



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

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

1st Sunday of Advent

1 December 2019

FoCuS by Anne Sheehan

ADVENT WAITING



There is no clearer example of the need for patience than in this intense dry season, where all around us we hear people despairingly cry, "When will it rain?" That, surely, is in God's hands, when the highs, lows, and winds align to bring moisture. It will happen when it happens, although today would be good, Lord!

Three words describe our modern world: fast, immediate and instant. We speed walk, speed dial, speed text, even speed date. In this press button time, when we can call up whole worlds on the internet with one touch of a finger,

we would like to command our happiness with similar ease; it should be instant and total. Buy now, pay later and you won't be deprived of the immediate gratification that you deserve.

How intolerable it is that we should have to wait - for anything. In this impatient age any new development that is instant, saves time, and is faster is a winner. Patience is a virtue that takes practice.

If there is one thing that emerges clearly throughout the bible it is the art of waiting. Advent is the season of waiting patiently, preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate again the coming of our Saviour. The prophet Isaiah, St Paul, and Matthew all tell us that "salvation is near", "stay awake", "stand ready", "prepare the way".

At the time of Jesus' birth, we meet a number of people whose hearts have been honed and readied, whose faith is unwavering as they waited for Emmanuel.

"They are small, fervent and poor, unremarkable in the society but beacons of light for those who believed. Zechariah the priest and Elizabeth, his wife, whose delight in her own good news gave way to joy at her young cousin's pregnancy, John the Baptist who declared "the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

Joseph and his wife Mary, whose acceptance of the happening they couldn't fully understand, unlocked the door for all of us. Their readiness and openness to mystery is the work of time and patience. Centuries before, the prophet Habakkuk had written, "There is still a vision for the appointed time; it will testify to the destined hour and will not prove false. Though it delays, wait for it..." (Hab 2:3).

Christmas calls us to this recognition, calls us to see the infant Mary holds. For this we need time, not so much to take it as though we were snatching it from our hectic days, but rather to give it, graciously, lovingly and with longing, to the Lord of all our days. No instant results, no press button elation but surely, if we are true, a peace filling our hearts gently, quietly, telling us that we are welcome, that there is peace for us with Mary and Joseph and with all who down the ages recognised the Child, the Son of God and knelt to adore Him in silence. Almost, without knowing it, we are happy."

(Excerpts taken from "The Art of Waiting" 2009, Sister Redempta Twomey, Columban Sister)

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

Mrs Marcia Sharp

Visitation Co-ordinator

Ms Anne Carlsen

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Mr Norm Whyte

Business Manager

Mr Jeffrey Caluag

Administration & Finance Co-ordinator

Mrs Raquel Arriola

Reception

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

Wide-Open Eyes

When my first child was born, we had a nursery created for him that featured images from "The Beginner's Bible" painted on all the walls. (You may have seen this Bible before, where the Biblical figures in the book all had large wide-open eyes.) Images of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, and Jesus were displayed on all four walls. On the largest wall was a big picture of Noah's Ark with lots of animals. As our son got older, we would point to images on the wall as we read bedtime stories to him. Our son is now in his 20's and living several hours from us, so those days are far behind in our rearview mirror of life.

We prepared quite a lot for his birth. When our next two children were born, the preparation time had decreased significantly. Most parents know what I am talking about. The newness of your first-born brings with it so much emotion that you are compelled to spend countless hours preparing. When the next children are born, you are certainly excited, but you act differently and with a little more reserve.

For most readers, this is not your first Advent. It probably won't be your last. If you approach these December days simply as a way to prepare for Christmas, you may find yourself just doing the same old thing as last year. However, if you spend this time reflecting on the time when Jesus returns or when you shall see him face-to-face, you might be able to stir up some of that emotion of anticipation within you. Jesus is coming again. When people of all ages understand that reality, it can be a cause for large, wide-open eyes indeed.
- Tracy Earl Welliver

FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

Furthermore, although this Encyclical welcomes dialogue with everyone so that together we can seek paths of liberation, I would like from the outset to show how faith convictions can offer Christians, and some other believers as well, ample motivation to care for nature and for the most vulnerable of their brothers and sisters. If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn "realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith". It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY



On 3rd December, we observe the International Day of Disabled Persons (IDPD) that aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

This year, the theme is promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Edward Patrick "Ted" Donegan, Leonard James Potter, Eugene Thomas Cairns, Margaret Smith (King), Barbara Hancock, John "Des" Drinan, Martina Durnin, Mary Josephine McIntyre



Places are still available. For enrolment information and details regarding parent information sessions, please contact St Joseph's Catholic Primary School on 4151 4771 or email sjbg@rok.catholic.edu.au

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS MASS MINISTRIES: To all Liturgical Ministers who are here this Christmas, please write your name on the lists at the doors of the church. Rosters for the Christmas Masses need to be compiled now. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MASS WITH CHILDREN will be held on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm in Holy Rosary Church. If your child would like to be involved in this Mass, either in the dramatization, reading or singing please come along to the Novakoski Centre on Wednesday, **4th December** 3.30pm where parts will be allocated. For more information, please contact Anne Sheehan at the parish office on 4151 6666.

