

# Catholic Parish of Walkerston ( including Eton )

## St John's + Holy Cross

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time : Year C 9th February 2025



*REFLECTION* by Nick Brodie

'God does not want a cruise ship,' Pope Francis quips while reflecting on today's Gospel passage. Instead, as he points out, when the fishermen are tired and dejected Jesus climbs into their boat with them. Moreover, in doing so, Jesus encourages them to go out again for what turns out to be a greater purpose. Their lives are changed when they let Jesus in the boat.

The Pope reminds us that Our Lord can 'make use of our poverty to proclaim his richness, of our miseries to proclaim his mercy.' Provided, that is, we welcome him into our lives and livelihoods.

When we work with God, trusting that Jesus shows us the way, then we will find our true calling. We might even gain the courage to leave our familiar boat behind!

What is crucial, the Pope asserts, is that we 'set out anew with him and to sail a new sea,' open to surprises along the way. When we serve Jesus, the Pope affirms, 'he accomplishes great things in us.' We should therefore heed Jesus' call to each one of us, which is, the Pope suggests, 'to go out into the open sea of the humanity of our time, in order to be witnesses to goodness and mercy.' © Nick Brodie

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania, he is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the Journal of Religious History. He is currently studying Theology.

#### Parish Team

##### **Parish Priest**

Fr James Ezeocha

##### **Parish Secretary**

Jean-May Wright

##### **Finance Secretary**

Ray Borg: - Walkerston/Eton

#### Contact Details

##### **St John's Walkerston Parish Office**

Monday & Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm

Wednesday 10:00am - 1:00pm

Anne Street, Walkerston

P.O. Box 323, Walkerston Qld 4751

Phone: 4959 2241

Email:

stjohnswalkerston@rok.catholic.net.au

##### **Emergency Pager**

Medical Emergencies

0400 874 807



**Congratulations to Keith & Margaret Brown on their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday the 13th February. Best wishes to you Both.**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to further the work of Our Lord Jesus Christ by fostering the Spiritual growth of Parishioners and leading them to respond actively to their Baptismal call to Mission.

Liturgies of the Week  
Week 10th - 16th February

MONDAY

St Scholastica, virgin  
6.30am Mass - St John's

TUESDAY

Our Lady of Lourdes  
6.30am Mass - St John's

WEDNESDAY

9.00am Mass - St John's

THURSDAY

9.00am Holy Hour - St John's  
10.00am Mass - St John's

FRIDAY

Sts Cyril, monk,  
and Methodius, bishop  
9.00am Mass - St John's

SATURDAY

4.30pm Reconciliation - St John's  
5.15pm Mass - St John's

SUNDAY

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9.00am Mass - Holy Cross

"Mackay Maltese Club Wests Luncheon.  
Sunday 23rd March 11:30am. Buffet \$35  
per person. Raffles, Lucky Door,  
Membership Draw. RSVP by Friday 14th  
March to Doris Gauci 0419 027 554."

**Safeguarding Training** will be delivered in our  
Parishes for Walkerston & the valley on **Wednesday  
26th February at 5.30pm**. To register please contact  
St John's Parish Office: 49 592241 or  
stjohnswalkerston@rok.catholic.net.au  
**All Clergy, Religious, Parish Staff and Church  
Volunteers are required to attend.**

*The Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office  
team look forward to seeing you at the training.*

**HOY:** The ladies that organize our monthly HOY that we have on the second Tuesday of each month, are asking for your help. The first one for 2025 will be on Tuesday the 11th February at 9.30am in the School hall.

We are only a small group of women (some have been doing it for over 25 years) who every month turn up to hoy with cooking and cent sale prizes. The majority of people that come to our hoy are elderly and they really enjoy the hoy and most importantly the morning tea but it is getting harder to keep it going. Most of our helpers are getting to a stage where it isn't easy to do as everyone is getting older. We need HELP. We need people to come and help us and if you can't be there on the day we are in need of cooking and cent sale prizes. The St Johns year 6 students set up the table and chairs for us so there is no heavy lifting and we really appreciate this help. So if you can help with anything or need any more information please let myself, Doris or Phyllis know. The money we fundraise goes directly into running our parish so please have a think about helping us out. Thank you.

## Parish News & Announcements

**Becoming Catholic:** We welcome anyone inquiring to become Catholic. The process Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) which is the customary process the church has provided for anyone who wishes to be welcomed into the full life of the Church. This process is about to commence. An adult is anyone over the age of 16. If you know of someone who is interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith please ask them to contact the office, phone 4959 2241.

**Sacramental Process:** For children who are aged over 7, who have not been baptized, we invite you to contact the parish office directly. As these children are of catechetical age, the decision to receive the sacraments is one that they make for themselves with the support, guidance, and encouragement of their parents. These children will follow a process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation and ordinarily they would receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in the one ceremony, normally at the Easter Vigil. Because of this, there is a significant commitment required by them and by you to participate in the formation necessary for them to be ready to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Preparation for these children would also commence at the beginning of Lent.

*For more information please contact the Parish Office on  
49 59 2241 Monday & Friday 9.30am to 3.30 pm. Thank you.*

### WALKERSTON AND PIONEER VALLEY CATHOLIC SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

In 2025, St John's is offering a Home-Based Program for the children in our cluster parishes (Walkerston, Eton, Marian, Mirani, Finch Hatton) to prepare them for their sacramental journey which involves receiving the Sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist. To participate in this home-based program your child or children need to be baptized Catholic, in Year 4 in 2025 or born in 2015 or older.



All parents who wish their child/ren to receive these Sacraments in 2025 are asked to complete the Google Form as an expression of interest as soon as possible.

