St Brigid's Parish

Stuart - Wulguru - Woodstock

11 January 2026

On behalf of St Brigid's Parish, our Parish Priest and Parishioners,
We welcome any new members to be part of our community. "All Members are a gift from God", so a very warm "Welcome" to you.

Get in Touch!

Parish Priest
Fr Damian McGrath

Admin Assistant
Jo-Anne O'Brien

Phone
07 4778 1219

Office
Mon/Tue & Thu/Fri 9-12

The office is located behind St Joseph the Worker

276 Stuart Dve Wulguru

Postal Address

PO Box 2490, Idalia Q 4811

stbrigids@tsv.catholic.org.au

www.stbrigids.au

facebook.com/stbrigids.au

Through our Baptism we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.
Through the love of Jesus Christ, we live and share the Good news with all.

Virtues, *Explained!*

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac – Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."** It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir

Rosters Weekend of 17/18 January		Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 9.00am
	Readers	1. Paula Bailey 2. Debra Fulton	1. Antony Jobby 2. Andrews Jobby
	Special Ministers	Joan Neal & Volunteer	Jobby's
	Cleaning	Team C	
	Counting	Cox/Menkens (10/11 Jan) - Patsy/Jo-Anne (24/25 Jan)	

The Pastor's Pen!

It's time for a full-form version of our newsletter again. I was very tempted to run with the short version, so as to save myself the effort of writing this column, but there are a few items that we need to begin advertising.

Thank you to all those who assisted in ways large or small with our Christmas Masses. The numbers at the 5.00pm Mass still surprise me. There were as many as 350 people present. Our church fits 200 people when we are jammed in. We have 45 chairs available for use in the Annex. There were about 100 people standing.

People came from all over Townsville for the earliest Vigil Mass in the city. It was very popular among those with young children and some of our senior citizens. I do have to think about a few more chairs for next year. I don't like to see people standing.

As I was celebrating Mass at St Brigid's last Sunday evening, it dawned on me that the next Mass will be on the actual Feast Day of St Brigid. We will have a slightly earlier 5.00pm Mass on that evening at St Brigid's Church followed by a meal at the Stuart Hotel for those who are interested. Sign up sheets will be available next weekend.

Immediately prior to Christmas, I received notification that we were unsuccessful in our grant application for works on St Brigid's Church. We still need to look at undertaking some serious repair work on the Church and working out how we will pay for it. I will give an update on our finances in the next newsletter (having spent some time in the past couple of weeks ensuring that our 2025 accounts were accurate and that depreciation was calculated).

The day after St Brigid's Feast Day is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This is also the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, a day in which we pray for Religious Priests, Sisters and Brothers and for vocations to Religious Life. It has been a few years since we held a special Diocesan Mass on this day. Wulguru has been asked to host a morning Mass followed by Morning Tea, thus providing airconditioned comfort to those who will be present.

The following weekend, on the World Day of Marriage, there will be a special Mass at the Cathedral for all those celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries during this coming year. You will find this advertised within.

Fr D.

Our Parish

Parish Mission Council

Louise Vella-Cox
Joan Neal
John Nuss
Laurie Adcock
Rob McCahill
Patricia Argaet
Mingle Jobby
Megan Wuersching

Parish Finance Council

Aileen Marangone
Mark Menkens
Jenny Gill
Sue Reilly
Greg McCahill

St Joseph the Worker

276-280 Stuart Drive,
Wulguru Q 4811

St Christoper's Church

91 Old Flinders Hwy,
Woodstock Q 4816

St Brigid's Church

523 Stuart Drive
Roseneath Q 4811

Southern Cross Catholic College

07 4778 3444
sctsv.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Megan Wuersching

Mass Times

This Weekend

Wulguru	Sat 6.00pm Sun 9.00am

This Week

Monday	Wulguru 5.30
Tuesday	Adoration 4.30 Wulguru 5.30
Wednesday	Wulguru 5.30
Thursday	Wulguru 5.30

Next Weekend

Wulguru	Sat 6.00pm Sun 9.00am
St Brigids	**1 February**

Confessions

12pm to 12.15pm Saturday
Or by appointment

Notices and Events

Children's Liturgy

This will be suspended over the Christmas Holiday period and will recommence on the weekend of 31 January—1 February.

