



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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Email: sbundaberg@rok.catholic.net.au

*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

6th Sunday of Easter

17 May 2020

FOCUS by Norm Whyte

PARISH LIFE FOR ME

For the past several years, I have been reflecting on the value of parish life for me. Some of the areas in which this has enriched my life are:

- an extended family;
- the sense of belonging
- the enjoyment of sharing in the ritual of our sacramental celebrations;
- celebrating as a community;
- a source of knowledge and wisdom, and new insights;
- a place of joy, and a place of solace and support when times are tough;
- regular meetings with long-term parish friends;
- often meeting new people of similar values and interests;
- the feeling of contribution something worthwhile, and
- opportunities to help others.

There are probably more aspects to the multi-faceted experience of belonging to parish, but these are foremost in my mind at the moment. I can't say that one is more important to me than another – they all contribute to my wellbeing and sense of worth in some way.

It is fortunate for me that I am part of our parish team, a group of people who are very committed to maintaining and growing a caring community, and one where it is possible to give to every person who comes into the sphere of influence of the Parish a human experience of the love of Jesus. This is why I go to work every weekday, and this is the reason why I place so much value in being part of our parish family.

I saw this caring mentality lived out in the parish office last week when a parishioner could not be contacted, so two employees drove to the woman's house to try to locate her. This attempt being unsuccessful, other parish employees drove there again a few hours later, only to be told that paramedics and police had that same day found the woman in her home and taken her to hospital, where sadly, she passed away 2 days later.

Right now, I see the parish at a crossroads. The current pandemic had imposed a life-changing bend in the road of our parish journey, and this new direction has forced us all to re-evaluate what we put into, and what we take out of parish life. It's not only re-evaluating the "what"; we need to also re-evaluate the "how".

Mentally, I cringe if I hear someone say "...when life gets back to normal." Because there were some aspects of "normal" that I believe we should not repeat. Putting it positively, the pandemic is directing us to do things differently, and better. For me, it has reminded me of the value of community, and of the daily need to reach out to those who could need a little help.

This reminds me of what I envisage the sense of community the disciples would have experienced when those amongst them needed support, and when parish life for them was one continual outreach. There were no telephones, no TV, no Skype, no Zoom. The disciples had to go out into the streets and get some dust on their sandals, and meet the people where the people were.

At these crossroads, I commend the prophetic nature of Fr. Peter's decision a few months ago to convene a parish planning committee to initiate parish consideration of what we want our church to look like in the future. Questions will be asked of us all, such as "What will it take to bring nominal catholics back to being practicing catholics?" We need also to describe and to prescribe the attributes of a "practising catholic". That person is not one who says, "she'll be right mate – each to his own" but rather one who goes out of his or her way to ask someone "are you ok?"

So, for me, parish life is part of my joy, my comfort, my support, companions on my journey, my road to a better world.

SCRIPTURES for next Sunday | 24 May 2020 | 7th Sunday of Easter

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

UPDATE: The Non-Essential Business Directives

A Road Map from the Queensland Government for the next few months in 3 stages:

Stage 1: From 15 May

- Weddings - 10 people including the priest
- Funerals - 20 people indoors and 30 outdoors including the priest
- Masses and baptisms - 10 people including the priest

Stage 2: From 12 June

- Weddings - 20 people including the priest
- Funerals - 50 people indoors and 30 outdoors including the priest
- Masses and baptisms - 20 people including the priest

Stage 2: From 10 July

- Weddings - 100 people including the priest
- Funerals - 100 people indoors and 30 outdoors including the priest
- Masses and baptisms - 100 people including the priest

Queensland Health asks that the following directives be applied to all gatherings.

The public health rules to maintain throughout this period now to 10 July 2020:

- Physical distancing
- 4 square metres per person when indoors
- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene
- Frequently environmental cleaning and disinfection

Lighter Side

Home in Heaven



A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the pearly gates waiting for them.

“Come with me,” said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine, from a bowling alley to an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

“Wow, thank you,” said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

“Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,” said the pastor. “Shouldn’t I be the one who gets the mansion? After all, I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God’s word.”

“Yes, that’s true,” said St. Peter. “But during your sermons, people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.”

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Dennis McCusker (Rockhampton), Val Woodward, Catherine Solano, Carlos Antolin (Philippines), Michael Borg (Melbourne), Terry Short



“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

JOHN 14:21

Schedule of LIVE STREAM MASS

Tuesday: 10:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am

Sunday: 9:00 am

and

Church Chat with Fr Peter
every Tuesday

via the Parish YouTube channel

[youtube.com/TheCatholicParishofBundaberg](https://www.youtube.com/TheCatholicParishofBundaberg)



YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Friday: 7:30 PM Young Adults

* All via Zoom *

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

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

Good hygiene is in your hands.

Together we can help stop the spread and stay healthy.

Visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)

