



Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish—Stafford

A Parish of the Brisbane North West Deanery

Vision: "To follow the example of Jesus by serving others."

24rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 16th-17th September 2023



Last Saturday parishioners from around the diocese gathered at St Stephen's Cathedral to celebrate the Season of Creation. Parishioners brought water, collected from their local area; this water was poured into a single vessel, symbolic of our common connection to each other and our precious land. The Archbishop blessed the water and sprinkled it over the congregation praying.....



Blessed are you, Creator God, who in Christ, the living water of salvation, blessed and transformed us.

Grant that when we are sprinkled with this water we will be refreshed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May we draw water from the springs of salvation and continue to walk together in the new life we received at Baptism.

The final blessing called us to be 'living water'.....

May we be blessed to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of "the living waters of God's justice and peace" may become a mighty river all over the Earth.



During the Season of Creation, the water will remain by the font, a constant reminder of our relationship with our Creator God and of the call to 'Let justice and peace flow'.



I was recently asked why I do not include space in the newsletter for the 'NO' vote in the referendum. Here is my response. Denis

If this was a purely partisan political issue, I would not be putting anything in the newsletter. e.g. at Federal, State or Local elections. However, all the major Christian Churches see it as an ethical and moral issue. Our role is to help people form their conscience and, as with other moral issues e.g. Modern Day Slavery, Euthanasia, abortion etc we would not see it as our role to give the arguments in favour of such issues as if they had an equivalent moral status and are so clearly against what we believe to be in line with the teachings of Jesus.

I have included the following quote from Archbishop Mark:

"We know the date for the Referendum vote. As with political elections, I wish in some ways the vote was tomorrow. Not that this is like voting in a political election. The Referendum process has been badly politicised, with politicians and activists on both sides trying to smash the opposition rather than unite the nation. But the choice on 14 October is moral and ethical rather than political.

Some say that a Voice to parliament and executive will divide the nation, but we are already divided.

The question is how Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia can be brought together at a time when the gap isn't closing but growing wider.

For Christians, the issues focused by the Referendum need to be viewed through the lens of the Gospel and ultimately with the eye of Jesus who isn't above or apart from the process.

In preparing to vote for the good not of some but of the whole nation we need to listen carefully to the Uluru Statement but also and more especially to the voice of Jesus."

As with all church statements, people are not expected to blindly follow what is said but they are expected to pray about the issue, inform themselves of the facts, consider what the leadership is saying and why, and then vote according to their conscience which is "God's voice in their heart". (Para 16 Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World - Vatican II. 7/12/65 "Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, tells him inwardly at the right moment: do this, shun that. For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. His dignity lies in observing this law, and by it he will be judged. His conscience is man's most secret core, and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths. By conscience, in a wonderful way, that law is made known which is fulfilled in the love of God and of one's neighbour.")

I suppose the short-hand questions we need to consider is: "If Jesus had to vote in this Referendum, would He vote "Yes" or "No"? Why would He do so?"

The waters for this referendum have been very muddied and that is another reason, I have and will put in our newsletter the actual wording of the change in the Constitution if there is a "Yes" vote. Hopefully people will read and reflect on that wording as it is, to help form their conscience as to the right thing to do.

THE REFERENDUM: If the vote is YES, then the insertion into the Constitution will be as follows:

"Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

i. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;

ii. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;

iii. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures."

Next Sunday's Readings
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
23-24 September

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:2-3,8-9,17-18

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27

For me to live is Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Why are jealous because I am generous.



What's on in the coming week at QoA parish?

Mon 18th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 19th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Thu 21st	8.30am	Mass
Fri 22nd	9.00am	Mass
Sat 23rd	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 24th	9.00am	25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church in Australia celebrates the many cultures that make up our congregations. NEXT SUNDAY is **MULTI-CULTURAL Sunday**. To celebrate this, all those from different cultures are invited to **wear any cultural CLOTHING that proclaims your original culture**. ALSO, if



you haven't been asked (or **represented in the following list**), please see Fr Denis to be able to pray a petition in our Prayer of the Faithful in **YOUR OWN FIRST LANGUAGE**. The cultures and

languages represented so far are—for **Saturday night**: El Salvador (Spanish); PNG—Tolai (Kuanua); Ireland (Gaelic), Italy (Italian); India (Malayalam); Philippines (Tagalog); Myanmar—Karen people (Karen). For **Sunday**, we have: El Salvador (Spanish); PNG (Pidgin); PNG—Port Moresby/Central Province (Motu); Samoa (Samoan); Philippines (Tagalog); India (Malayalam); Myanmar—Karen people (Karen). Aboriginal (Bundaberg area—Gureng Gureng). **Any others??**



If we walk in any direction from our Parish Church, you will find many families struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Our local St. Vincent de Paul Society members are hands behind the help for these families and individuals and have the privilege of walking with these companions through the challenging times they are facing.

