

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Year A, 21 December, 2025

Embracing the communities of
Cherbourg, Goomeri, Murgon,
Proston and Wondai



Unity in diversity ... being one in Christ through Baptism!



Matthew 1: 18-24

Problems and difficulties are part of life: some of our own making, and others not. Joseph is caught up in a problem not of his own making. Mary, his betrothed, appears to have been unfaithful. How is Joseph going to resolve this heartache – his dark night? As a man of honour, Joseph does not act in haste nor in the heat of hurt emotions. He gives himself time – sleeping on his problem and waiting for divine light. In his sleep, Joseph is informed by an angel of Mary's situation – the blessing bestowed upon his beloved. Furthermore, Joseph is invited to accept the challenging situation and to co-operate with God by taking responsibility for Mary and her child. Joseph accepts God's invitation, however demanding. Doing God's will is always a blessing, but often costly. We too when confronted with problematic situations, like Joseph, would profit from waiting upon the Lord in prayer for light and the grace to act with integrity, charity and justice. Like Joseph, we too may come to recognise that our

way forward is to accept and take responsibility, we too may come to recognise that our way forward is to accept and take responsibility for the situation which may not be to our liking but, nevertheless, may facilitate unforeseen blessings for us and others.

(God's Word, Daily Reflections, 2025)



Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday, 24 December,
Wondai at 5.00pm

Thursday, 25 December,
Murgon at 8.00am

Thursday, 25 December,
Gayndah at 10.30am

Sunday, 28 December,
Mundubbera at 2.30pm

Sunday, 28 December,
Goomeri at 6.00pm

New Year's Day (Mary, the Holy Mother of God)

Thursday, 1 January, **Murgon**,
8.00am

Thursday, 1 January, **Gayndah**
10.30am

Masses for the First Sunday in
January 3/4 are as our usual First
Sunday Masses.

Weekend Mass schedule

4th Sunday of Month - 27/28 December

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah
Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera
Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

1st Sunday of Month - 3/4 January

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon
Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

2nd Sunday of Month - 10/11 December

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
(Liturgy of the Word)
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Cherbourg
Sunday, 2.30pm, Mundubbera
Sunday, 6.00pm, Goomeri

3rd Sunday of Month - 17/18 December

Thursday, 9.00am, Castra, Murgon
Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon
Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah

Christmas readings

Isaiah 9: 1-7; Titus 2: 11-14;
Luke 2: 1-14

Response:

Today is born our Saviour Christ
the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great
joy to all the world: today is born our
Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!



"GOD IS WITH US"

In the Hebrew text of Isaiah the word used for 'young girl' (almah) does not necessarily connote the idea of virginity – simply a young woman of marriageable age. Also part of the sign is the name she is planning to give her child: Emmanuel – "God is with us". Taken together, the conception of the child and the name he is to bear constitute a sign that, despite the present troubles, God remains "with" the People.

The annunciation of Jesus' birth in Matthew (1:18-24) follows straight on from the Genealogy (1:1-17) with which the Gospel begins. Four times within the otherwise relentlessly male list of Jesus' ancestors there are references to women: Tamar, whom Judah violated; Rahab, who had been a prostitute; Ruth, the Moabitess; and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba), whom King David adulterously took to himself.

In each case a note of sexual impropriety or irregularity attends the reference – not so much because of what the women themselves have done but because of what has been done to them. The genealogy shows how the divine thread of salvation has run through much unsavory human history.

PREPARE THE GROUND

The four references to women in the account of Jesus' ancestry prepare the ground for the situation of Jesus' mother Mary. We, the readers, are told that her pregnancy has come about "through the Holy Spirit" (v

18). But no one else knows that, including, at this point, Joseph.

Since betrothal was considered equivalent to marriage, Mary's situation is precarious in the extreme; she stands liable to the severe penalties laid down in the Mosaic Law for adultery (stoning: cf. John 8:1-11). Obedience to the Law requires Joseph to divorce Mary but, being, as the text says, a "righteous person" (JB's "man of honour" is quite misleading), he wants to do so in a way that will spare her as much public shame as possible.

In this he "models" keeping the Law in the way that Jesus will command, giving priority to values such as forgiveness, mercy and compassion (the "weightier matters of the Law" [23:23]).

The angelic messenger turns everything around for Joseph. Mary's pregnancy has not come about through infidelity but through the agency of God's Holy Spirit. The child she is to bear is to carry the name and role of Josue – the great "saviour" figure of Israel. Only, here the saving role will not be a matter of military conquest but that of rescuing the people from sin, freeing them, that is, from all that stands in the way of a vital and life-giving relationship to God.

(Extract from an article by Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, Australian Catholics)



Dear Friend,

As Australians come to know more about the tragedy

and horror of the shootings at Bondi, we pray for all those who were killed and injured, for their families, for the Jewish community and for the wider Australian community.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe said in a

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Parish website:
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We pray for those who are sick:

Graham Burgess; Mary Davitt; Rodney Euler; Colin Heit; Nerla Knight; John Kruger; Dr Graham McAllister; Carmel McKeering; Bob Ricketts; Joshua Smith; Kai Vera.

Recently deceased: Barry Bolton (previously of Ballogie).

statement that the 'loss of innocent lives is a tragedy beyond measure'.

"Our horror at what has happened must become the source of a determination to turn our backs on all acts of violence and blind hatred.

"The prayers of all people of religious faith will accompany those who, in the days, weeks and months ahead will be struggling with the physical, psychological and spiritual consequences of Sunday evening's awful events."

We stand in sorrowful solidarity with our neighbours, particularly those in the Australian Jewish community, and pray for God's peace.

Blessings,
Michele Frankeni,
Australian Catholics editor

Collections 13/14 December 2025

Murgon	\$426.55
Wondai.....	\$123.00
Goomeri.....	\$145.00
Piety Stall	\$10.00
Total:	\$704.55