PAGEANT OF LIGHTS - THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER: The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg will be again entering a float in the Christmas Parade. If you have a child who would like to participate in the parade, or if you yourself, would like to walk as part of the parish community, please contact the parish office.

2019 CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Presented by the Bundaberg Orpheus Singers and Bundaberg Municipal Band on Sunday, **8th December** 7.30pm at the Holy Rosary Church. Admission \$5 (cash only). Raffle tickets available at the door.

SCHOOL SAVVY BY CENTACARE: Come and attend the launch event on Monday, **9th December**, 4.30pm at Canecutters Kitchen Sugar Country Motor Inn, 220 Bourbong Street. RSVP by Monday, 2nd December to Maija Stewart 4131 6803 or email schoolsavvy@centacarecq.com. Find out more about this outreach initiative at the launch.

HOLY ROSARY TEMPERATURE CONTROL: You are invited to attend an information meeting at 5.00 pm on Monday, **9th December** at the Parish office. Mr. Tim Muller B. Eng.(Mech), A. Deg.(Elec), RPEQ the Principal Mechanical and Electrical Engineer of Geared Project Engineering Pty Ltd. will be in attendance to discuss the proposed air conditioning project for Holy Rosary Church.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING: Keep bringing gifts to support the St Vincent de Paul and IMPACT's Christmas appeals. Gifts may be left in the baskets at church or brought to the parish office. Volunteers needed from Monday, **9th December** 9.00am to 12 noon and each day following till the gifts are sorted.

BETHLEHEM LIVE: Bundaberg's Christmas Festival, **17th to 20th December** 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm at the Bundaberg Central State School's Ground. URGENTLY in need of musicians and singers, creative people to help design, build and paint backdrops and props, construction pack-up crew, actors, costume room helpers, assistants in petting zoo and photo booth, cleaners and census soldiers. Please phone or text Lisa Hardie 0419 983 353 or email bundybethlehem@gmail.com.

BLANKET BUDDIES CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets are on sale at the parish office at \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. The raffle will be drawn at the Buddies' breakup morning tea on Wednesday, **18th December**. Prizes include Christmas hampers and a beautiful handcrafted rug. Thank you in advance for your support.

SAFEGUARDING: From 1st January 2020 as per recommendations from the Catholic Professional Standards Ltd, Level One training is now **MANDATORY for all church workers** (clergy, religious staff and those who volunteer/work in any position with the parish). Date for training is **2nd April 2020**. Two sessions 10.00 am - 12.00 noon and 6.45 pm - 8.30 pm.

POSITION VACANT

Parish Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg invites applications for the position of Youth Ministry Co-ordinator. The Youth Ministry Co-ordinator is responsible for the evangelisation of young people by connecting them with the person of Christ and the Church through involvement in the parish community.

This is a full-time position within a supportive and positive team environment.

For further information, please contact the parish office at 4151 6666 or email bundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au. Applications will close on Monday, **16th December**.

LITURGIES

Monday 2 December 2019

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 3 December 2019

St Francis Xavier

9.00am St James' - LWC

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

Wednesday 4 December 2019

8.00am Shalom - Mass

5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 5 December 2019

6.30am St Mary's - Mass

Friday 6 December 2019

St Nicholas

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass

1:00pm Holy Rosary - Adoration

Saturday 7 December 2019

St Ambrose

7.30am St Mary's - Mass

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance

6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

8 December 2019

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year A (2)

7.00am St James'

8.00am Holy Rosary

9.00am St Mary's

5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES

for next Sunday

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Isaiah 2:1-5

In the 8th century B.C., the prophet Isaiah foresaw God's final judgment and the onset of peace among all nations. Do you think it is possible to establish peace among the nations without divine intervention?

Romans 13:11-14

Paul urges the believers in Rome to live a moral life in preparation for the end-times. What do you find challenging about Paul's instruction?

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus warns the disciples to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man since it will occur at an unexpected time. How would you advise to "stay awake" for this event?

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

CHRISTIAN GIFT & BOOKSTORE AT THE PARISH OFFICE

**Open: Monday to Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

*In association with the
Rockhampton Cathedral
Gift & Bookstore*

PREPARE



"So too, you also must be
prepared, for at an hour you
do not expect, the Son of
Man will come."

MATTHEW 24:44

GOSPEL REFLECTION

"I'm never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be 'asleep'?" In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. "In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away... two men will be out in the field... two women will be grinding at the mill, one will be taken, and one will be left." When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world's darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." There's another hour, too, both known and unknown. It's the present moment. Whether it's a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it's attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative's bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let's pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.