Today’s readings are filled with contrasts: rich and poor, darkness and light, division and unity, withdrawal and leadership. Speaking to us today, Isaiah offers the image of rich nations being humbled. He foretells the coming of a savior from the poor, lowly land of Galilee. The second reading revealed the division in the early church as the newly baptised searched for their identity, aligning themselves to the one who baptized them. Paul had to remind them that the fledgling church had only one leader, Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ. Paul boldly challenged the people of Corinth, and challenges us today, to be “perfectly united in mind and thought.” In our Gospel, we hear that Jesus (who was, indeed, perfectly united in mind and thought with God) withdrew after hearing of John’s imprisonment, moved to Capernaum, and from there began calling forth those who would be his disciples. Finally, Psalm 27 proclaims “The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?” We can imagine David, and even Jesus, calling out to the Lord in their darkness and fear.

Two millennia later, we continue to call upon God to lead us out of our darkness. In our human experience, it is difficult to truly know the strength of the light unless we have experienced some form of physical, emotional or spiritual darkness. We can’t know the peace of unity without experiencing the pain of division. We can’t know the impact we can have on one person or on our world without seeing the emptiness caused by solitude and scarcity. Historically, division has had disastrous results. In the United States, divisive elections fractured a country that now struggles to unify. Following in the footsteps of Isaiah and Paul, luminaries such as Mahatma Gandhi, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and today, Pope Francis have shown us that we can live lives of peace and unity. Our challenge is to find methods to apply them in our country, in our communities, in our workplaces, in our homes, in our places of worship, and most importantly, within ourselves.

When we truly examine our hearts, where do we dwell? Do we dwell in the darkness that is ignorance and self-righteousness? Do we go through our days with an “us vs. them,” or “mine vs. yours” mentality? Do we withdraw and hoard our God-given gifts and treasures from those who truly need them? While we are dualistic by nature, God is not an either/or God. God is a both/and God. In today’s readings, God meets and walks with us in the darkness, in the division and in the solitude, calling us to light, unity and action. In the busyness of our days, how often do we ignore God, who is constantly and lovingly calling us to this wholeness?

Throughout our lives, the tension between dark and light, division and unity, withdrawal and leadership is one way God draws us into a deeper relationship. As we go forth this week, let us look at our lives and contemplate how God is calling us from our own physical, mental or spiritual darkness into light, from our unthinking words and actions that divide to words of peace that have the power to heal and mend relationships. And let us to consider the gifts and talents we can share with others who are struggling. How many of us can honestly say we are “perfectly united in mind and thought” with one another and with God? That is today’s challenge.
Recently we welcomed Oliver George,
Caitlin Sophia and Zach Robert,
children of Matthew and Melinda Auld.

Thank you to all those who supported the St. Mary’s Race Day. What a great day! These types of events do not organise themselves, so we sincerely and greatly thank Denise McCormack and her band of helpers that have worked so tirelessly to bring this event together. The money raised will go toward the painting of the church and parish centre.

Thank you one and all!!! God Bless.

Fancy a game of Indoor Bowls or Cards. Come along to the Parish Centre at 9.30am on 23rd January.

The next St. Mary’s Luncheon will be held on the 6th March, commencing at 11.30am in the Parish Centre. Come and enjoy some time with friends. All Welcome.

Parish Meetings
Parish Council
Thursday, 9th February at 3.30pm in the Parish House.

Parish Finance Committee
Monday, 6th February at 5.30pm in the Parish Centre.

St Vincent De Paul Meeting
Monday, 30th January at 5.00pm at the Vinnies Store.
Weekday and Weekend Masses

Wednesday..............5.30pm and Friday..............12.15pm

21st/22nd January, 2017
Mass time change due to St Mary’s Race Day on Saturday 21st.
SUNDAY EVENING: 6.00pm

28th/29th January, 2017 (5th Sunday)
SUNDAY MORNING: 9.00am

4th/5th February, 2017
SATURDAY EVENING: 6.00pm Goondiwindi
SUNDAY MORNING: 8.00am Weengallon and 10.00am Daymar

11th/12th February, 2017
SUNDAY EVENING: 6.00pm Goondiwindi

18th/19th February, 2017
SUNDAY MORNING: 9.00am Goondiwindi

WE PRAY FOR Those who have entered your kingdom: including
Monica Nichols, Barbara Bishop, Marie Gore, Pat Parson (Margaret
Oliver's daughter), Sr Joan MacGinley, RSM, Alicia Devine, Desley
Hawker, Greg Oliver, Sr. Colleen Carney, Sr Bess Turvey, Mary Loveday,
Timothy Lawless-Pyne, Fr. Mick Skehan, Audrey Albeck, Peter Ints, David
Hiles, Shirley Byrne, Mona O’Brien, Norm Hilderson, Chris Finlayson,
Maria Magoffin, Mel McGuire, Alma Betts, Darren Benecke, Robert
Picking, Len Collins, Vince Mullins, Mary Terry;

