

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Year A, 22 March, 2026

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



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



John 11: 1-45

Jesus' act of reviving Lazarus from the dead appears to have been something he undertook only with a degree of reluctance. Not only did he delay his going to see him, but spoke of his revival as a matter of "waking one who sleeps". Moreover, Lazarus would have died at some time thereafter undergoing all the sufferings of physical death a second time. The miracle perhaps benefited those who witnessed it more than poor Lazarus himself! It behoves us to accept physical death as an integral part of mortal life, something neither to be dreaded nor to be mourned excessively. Since Christ, who is himself the Resurrection and the life, assures us of eternal happiness in the world to come, let us view physical death, not as an inexplicable tragedy, but rather as a transition from limitations of this passing life to something unimaginably greater.

(God's Word, Reflections 2026)

Project Compassion Lenten Prayer

God of all love, we remember that on the night before he died Your son, Jesus, prayed that his friends "may all be one" Yet we see so much division in the world. War, conflict, violence and hatred must all distress you.

Millions of people suffer when they don't have peace and respect. They lack the necessities of life, food, water, health, education and security.

We pray that we may all *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*. May our support for **Project Compassion** be a sign to ourselves and others, of our hope for a better world.

This Lent, we pray that our dedication To prayer, fasting and almsgiving Will help restore your vision of justice and peace.

Guided by the Holy Spirit,
We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

Mass times for Holy Week

Palm Sunday - 28 /29 March

Murgon Parish

Saturday, 9.00am, Proston
Saturday, 5.00pm, Wondai
Sunday, 8.00am, Murgon

Gayndah Parish

Sunday, 10.30am, Gayndah
Sunday, 10.30am, Mundubbera
Sunday, 2.30pm, Eidsvold

Holy Week - 2, 3, 4 and 5/April

Murgon Parish

Holy Thursday (2 April) 9.00am, Murgon
Holy Thursday (2 April) 9.00am, Castra

Good Friday (3 April) 10.00am, Wondai
Good Friday (3 April) 3.00pm, Murgon

Easter Vigil (4 April) 5.00pm, Wondai
Easter Sunday (5 April), 8.00am, Murgon

Gayndah Parish

Holy Thursday (2 April) 7.00pm, Gayndah

Good Friday (3 April) 10.00am, Gayndah
Good Friday (3 April) 3.00pm, Gayndah

Easter Vigil (4 April) 6.30pm, Gayndah
Easter Sunday (5 April) 9.00am, Mundubbera

Today's readings

Ezekiel 37: 12-14; Romans 8: 8-11;
John 11:1-45

Response:

With the Lord there is mercy and
fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ! I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord; whoever believes in me will
not die for ever, Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!



Fifth Sunday of Lent

It must be difficult for somebody who has never experienced love to understand the Gospels. They are so full of different emotions, many of them tender. Just think of the beautiful reconciliation between Jesus and Peter after the resurrection. Jesus allows Peter to say that he loves him on no less than three occasions. Thankfully, most of us can write down a long list of people we have loved and who have loved us. Many names would appear on both lists! We keep a special place in our hearts and prayers for the people we know who have died. Even after a long time, their memory will still bring a tear to our eyes. That sorrow comes from a place of deep gratitude. God changes the world one heart at a time.

When we encounter today's Gospel, the story of the raising of Lazarus, we are in a world of emotion. Martha and Mary are grieving for their rother. Jesus loves these two women. Thomas, the twin, is full of bravado and bluster, just as he was later when he wanted proof of the resurrection. Both Martha and Mary are disappointed, even angry, that Jesus has not come sooner. Jesus weeps at the grave of his friend. The mourners who have come to comfort the family must also have been sensitive to the situation. When Jesus says, 'I am the resurrection and the life', he is not explaining an idea. He is responding to the deepest longings of our hearts, as he always does. Today's Psalm

reminds us, 'My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watcher for daybreak.'

Over the last few weeks, we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. They call us to *Unite Against Poverty*.

This week Project Compassion asks us to learn more about the work of Caritas Australia in humanitarian emergencies. There are so many situations around the world that require a timely response. Caritas is active in the aftermath of earthquakes, floods, storms, plagues, drought and failed harvests. Of course, there will be time to enquire about the causes and to ask if climate change may have been a factor or if poor building standards caused problems. But first, people and communities need to survive, and Caritas has a lot of experience in this area. Your generosity to Project Compassion makes a wonderful difference to people in need. Thank you for helping to bring light to dark places. Jesus says about Lazarus, 'unbind him, let him go free.' We too can set people free.

(Project Compassion, Parish Booklet, 2026)



Prayer of Intercession

For those coping with humanitarian emergencies in many countries around the world, that our donations to Project Compassion this Lent make a positive difference to people in need. *(Pause for silent prayer)*

We pray to the Lord.



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We pray for those who are sick:

Therese Bolger; Amira Bond;
Graham Burgess; Rodney Euler;
Colin Heit; Margaret Hobbs;
Nerla Knight; John Kruger;
Dr Graham McAllister; Carmel McKeering;; Bob Ricketts; Greg Ryan;
Joe Ryan; Joshua Smith; Kai Vera;
Judith Wessling.



INVITATION

A celebration for the entire Archdiocese

Archbishop Shane Mackinlay invites you to the annual, CHRISM MASS, to be held on, **Thursday, 26 March 2026** at 7.00pm, at the Cathedral of Saint Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.

All Welcome. The undercover carpark will be available from 6.00pm

Collections 14/15 March 2026

Murgon \$371.90

Wondai..... \$106.00

Total:.....\$477.90