Through various forms of assistance, our members put their faith into action by serving those we meet with respect, compassion, hope and joy. For more information on how to become involved, contact the Parish Office or Alison 0421 449 167.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LITURGY
GREEK AND LATIN ROOTS

In the words we use in worship there are traces of both our Greek and Latin heritage. The word 'Eucharist', for example, is Greek in origin. Christianity grew up in a Hellenistic culture. The first writings of the Christian Church, including the Gospel accounts, naturally used the language of the time and place where Christianity developed, and that was Greek. Even in Rome, the language of literature and culture was Greek.

'Eucharist' is the Greek word for 'thanksgiving'. At Mass we offer praise and thanks to God for the free gift of salvation we have been given through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The word 'Mass', on the other hand, is Latin in origin. When Christianity came to Rome, most of the common people spoke only Latin so Pope Saint Callistus (217-222) decided that Latin should be used in liturgy. This move met with strong opposition from those who considered Latin too vulgar for worship, and the Roman liturgy was not completely Latinised until the late 4th century.

The term 'Mass' derives from the words used in the dismissal rite in Latin, '*Ite, missa est*'. Missa comes from *missio*, meaning 'to send', so the phrase was a sending out of the people. People understood that *Ite, missa est* meant 'the Mass is ended' and began to use the word 'missa' - which gradually became 'mass' - to refer to the whole of the celebration.

THE EUCHARIST
AS A SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS

Penance is the church's special sacrament of pardon, and people conscious of having committed grave sin need to celebrate reconciliation before presenting themselves for communion.

But it is important to keep in mind that our participation at Mass grants forgiveness through word, gesture and sacrament. There are many examples of texts and gestures in the Mass that express sorrow and ask for forgiveness.

One of the introductory elements of the Mass is the penitential rite. This may take the form of the community saying together the "I confess...", or responding to a set of three invocations address to Christ. The priest concludes the penitential rite with the absolution.

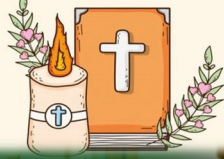
Three times during the "Glory to God" we implore Christ to "have mercy on us". These words are repeated in the "Lamb of God" which is sung during the breaking of the bread and pouring of the wine.

In the Lord's Prayer we ask for our sins to be forgiven and that we might be delivered from evil. Immediately before receiving communion we say: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed".

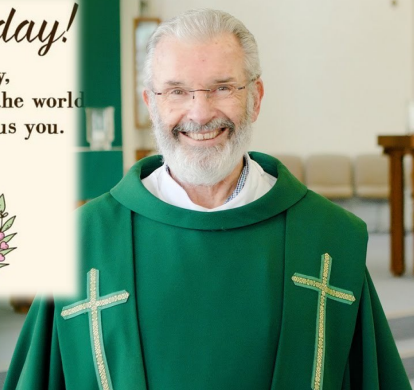
The Catechism lists forgiveness of sin as one of the fruits of Holy Communion: "The Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ without at the same time cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins". (CCC # 1393)

Happy Birthday!

On this special day, we celebrate how blessed the world became when God gave us you.



Fr Denis Scanlan



Fr Denis is retiring and we want to celebrate his calling to the priesthood in the archdiocese and, more particularly, his time leading our parish.

We would like to invite you to a dinner at Hornets, Aspley on Friday 3rd November. (With LIMITED NUMBERS it'll be on First Come, First Served Basis.) Tickets : \$35 p/p on sale after weekend masses from 23rd Sept to 22nd Oct. (or til tickets last)

We are also collecting for a gift for Fr Denis to assist his transition to "civilian" life. Envelopes clearly labelled 'a gift for Fr Denis' can be placed in the basket. Envelopes will also be available at the back of the church from 30th September onwards.

OUR MISSION

We donate 50% of our profits to ensure everyone has access to clean water and a toilet within our lifetime

And with your help, we'll get there.

WE'VE DONATED OVER...

11,222,000 AUD

It's incredible! But we still have a long way to go.

Available at the parish office:
 *Toilet paper roll; \$2 Paper Towel; \$3.5 Tissue;\$2



Congratulations

on your **Confirmation**

with love
STAFFORD Parishioners

Care for Creation

God of All,
 You made us in your image and likeness,
 Open our eyes to see you in others,
 Open our ears to your cry,
 And open our hearts to love like you,
 So that we may live as one human family.
 We ask this in Jesus' name.
 Amen

The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si', #48



Photo credit: Isabel Cortiher/Caritas Internationalis

You may have heard the exciting news that from 1 November 2023 we will be accepting glass wine and spirit bottles for a 10c refund. How good!




