



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

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

3 November 2019

FoCuS by Fr John Daly

Last Thursday, on the eve of 1st November many people celebrated "Halloween". Money was spent on 'scary' masks and costumes as people dressed up like zombies, ghosts, the walking dead. They were in disguise. Some stressed the "Trick or Treat" aspect of Halloween.

The surge in such celebrations have been encouraged especially by the commercial sector coming out of America and spread throughout the Western world.

But where does the practice of "Halloween" originate from?

Halloween origins date back to the ancient pagan Celts who lived mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France. At the end of their summer, the Celts celebrated their harvest festival. At this time of year, they believed that the barrier between our world and the world of the dead (ghosts and spirits) got really thin. They believed there was then a thin veil separating those who had died and those who were still alive. Many wore masks and costumes to disguise themselves from being recognised by the ghosts of the dead!

When the Celts were converted to Christianity, they brought with them aspects of this harvest festival and their rituals concerning the dead and Christianised them. It was not a big step to take up the Christian doctrine which became known as "the Communion of the Saints". Christians, and in particular Catholics, believe that those loved ones who have gone before us are close to us. Just as God is close, so too those with God are close, there exists a thin veil, a nearness to us who live in the world. It is a firm and ancient Catholic tradition that we pray for the dead and that they pray for us. The month of November is set aside for praying for and remembering our dead.

The month begins with two feast days, All Saints' Day on 1st November and All Souls' Day on 2nd November. Although there was an Irish practice to celebrate All Souls from 800AD, it became a universal practice in the Church from the 10th century. In the year 1000 AD, the Church designated All Souls as a day to honour all those who had died. The tradition of having a day to pray for the deceased was in place in monasteries as early as the 7th century.

The word "Halloween" now widely misused comes from two words, "Hallow" meaning holy person and referring to the Saints, and "een" (derived from "eve") meaning the evening before. So "Halloween" means the evening before All Saints Day. The "Trick or Treat" was a Christian tradition meant to collect food and money not for oneself but for the poor. How things can easily be distorted!

We have begun this beautiful time of prayer. November is that special time to pray for our dead and allow their prayers to come to us. This is a time for "closeness" with our loved ones who have gone before us and with those "forgotten ones" who have no one to pray for them.

November also offers us an opportunity to be in communion with those communities being affected by the drought. The Church in Australia has been asked to pray for rain during November and to be generous with any financial assistance we can give to those suffering from the drought.

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
Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston
sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 4151 4771

St Mary's Catholic Primary
Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt
stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au
Ph: 4152 2167

St Patrick's Catholic Primary
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
22 Barolin St (Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Sts)

St Patrick's Church
14 Powers St

St Mary's Church
139 Barolin St (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

The Enthusiastic Steward

Have you ever been at a concert and rushed the stage to get closer to your favorite act? Has your favorite sports team won a championship, and you just wanted to celebrate for hours? For those of us who are parents, have you ever gone to great lengths to get the perfect photo at a first Communion, graduation, or some other ceremony in which your child was involved?

When moments in our life are filled with enthusiasm, we can find ourselves overwhelmed and doing things we might not normally do. I bet Zacchaeus didn't have a regular habit of climbing trees. However, he climbed one so he could see Jesus more clearly. His enthusiasm led him up a tree, an action he probably would not normally do.

Following Jesus Christ is not easy in this world of ours. Trying to do it without feeling any enthusiasm makes it doubly difficult. Enthusiasm is something that can be grown, but we must be the ones who foster it. When we see the fruits of our stewardship, enthusiasm grows. When we spend time in prayer and in God's word getting to know Jesus better, enthusiasm grows. When we work to make Jesus the most important person in our life, enthusiasm grows. If we find ourselves too often with our feet on the ground and growing in apathy, perhaps it is time to do what it takes to bring on that desire to climb a tree. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

Finally, we need to acknowledge that different approaches and lines of thought have emerged regarding this situation and its possible solutions. At one extreme, we find those who doggedly uphold the myth of progress and tell us that ecological problems will solve themselves simply with the application of new technology and without any need for ethical considerations or deep change. At the other extreme are those who view men and women and all their interventions as no more than a threat, jeopardizing the global ecosystem, and consequently the presence of human beings on the planet should be reduced and all forms of intervention prohibited. Viable future scenarios will have to be generated between these extremes, since there is no one path to a solution. This makes a variety of proposals possible, all capable of entering into dialogue with a view to developing comprehensive solutions.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVIVING SUSTAINABLY

The UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict ([A/RES/56/4](#)). Though mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage. The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies, because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed.

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: Khloe Clare Balfour, Mabel Sandra Snoddy

Recently Deceased: Margaret Smith (King), Barbara Hancock, Anne Galea (Mackay), John "Des" Drinan, Martina Durnin, Mary Josephine McIntyre, Mary Patricia Stanley, Bernard Charles Luton White, Chantal Thiele (Melbourne)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER-FOR-RAIN TIME: Monday, **4th November** from 6.00pm at Buss Park (corner Bourbong and Maryborough Streets).