Follow the link

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNK8i8OM\\_s1YSmSX2w5v2fi95py0HXjGtc\\_uJwRNpt2MXL\\_vA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNK8i8OM_s1YSmSX2w5v2fi95py0HXjGtc_uJwRNpt2MXL_vA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

or email

stjohnssacraments@gmail.com

to express your interest. On completing your expression of interest, you will be sent the enrolment information and more details shortly after, on the sacramental journey that will begin in Term 1, 2025.

Thank you.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025: COOK ISLANDS

'I made you wonderful'

**Date and Time:**

7/03/2025 9.30am Morning tea

10.00am Worship Service

**Location:**

St Andrew's UCA, Bold Street,  
Walkerston



# Please Pray For:

## The sick:

Lisa Hodges, David Cox, Daniel Muscat,  
Jeanne-Maree Vassallo, Michael Wright,

## The recently deceased:

Joe Gauci (Malta), Polly Capello, Peter Galea, Estelle Brondello,  
Kevin Hare, Mary Vassallo, Rosa Masserano,

## Anniversaries that occur at this time: (Dates are in front of names)

5/2 Charlie Caruana, 8/2 David Deguara, 15/2 Fr Dan Moore,  
23/2 Tony Camilleri, 25/2 William (Bill) Rutland,

## Remembrance Mass:

William Ruddell, Denis Casey, Andrew Zammit, Tony & Jessie Azzopardi,  
Percy & Frances Zammit, Charlie & Joanne Azzopardi, James Attard, Glen  
Ellwood, Julia Battaia, Samuel Borg, Tony Cini (Malta), Michael & Stuart  
Sarich, Sally & Joe (Lizzy) Borg, Joe, Antonio & Guiseppa Axiak, George &  
Rose Bezzina, Nicholas & Carmel Azzopardi, Catrina Cortis, Therese  
Suokallio, Trevor Lamb, John Caruana, Angie & Charlie Caruana, Veronica  
Vezzoli, Doris Tweddle, Charlie Borg, Mary Vella, Anne (Vella) Fowke,  
Emmanuel & Tessie Falzon, Peter Camilleri, Anthony Scriha, Ben Agius, Pat  
& Doreen Young, David Deguara, Vincent & Carmela Colby, John Paul  
Borg (Snr), John Paul Borg (Jnr), Charles, Mary, Victor, Sam & Adrian  
Camilleri, Grace Zarb, Mary Deguara, Jean Sammut, Albert Sammut,  
Richard, Clare & Carolyn Batros, Percy Vella, Patrick Camilleri,  
Members of the following Families: Sammut, Casey, Mason,

*\*\*\*Please Note: Permission must be sought from the person for their name to be added to the sick list. Names of recently deceased family members and names for anniversaries will only remain in the bulletin for 30 days. There is no correlation between offering Mass Stipends and names of the sick or deceased being added to the bulletin\*\*\**



**Jubilee of Families Date Claimer:-** Our diocese is hosting a Jubilee of Families this Labour day weekend, running from 3pm on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May through to Monday morning. This event will be an opportunity to connect with other families from throughout the diocese and to grow in faith and in living out our vocation as families. The weekend will feature fun and games, talks, discussion, prayer and sacraments and will feature presentations from Brendan Malone and our diocesan NET team. The venue for the Jubilee is Discovery Parks – Coolwaters, Yeppoon, and accommodation can be booked now by saying that you are with the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton and quoting booking reference 11005357. The event will be focussed on families but absolutely everyone is welcome to attend. Event registration and further details to be provided soon. For more information or any questions please contact [Michael.otto@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:Michael.otto@rok.catholic.net.au) or 0433 897 973.

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting Children and **Adults at Risk.**

For further information or support please contact the **Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office:**

**Response Line: 1800 830 113 (Free call) Email:**  
[pssadmin@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:pssadmin@rok.catholic.net.au)

**Diocesan Website** [www.rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/Queensland](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/Queensland)

**Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**

**commitment statement and Policy:**

[www.rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html)

**Queensland Professional Standards Office:**

[www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/](http://www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/)

## Next Week's Scripture

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C

### First Reading

A reading from the prophet  
Jeremiah

[Jeremiah 17:5-8:](#)

A curse on those who trust in  
humanity; a blessing on those who  
trust in the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 1:1-4.R.Ps39:5.](#)

Happy are they who hope in  
the Lord.

### Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St  
Paul to the Corinthians

[1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20](#)

If Christ is not raised from the  
dead, your faith is in vain.

### Gospel

A reading from the Gospel  
according to

[Luke 6:17,20-26](#)

Happy are the poor. Woe the rich!



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The QR code will lead you to your specific region to make a once off gift or establish a recurring donation agreement. However, for those without smart phones or are unsure of the QR Code service, you can also access the secure portal by visiting the Diocesan website -

[Parish Donation – Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton](#)

# This Week's Scripture

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME : YEAR C

**First Reading:** Isaiah 6:1-8 A reading from the prophet Isaiah *Here am I! Send me.*

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out to one another in this way, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1 (R.) *In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth.

Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

3. All earth's kings shall thank you when they hear the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the Lord's ways; 'How great is the glory of the Lord!' (R.)

4. You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)



**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.*

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks be to God

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Matthew 4:19 Alleluia, alleluia! Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people. Alleluia!*

**Gospel:** Luke 5:1-11 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*They left everything and followed him.*

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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St John's

Anne St  
Walkerston

## Parish Churches & School

School Address: 23 Creek Street, Walkerston Q 4751  
Postal Address: PO Box 314, Walkerston Q 4751  
Phone: 07 4959 2445 (07 4994 8280)  
Email: [sjwa@rok.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sjwa@rok.catholic.edu.au)  
Principal: Mr Nathaniel Rice



Holy Cross

Barrier St  
Eton