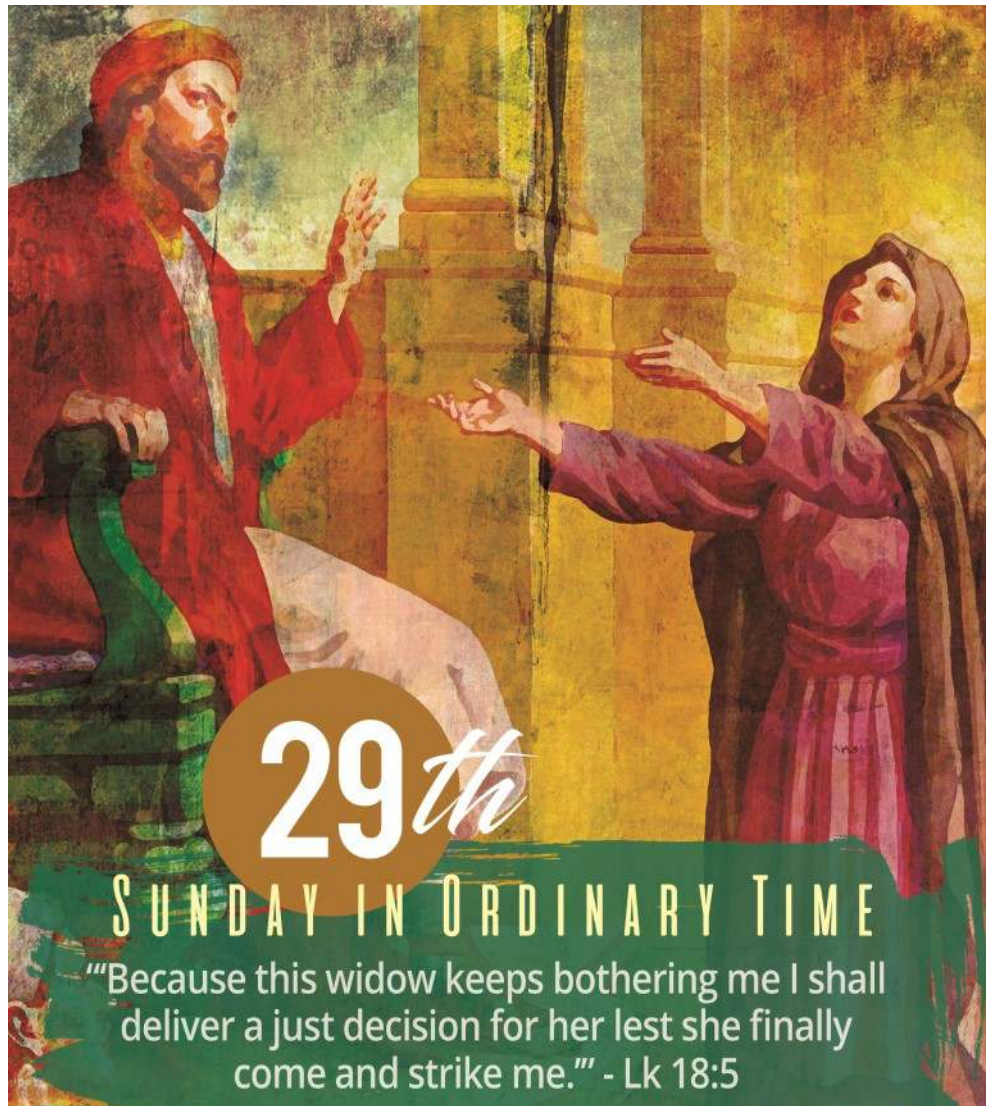
Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the persistent widow, holding her up as a model of tenacity in faith. How would you assess your own level of tenacity for your faith?



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

"Render a just decision for me against my adversary". Today's Gospel features a persistent widow who ekes out justice from a notoriously cold-hearted judge. Why does she win the day? *"Because the widow keeps bothering me."* Jesus' recommendation to the disciples is to be persistent in prayer, because surely God the Father is far more attuned to their needs than this judge. If only it were that easy, right? We've all experienced the unanswered prayer, the silence after our cries. When this continues, sometimes it can be difficult to have faith in God or believe He answers prayers. It can be easy to lapse into a sense of His distance. We want Him to do something "fair" which, in our limited view, typically means that something works out in our favour.

There are, of course, many legitimate cries for justice. We live in a fallen world filled with flawed human beings. We hurt each other, sometimes grievously, and our efforts to remake the world in *our* image can result in unjust, inhumane systems. Faced with the problem of evil, we may wonder how God will *"secure the rights of his chosen ones."* Sometimes, He may well seem *"slow to answer them."*

In the face of these very real questions, it's important to recall the words of the prophet Isaiah, that God's thoughts *"are not [our] thoughts."* His ways are not our ways. God respects the freedom He has given us. When we see what free will has wrought, perhaps we question God's better judgment! Yet somehow, we hear that He mysteriously works all things for our good. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, we are always free to love. We are invited to be persistent in our prayer, to continue bringing our concerns before God in trusting surrender. We are invited to love well in the circumstances we find ourselves in, to be a light in the darkness. No matter when, or if, our prayers are answered the way we would like, we are nonetheless invited to witness to *"faith on earth"*.