NET FAREWELL: Sunday, **10th November** in the Novakoski Centre after 5.30pm Mass. Pizzas provided. For catering purposes, please RSVP to the Parish office by Wednesday, 30th October. Please bring a plate of nibbles. Everyone welcome.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS: Sunday, **10th November** Marriage Anniversary Mass, 9.30am at St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton

BUNDABERG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) CHRISTMAS DINNER: Tuesday, **19th November** 6.00pm for 6.30pm start in the Leprechaun Room, Brother's Club. Cost \$25.00 to be paid at the Parish office from Monday, 4 November to noon on Friday, 16 November or at the November meeting. Remember a gift for Secret Santa. For further information, please contact Maureen 4152 1263.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Wednesday, **20th November**, 7.00pm Holy Rosary Church. Family & friends of our recently deceased are invited. Please RSVP to the Parish Office if attending. All welcome.

PALMS AUSTRALIA: Working in Education, Health and Trades? Assist to reduce poverty in overseas communities by sharing your skills. Mutual development assured! There are five places left on 4th - 12th January Orientation Course. You must apply now for a position beginning any time in 2020. Call or text 0422 4PALMS (Monday to Friday) or visit palms.org.au

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.

THANK YOU FROM CWL: The Catholic Women's League wishes to thank all those who supported the raffle for drought relief, which raised \$371. The winners, 1st Dolour Emmitt and 2nd Pauline Merefield.

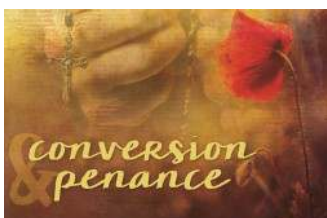
ADULT FAITH BY FR PETER TONTI: Please make note in your diaries that there will be **NO** November presentation. Fr Peter is away for the month of November.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: Congratulations to the new members of our Parish Stewardship Council: **Ben Galea, Emily Obst, Colleen Oberle, Mick Gerrard, Michael Walker and Nadia Fregonese.**

VISITATION COORDINATOR: We would like to welcome **Marcia Sharp** as our new Visitation Coordinator commencing on Monday, 18 November.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Next weekend we celebrate a **Ritual of Remembering Baptism** with the children & parents who are preparing for Confirmation & First Communion. This marks the beginning of the process of preparation. Please pray for these children.

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national and so should the response be national. Access resources and find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/drought



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 4 November 2019

St Charles Borromeo, bishop

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 5 November 2019

9.00am St James' - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 6 November 2019

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 7 November 2019

6.30am St Mary's - LWC

Friday 8 November 2019

12:15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

7.00pm St Mary's - Mass

(Malayalam)

Saturday 9 November 2019

7.30am St Mary's - LWC

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

10 November 2019

32nd 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

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Gospel

Luke 20:27-38



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

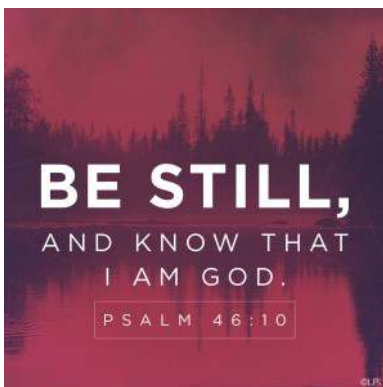
The Jewish wisdom writer speaks of God's unconditional love for us as he patiently awaits us to repent from our sins. How do you think repentance draws someone closer to God?

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

Paul opens his second letter to the Christians in the city of Thessalonica with a warning not to be deceived by those attempting to confuse believers. How do we best handle those today who distort our faith?

Luke 19:1-10

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus affirms Zacchaeus, a rich chief tax collector, for having the proper attitude toward wealth. Why do you think excessive wealth often separates us from God and others?



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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



31st Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. - Lk 19:5-6

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Christ loves us first. So much of the Christian life is as simple as that. Today's Gospel is a prime example! "Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man ... was seeking to see who Jesus was". We may have gotten used to the story of Zacchaeus, this short seemingly innocent man who climbs a sycamore tree in his desperate desire to see Jesus. But this colourful children's Bible illustration isn't what the gathering crowd would have seen. They would have seen the white collar criminal. Tax collectors were notorious for extortion. They were collaborators with the oppressive Roman overlords, overcharging for taxes and skimming a cut off the top. And how does Jesus respond to this man?

"Come down quickly", Jesus says, "for today I must stay at your house". If you had been there, would you have believed it? No doubt there were other disciples in the city or, at the very least, kind, generous, and just people. "Good" people. But those aren't the people Jesus chooses to share a meal with. Christ loves us first. He chooses Zacchaeus even before the man makes a public profession of his repentance.

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost". We may not be tax collectors and extortionists — I hope not! — but we all have elements of our lives that are lost. We have wounds from childhood, unresolved anxieties or attachments, daily fears. No matter how "put together" we are, we all have our lost moments. Some days, it may feel like we can't see over the ways they crowd our inner life. Today's Gospel invites us to do something a little strange. Don't let your flaws, failures, or hang-ups prevent you from seeing Jesus. Take a deep breath. Go climb a tree because Jesus is passing by. And he wants to stay in your heart today.