

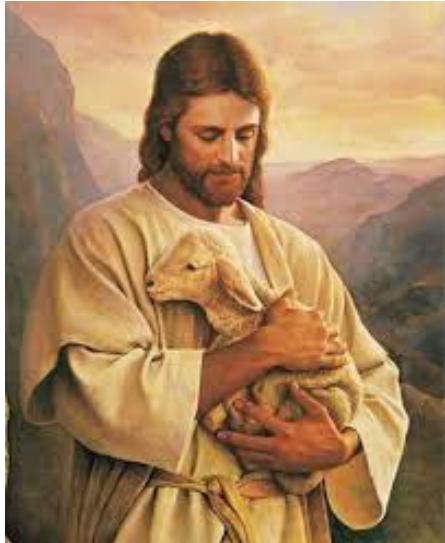
St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Second Sunday in Ord. Time
Year A, 18 January, 2026

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



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



John 1:29-34

John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah long awaited by many generations. But he confesses that, at first, he did not recognise him, most probably because Jesus had come in a different mould. Jesus has joined the company of people lining up for John's baptism of repentance. It is by the Holy Spirit who descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove that John is able to identify Jesus as the Messiah. In introducing Jesus as "the Lamb of God", John attributes to Jesus an identity that is entirely different from people's expectations. Yet, it is a familiar image known and valued by Jewish believers. The lamb is offered as a burnt sacrifice in the Temple for the remission of the sins of the people. Jesus as 'the Lamb of God' has a lifestyle and a ministry characterised by a humble and meek spirit. After having completed a ministry of mercy and reconciliation, Jesus would be led to Calvary, the altar of holocaust, where he would offer the last drop of his blood as expiation for our sins. Isaiah's prophecy about the lamb led to the slaughter that

did not rebel, that did not fight back, is fulfilled in Jesus, the Suffering Servant of God.

The Lamb of God was once slain but now lives forever. Jesus won salvation for us by his obedience to his Father's will. His offering was perfect and final. We can now unite our suffering and sacrifices to those of Jesus who will help us overcome our difficulties and, like him, emerge triumphant.

(God's Word 2026)



World Day of Prayer 2026

Join our local prayer service focused on Nigeria

Date and Time: 6 March at 9.30am

Venue: Church of Christ, Murgon

Address: 20 Thorn Street, Murgon

Contact: Elaine Thompson

Mobile 0419 693 602

Could you please advise if you can attend (catering) and if you can participate in the readings.

Weekend Mass schedule

4th Sunday of Month - 24/25 January

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 - 31 Jan / 1 February

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 - 7/8 February

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 - 14/15 February

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

Christmas readings

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; Corinthians 1: 1-3;
John 1: 29-34

Response:

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!



Pope Leo XIV Meets Venezuelan Nobel Peace Prize Winner Maria Corina Machado at the Vatican

In a moment charged with both pastoral concern and global significance, Pope Leo XIV welcomed Venezuelan political leader and human rights advocate Maria Corina Machado to the Apostolic Palace, offering a visible sign of the Church's continued attention to the suffering and future of the Venezuelan people.

According to Vatican News, the meeting took place at the Vatican following a series of papal audiences and comes at a critical juncture for Venezuela, which has been gripped by political turmoil, economic collapse, and violence for more than a decade. Machado, a former member of Venezuela's National Assembly and leader of the opposition party Vente Venezuela, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2025 for her nonviolent resistance and advocacy for democratic reform.

The encounter occurred just days after the dramatic capture of Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, during a U.S. military operation carried out in Caracas on 3 January. Maduro, long accused of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism, is currently being held in the United States, according to Vatican News. The aftermath of the operation was marked by deadly violence, with approximately 80 people killed, including civilians and military personnel.

In the wake of those events, Pope Leo XIV publicly expressed his grave concern for Venezuela. During his Angelus address on 4 January, he

stated that "the good of the beloved Venezuelan people must prevail over every other consideration," calling for an end to violence and a renewed commitment to justice and peace, according to Vatican News. The Holy Father emphasised the need to guarantee national sovereignty while upholding the dignity of every human person.

The Pope further urged respect for "the human and civil rights of each and every person" and appealed for collective efforts to "build a peaceful future of cooperation, stability and harmony, with special attention to the poorest who are suffering because of the difficult economic situation," according to Vatican News.

Machado's visit to the Vatican also comes as Venezuela enters a fragile transition period. The country is currently under interim governance, and reports have emerged of political prisoners being released, developments that have drawn cautious optimism from the international community. Vatican News reports that Machado is expected to travel to Washington this week for talks with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Pope Leo XIV reiterated his message to the international diplomatic corps on 9 January, again addressing Venezuela's crisis. He called for efforts to build "a society founded on justice, truth, freedom and fraternity" and appealed to all parties to "respect the will of the Venezuelan people, and to safeguard the human and civil rights of all, ensuring a future of stability and concord," according to Vatican News.

For Catholics around the world, the Pope's meeting with Maria Corina Machado stands as a reminder that the Church does not retreat from the world's suffering but seeks to illuminate it with the light of the Gospel. In moments of national trauma and uncertainty, the Holy Father continues to point toward reconciliation rooted in truth, peace



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We pray for those who are sick:

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

and recently deceased:

Leslie Patrick Bond; Mary Davitt.

grounded in justice, and hope
sustained by faith.

As Venezuela faces an uncertain path forward, the Vatican's voice remains clear: authentic renewal can only be built upon the dignity of the human person and the moral responsibility of leaders to serve the common good.

*(Abigail James, Vatican News,
14 January 2026)*



Holy Mary pray for us

Collections 10/11 January 2026

Murgon	\$510.00
Wondai.....	\$130.05
Goomeri.....	\$109.00
Total:	\$759.05