Stafford Parish Scheme ID:
C10195625



Our Parish PIETY Shop

has a large range of cards, religious icons, rosary beads and medallions. Below are samples of Confirmation & First Communion memorabilia.



Please call the Parish office 3356 7155 if you would like to have a look on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday before or after school hours. OR after Mass, ask Fr Denis and he'll unlock the Shop's Door for you. Thank you.

STAMPS FOR MARIST MISSIONS:

recent ones - used or unused, Australian or Overseas. They can be left in the specially marked wooden box to the left of the main Church entry. Thank you & God bless!



Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Office

Address: **70 Appleby Road, Stafford**
Parish email: stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish WEBSITE: www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au
Parish Administrator: **Fr Denis Scanlan**
Fr Denis' E-mail: pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Missionary Council: ppcstafford@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: **Tisha King** Office Telephone: **3356 7155**
Office Hours: **Mon, Tues Fri: 9am-3pm**

QR code to access



site



Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR):

Helen Royan - Email: lsr.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
(Archdiocese Office for Safeguarding Services: 07 3324 3752)

STOPline Service: 1300 304 550 or
AOB@stoline.com.au

SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT REPORT FORMS may be accessed from the brochure table which is at the left front corner of the church.

Our Lady, Queen of Apostles School Contacts

Address: **10 Thuruna Street, Stafford**
School email: pstafford@bne.catholic.edu.au
School Principal: **Troy Parsons**
APRE: **Megan Conroy**
APLE: **Leonie McCormack**
Phone (Thuruna St): **3352 9200** Phone (Chuter St): **3326 0400**

BAPTISMS

are celebrated at 10.30am on the **Third Sunday of each Month** (except during Lent and OCTOBER). For **BAPTISM BOOKINGS**, contact the Parish Office.

Further information on our website:

<https://bit.ly/3VHHQ62>



ArcheLearn Platform upgraded and being made available to Volunteers

Our Organisational Development team are pleased to announce that the ArcheLearn system has undergone a significant upgrade to provide our volunteers with a simple user experience. We're letting you know that volunteers will need to log into the Volunteer Portal to access the refreshed ArcheLearn system, and we'll be asking for your help in making sure our volunteers are aware of this change. ArcheLearn will be available on the Volunteer Portal. The key things volunteers need to know about the ArcheLearn upgrade include: ***very easy to use and they won't break it: the refreshed system is very easy to use, even for people who aren't confident on computers. Volunteers will be able to access ArcheLearn from the comfort of their own homes and computers. *here to support you and our volunteers: we will provide all the support our volunteers need to access ArcheLearn.** Over the coming weeks, we'll provide you with a range of resources, including a step-by-step guide and a list of Frequently Asked Questions. We'll also be in touch about hosting an evening in your parish for all your volunteers. The Organisational Development team is here to support you through this change. If you have questions regarding the new-look ArcheLearn, please don't hesitate to reach out to

Jessica Higgs, our Learning Systems Administrator, at archelearn@bne.catholic.net.au

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you are **going to the hospital unexpectedly** for an op or develop a **serious illness**, let Fr Denis know and we can celebrate this Sacrament beforehand. Celebrations of this Sacrament are on the **THIRD WEEKEND of each Month**. You may add a **sick person's name to the list by phoning the Parish Office (3356 7155)**.



NOTE: To keep our "unwell list" fresh, the last names will be removed. If their illness continues, let us know and we'll add them to the start of the list. Thank you.

Let Us Pray

We pray for those who are unwell:

Ed Taylor, Mary Davissen, Allan Gibney, Peter Caruso, Timothy Willson, Graham Taylor, Maria Pirrottina, Sam Fumera, Trevor Blackwell, Liz Martin, Margaret Alcock, Andrew Lofgren, Shaun & Carol Donaldson, Rachel Oxenham, Peter Taylor, Terry Gesch, Peter McDade, Gerard McGrory, Bev Lofgren & Geraldine Hurley.

We pray for those recently deceased:

Allben Tolentino, Kev Tyack, Jim Tyler, Danilo Espina, Stella Turton, Miriam Martin, Hugh Rodger, Julia-Mary (JM) Lane, Sr Robyn Wheeler RSC & Sr Maria Carmel and Ron Davis.

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Jack Wilson and all our other deceased parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.



Weekend Masses are **streamed live on Zoom**. Click [Link to Zoomed Stafford Weekend](#) OR enter Meeting ID: **443 363 1440** and Passcode: *eucharist* via the Zoom app.