Feast of St Brigid

On Sunday 1 February, we celebrate the Feast Day of the patron saint of our parish St Brigid of Kildare. There will be a special Feast Day Mass at St Brigid's Church at 5.00pm. This will be followed by a meal at the Stuart Hotel. Save the Date.

Celebrating Consecrated Life

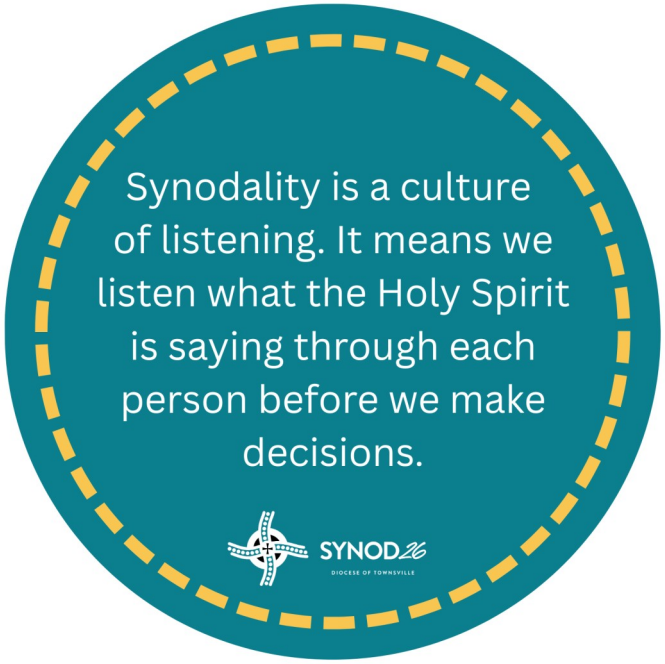
Join us to honour the religious men and women of our community on World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. We will celebrate their dedicated service on Monday 2 February, 10.00am, St Joseph's the Worker Church, Wulguru (276 Stuart Drive) with a festive morning tea to follow the liturgy. All are welcome.

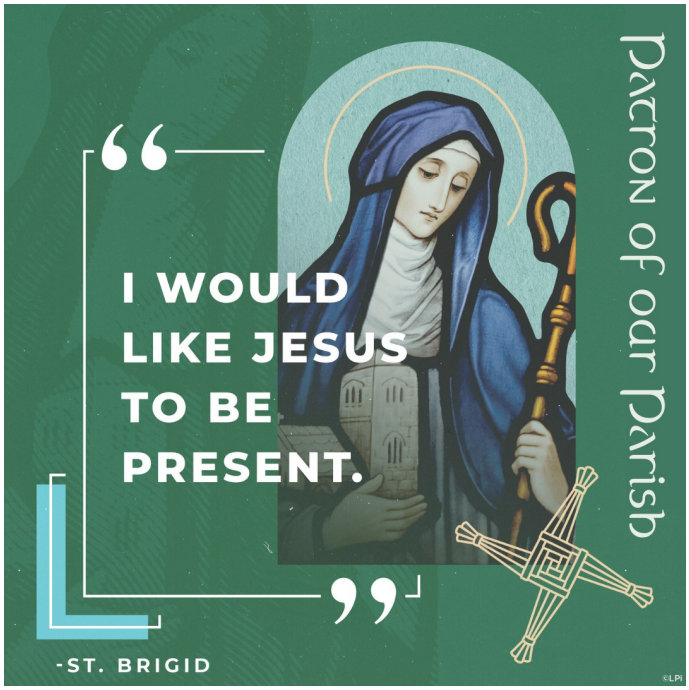
A Celebration of Marriage

Celebrate the joy of lifelong commitment at our special Mass for the World Day of Marriage. We warmly invite all couples marking a milestone anniversary in 2026 to receive a special blessing. Join us for this beautiful diocesan celebration on Sunday 8 February, 10.00am, Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Synod 2026

What do you think God is asking us at this time? Our Diocese is in a time of deep listening to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. You are invited to share your voice by submitting a reflection or hosting a listening session. Visit tsvcath.au/listening to share your responses through our Online Listening Portal.





