**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 11.15 am mass in church.

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

Tuesday: 8.30 am mass in chapel

Friday: 8 am mass in chapel, no Boarders Mass

Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 11.15 am Mass in Church. Fr. Joby will probably do this.

Please pray for those who have died recently and their families: Kathleen Standen, Cassie Nash, David West, Jean Sr Pam Bourke's sister, Ray Bourke Sr. Pam Bourke's brother, Kevin English, Tom Dawson, Roddy Hines, Andrew Monti, Carolyn Moss, Patrick Williams, Fr. Frank O’Gorman, Fr. John Newman, Colin Craig (Fr. Barry's father), Edward Thomas.

Anniversaries: Fr. Tom Mullins, Sr. Joachim Casey, Leonie McGuckin, Sr Mary Mills, Jack Springer, Mary Teresa Walsh, Maria Ferrero, Luigi Ferrero, Sr. Monica Costello, Peter Fitzgerald, Margaret Greening, Joe Gibson, Eddie Taylor, Cedric Arnold, Noreen Fitzgerald, Doris Leo, Ned Hill.

Also for our sick: Sr. Bartie, Keith Hanrahan, John Agnew, Maxine McFarlane, Herminia Latham. one of our congregation, John Lizzie, Pat Cook, Pauline Mills, Sr. Mairead, Gil McIntyre, Syd Spry, Fr. John O’Connor, Joe-Ellen Bouttell, Sr. Ines, Ralph Griebel, Malcolm McDonnell, Sr. Anna, Fr. Frank Crane and all our ailing priests and nuns.

Special prayers for Sr. Bartie, and also for Maxine McFarlane, also for Fr. Greg Moses going off into retirement an whoever it is that is taking over.

This Sunday will be my last Sunday mass here almost certainly, next Sunday new bloke or Fr. Joby will do, as I have to attend a goodbye morning tea and lunch in Atherton. I came to Herberton 1st March 2006, just in time for Cyclone Larry three weeks later. It has been very interesting and a time of genuine growth. My strong thanks to the Sisters, to the school and its staff and principals over the years and to all who came and come to our Sunday mass. Special thanks also to MSB for the send off and the very thoughtful gifts. I am not likely or in any way wanting to forget my time in Herberton.
12th Sunday of the Year.

I have always been something of a worrier, getting anxious about many things. In the last few years this has got much worse. But I guess everyone in the parish right now is a little bit anxious, what is going to happen in the future. Perhaps we will know more about this by the time bulletin goes to press.

Today's Gospel talks into this. The Gospel tells us, in effect: there is only one thing we have to worry about, and we don’t have to worry about that! This is in a collection of sayings from Jesus in the theme of, do not be afraid. There is nothing and no one whom it is worth being afraid of except for God, but this is a God who treasures even sparrows and who has counted every hair on our heads, and we are of more value than hundreds of sparrows.

This is covered by a first reading from Jeremiah about the trials of a just person against a background of darkness and evil, really in a bad way, ‘terror from every side’, his only hope is in the Lord.

And then there is the second reading from St Paul to the Romans, about the immersion of everyone in darkness and evil, which text is the main scriptural origin of what’s usually called the doctrine of Original Sin.

Theologians make a useful distinction here, between the original sin whatever it might have been and original sin as the sorry state of affairs into which we are all born which that original sin started and which has been added onto ever since. Probably the main point of the former is that for us human beings things have been going downhill from pretty early on, from not long after we came down from the trees.

Original Sin, however it originated, is one doctrine for which, looking around us, there is enormous empirical evidence, whether in Britain, Central Africa, the Middle East or closer to home. People – Paul says all of us - are born into and live their lives against a background of darkness and evil, and it is hard to escape being affected by this even in our own behaviour in one way or another.

This is called a ‘doctrine’ but it is not in fact part of the Good News, more like assumed background to the Good News – like re-incarnation or the wheel of rebirth or all life is suffering in Buddhism. The Good News is that eventually we don't have to worry about this either! God in Christ has it covered, there is nothing to worry about, nothing to be afraid of, it is all taken care of or in the process of being taken care of. Where sin abounded, grace abounds all the more. Truth will out, the realities will manifest themselves, we can and should confidently proclaim what we know, God really is ‘your Father’ who treasures even a single sparrow and who has counted every hair on our head. And not only for us as individuals: the Good News also strives to produce communities of grace in the midst of the community of sin and darkness, communities of grace even on the Tablelands in which all God’s children and all God’s creatures might flourish - like parishes and schools.