For all whose anniversary is at this time: including Patrick Morrissy,
Brett Linton, Joan Price, Molly McDonald, Joan Turvey, James ‘Ally’
Brennan, Joyce Turvey, Georgia Bourke, Carolyn Sewell, Paul Zacka,
Albert Knight, , David Webster, Leslie “Cloudy” Marsh, Willy Heynen,
Kevin Percival, Joan Smith, Irene “Ronnie” Blomley, Marj McMillan, Patrick
Burns, Beth Cook, Thelva O’Shea, Lynn Sutton, Rachel Cowmeadow;

For those who are ill: including Tom Turvey, Rosemary Lawson, Bill
Dyer, Trish Dyer, Brian Freeney, Deanna Dawson, Anne Hunt, Kevin
Lawless, Ray Mackie, Peter Keehn, Joan Fleming, Frank Brosnan, Gloria
Bale, David Croft, Tim Bourke, Pat and Teresa Mullins, Joe Cowmeadow,
Shirley Schluter, Stasia Lawless, Paul Lloyd, Mavis Gordon, Jean
Ramada, Stella McGovern, Jean Sizer, Francis Lloyd, Madonna Nicoletti,
Kathy McDonald, Steph Adamson, Bailey Brennan, Pauline Robinson, Win
Skinner, Sonya Horgan, Helen Paige, John Toohey, Marie Cook, Phillip
Carney, Shirley Riley, Therese Sullivan and Joseph Hord; also those ill at
home, in hospital and for those in Kaloma.

We welcome those ill at
Skinner, Sonya Horrigan, Helen Paige, John Toohey, Marie Cook, Phillip
Kathy McDonald, Steph Adamson, Bailey Brennan, Pauline Robinson, Win
Skinner, Sonya Horgan, Helen Paige, John Toohey, Marie Cook, Phillip
Carney, Shirley Riley, Therese Sullivan and Joseph Hord; also those ill at
home, in hospital and for those in Kaloma.

Lord, be merciful to your servants, the Bishops and Priests of this Diocese,
welcome them into the company of your Saints, in the Kingdom of light and
peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

If you would like to include the name of someone in these lists, please check with the person
or family concerned and then phone Kath on 4671 5087 (Thursday 9am to 3pm).

Let us pray for all those clergy whose anniversaries occur during this month:
Rev. Fr. Thomas Concannon (01/01/48) Rev Fr. William Hall (11/01/95)
Rev. Fr. William Behm (23/01/06) Rev. Fr. Howard Crowe (31/01/36)

WELCOMERS AT DOOR
JILL LENNON & ANNE WEBSTER (22/01)
KAREN CAIRNS & MARY BELL (29/01)
ROSE KEEHN AND DI DALZIEL (05/02)

WELCOMER AT MICROPHONE
PAT THOMPSON (22/01)
ROBYN LINDORES (29/01)
CLAIRE CHARLES (05/02)

1ST READER/PSALM
MARY COLLINS (22/01)
CAMILLE KELLOWAY (29/01)
ANDREW ERBACHER (05/02)

2ND READING/ALLELUIA
CLAIRE CHARLES (22/01)
ST MARY’S SCHOOL STAFF (29/01)
ANN WEBSTER (05/02)

EUCHARIST MINISTERS
CARMEL GEESON, SUE MCGOVERN & DAWN CLANCY (22/01)
MICK CLANCY, ROS PHILLIPS & BRETT POLLARD (29/01)
MARY BURCHELL, ST. MARY’S & DAWN LLOYD (05/02)

DATA PROJECTOR
CARMEL SCHAUMBURG (22/01)
MARY COLLINS (29/01)
ST MARY’S STAFF (05/02)

MONEY COUNTERS
DENISE MCCORMACK & JENNIFER LAWLESS
(22/01)
TERESA HEYSEN & BELL FAMILY (29/01)
KERRY O’CONNOR & CLAIRE CHARLES
(05/02)

GROUNDS ROSTER
JANUARY: MICHAEL & JACK SCHAUMBURG
FEBRUARY: PHIL & CAROL ORMES

Thank you for your contributions:
11/01/17

ENVELOPES $420.00
LOOSE $286.00
3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
22nd January, 2017

Introduction
Jesus begins his healing ministry by calling ordinary people — simple fishermen — to follow him. What was it about his invitation that appealed to them, caused them to accept it? One would not have guessed what was yet to come of his being and doing. We never know the outcome of an invitation or a promise that is made. We are called in many ways, most of them simple. We don’t know where we will be led. Our task is to keep our hearts and minds open to God’s calling, however or whenever it may come.

First Reading
Isaiah 8:23-9:3
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord is my light and my salvation

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Paul urges unity among the dissenting Corinthians.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick

Gospel
Matthew 4:12-23
Jesus begins his ministry.

Prayers of the Faithful
For courage when we are called to act on behalf of others, especially those most in need ... we pray,

For those who have no sense of direction or do not realise that they are being called ... we pray,

For those who feel alone in their ministry or life calling ... we pray,

For those who are ministering in dangerous situations or places ... we pray,

For those whose calling is impeded by others — by individuals or institutions ... we pray,

For the sick, the dying and the grieving among us; and for those who have died ... we pray,

Let us pray together:
God, who calls us as you called Jesus, we come to you for your help. Give us the desire to know him more deeply, to understand the meaning of our calling, and the strength to follow him wherever we must go. We ask this in his holy name, Amen.