



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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*AFTER HOURS: Anointing of the sick for medical emergencies
phone 4151 6666 and follow the prompt*

Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

3rd Sunday of Easter

26 April 2020

FOCUS

by Mark Fox

Principal, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

As a young boy, set prayer was a very strict part of our family routine. Before we went off to school or work, our family stood in front of our print of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and recited the Morning Offering.

Immediately after the 7:00pm news on the ABC (there was no other channel), the television would be turned off, our rosary beads were distributed, and we would take turns leading the praying of the Rosary as a family. On occasion, my brothers and I would try and say our Hail Marys quickly, in an attempt to see as much as we could of the good television shows that began at 7:30 straight after the news. As soon as my parents realized what we were up to, they would stop us and start the whole Rosary over from the beginning – this time insisting it was said in a respectful manner.

I grew up thinking that prayers were very rigid and prescriptive – used only to pay homage to God, or to petition Him for some perceived need. I can clearly remember fervently asking God to help me get a good grade at school – even though I had done precious little study, and how I felt very let down by God when my prayers went unanswered. Clearly God did not have clear communication lines with the Christian Brothers who had the misfortune of trying to educate me.

Over time, prayer continued to change for me – for the better I think. Prayer became conversations with Jesus, where I'd share my concerns about life and seek guidance. Prayer became meditative where I'd practise just being still – and simply sitting with God for a bit. Prayer became expressions of gratitude as I learned that if you were truly grateful, you could never really be unhappy. As I changed how I prayed, I found prayer had changed me.

Recently I was asked about where I saw God in light of the suffering the Corona virus had caused. The fact is, I don't think God causes or intervenes at all in such tragic events. When I pray, I don't ask God to intervene magically from above.

Rather I use prayer to discern how I might make a difference to those in need. I ask what I can do to reach out to those affected. I ask what I can do to stop the spread of the disease. I ask what I can do to support our essential service personnel. The real power of prayer is in its ability to change us, so that we may in turn love others more authentically.

Where I do see God in tragedy, is in the love and selflessness that good people show. Fund raising for ravaged communities, donating to health research organisations or just taking a real and personal interest in the people affected, and doing whatever you can to help. This is prayer and love in action.

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Wednesday: 5:30 PM Games Club
Thursday: 5:30 PM Youth Prayer
Friday: 7:30 PM Young Adults

* All via Zoom *

For more information, please contact
Elizabeth Kelly at 0456 635 542

SCRIPTURES for next Sunday

3 May 2020 | 4th Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Acts 2:14, 36-41	1 Peter 2:20-25	John 10:1-10

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

PARISH NEWS

Parish Stewardship Council Feedback from April 2020 Meeting

It was a historic meeting for the Parish Stewardship Council last week held successfully online via Zoom which was attended by most members from their homes, work and Parish Office.

We spoke about St Mary's and the hope that once the COVID19 restrictions are lifted that there will be a gathering organised. In the interim, we invite any parishioner to send their St Mary's Church recollections to the Parish Office via email, by post or let us know if you would like your story and/or photos collected from you.

We discussed the online Easter Services and thanked the priests and Parish Team who are doing an amazing job. Our Parish weekday Masses will be streamed live from the Parish Office Chapel every Tuesday and Friday at 10AM, as well as Sunday 9AM from the Shalom Chapel. The bulletin is available on the parish website, at each Church on Friday and Saturday, or please advise the parish office if you prefer to have the bulletin emailed or delivered.

Our Youth Coordinators are creating a 'Good News' Newsletter for our Parish, if you have any good news stories please submit them to the Parish Office.

Our Parish Team is also reaching out to anyone who needs a weekly phone call during this time of self isolation and social distancing, if you would like to have regular contact with someone from the Parish Team please let them know.

At the end of the meeting, our Parish Stewardship Council Chair Trish Mears stood down after her three year term, and new Chair Nadia Fregonese and Deputy Chair Dr. Presly Varghese were inducted. Meetings will continue monthly via Zoom and as always please contact the Parish Office if you would like anything discussed.

Nadia Fregonese, Chairman

Passionist Family Group

As the Passionist Family Groups celebrate their 20th birthday celebration of family groups in our parish, you are all in my thoughts and prayers, and I trust that each one of you are keeping well and safe.

The National Co-ordinating team sent their love and prayers to us all via email and with modern technology we are also able to keep in touch in various other ways. It is wonderful to see what other family groups in Victoria, NSW, Hobart and Queensland are doing to keep in touch. There are many creative ways the family groups can keep in touch, and still be a "family for all" without our monthly get togethers. Also, maybe you would like to receive the Passionist Family Group newsletter which has some really good ideas.

I would like to thank everyone in the parish who has donated to Jeremiah House. They were truly grateful.

Take care and God bless.

Helen Mackie, Co-ordinator



"The Lord has truly been raised
has appeared to Simon!"

LUKE 24:34

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE STREAM MASS: Beginning this Sunday, 26th April 2020 and every Sunday thereafter. Link will be posted in the Parish Facebook page or please go to the Parish YouTube channel.

COMMUNICATION: At this time when we are unable to gather, it is important that we communicate. The parish team with the help of the Visitation team are calling as many parishioners as possible. If you know anyone who needs a call, please contact the office.

PARISH BULLETIN: Available at each of the churches every weekend. You may be able to assist the distribution by dropping one in the post box of a parishioner.

'WALK WITH ME' CD: A simple CD is available on request. The lyrics speak of Jesus washing our feet for the journey we live. For those who would like to have a copy, please ring the office or inform anyone from the Parish team.

LABOUR DAY: Monday, 4th May. Parish office will be closed.

CATHOLIC LEADER: NO paper copies at the moment. However, digital edition is now available to download and print. Please visit www.catholicleader.com or check the Parish Facebook post for web links and guides.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Terry Short

STAY HOME. *Stay Safe.* SAVE LIVES.

PROJECT COMPASSION Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

 www.bundabergcatholic.net.au

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