A Promise to Safeguard All

The Catholic Diocese of Townsville recognises that safeguarding is an ongoing journey of learning, improvement, and cultural change. Continuous efforts are made to enhance awareness, improve practices, take a zero-tolerance stance against any form of abuse, and create safer communities for all. Please visit tsv.catholic.org.au/safeguarding to access the safeguarding policy, its procedures and resource documents.

To report a concern about abuse or misconduct concerning church personnel: contact the Diocese of Townsville directly P: 4726 3264 or E: diocese@tsv.catholic.org.au; or make a disclosure to the Professional Standards Office Queensland (PSOQ) by downloading a disclosure form at psoqld.catholic.net.au and send to PO Box 3264 Brisbane Q 4001 or E: psoqld@catholic.net.au. Alternatively, contact PSOQ on 3324 3070 or 1800 337 928 (free call).

Vocations Views

Baptism is the starting point; union with God is our goal. How we serve others in between is our Vocation

Please keep in your prayers:

Prayers FOR Healing

Peter Dangerfield, May Williamson, Anne-Maree Cashin, Debra Craig, Maureen Milchem, Linda Sibley, Laura Farquhar, Lisa Haines, Margaret Catchpole, Matilda Lee, Genevieve Cochrane, Amelia Cart, Henri & Hansel Bekiesch, Toni Evans, Anne Burgess, and all in need of our prayers.

May the Lord's healing hand rest upon them

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: When the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

When Jesus Wades In
Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person "born of women" — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, "Allow it for now." John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?
Catholic Life Explained

Question:

At times, temptation seems so powerful that it is almost impossible to resist. Hov can I be stronger in my resolve to avoid sin and temptation?

Answer:

The saints have written that every huma person desires the good. In a sense, we don't desire sin itself. Temptation is powerful because there is at least some bit of good in it. Even in the blackest of sin, there is something good that becomes twisted. We can look for good in sin when we feel it is lacking in our ov life. When we lack true relational intima it can be easy to turn to lust. When we lack confidence in God in our own lives, it can be easy to judge others or to gras for control over situations. When we lac peace in the present moment, it can be easy to compete with others or to treat others poorly in our quest for success.

Overcoming temptation isn't just about repressing our sinful desires. If that's all we do, they'll just burst out someplace else! If there is a recurring temptation in your life, prayerfully consider why this is so appealing to you. Submit this to God and bring it to a wise person. And in the meantime, continue to resist temptation to sin. If we fail to choose God in small choices, we're several steps down the road towards failing in larger ones. Pray for the grace to persevere!

SAVE THE DATE

Synod Listening Session

Sunday, January 18, after the 9am Mass.

"What do you think God is asking of our Diocese at this time?"
One Spirit. Many Voices. Help shape the path for Synod 2026.

SYNOD26
DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

The BAPTISM of the LORD Year A

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

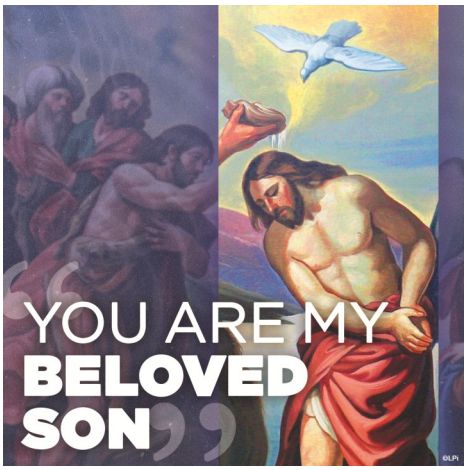
Psalm

R/ The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)

The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: Glory!' The Lord sat



enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

Gospel

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Psalm response & Gospel Acclamation from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. Psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England. Scripture texts from the Jerusalem Bible, © 1966, 1967 and 1968 Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, All texts used by permission of the publishers. All rights reserved.

Scan to donate