



# Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish—Stafford

A Parish of the Brisbane North West Deanery

**Vision: "To follow the example of Jesus in word, deed and service."**

**Second Sunday of Advent Year B 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## Jesse Tree

We continue our journey to Christmas as we remember ...



Joseph	God's Providence	Gen 37, 39:1 - 50:21	Coat
Moses	God's Leadership	Exod 2:1 - 4:20	Burning Bush
Israelites	Passover	Exod 12:21-27	Cup
Israelites	Exodus	Exod 16:4; 14-15; 31	Manna
God	Giving of the Torah at Sinai	Exod 19:1 - 20:20	Tablets of the Torah
Joshua	The Fall of Jericho	Josh 1:11, 6:1 -20	Ram's Horn Trumpet

## THE DATE OF CHRISTMAS

Early Church documents show that the birth of Christ has been celebrated in Rome on 25 December since the early fourth century. How and when was it decided that this was the date of Christ's birth?

The most common theory is that Christians took over the date of the pagan feast of the Unconquered Sun which was proclaimed by the Emperor Aurelian in 274 AD. As the days stopped getting shorter and the hours of sunlight began to increase at the time of the winter solstice (December 25 in early calendars), people celebrated the sun's rebirth. Christians, who saw Christ as the true unconquered light of the world, celebrated his birth date on the same day.

Other researchers suggest a different theory. Scripture gives the date of Christ's death as 14 Nisan, the fourteenth day of the spring moon. It was calculated that the equivalent date in the Roman calendar that year was 25 March. Early Christians believed that the lives of patriarchs spanned a whole number of years from conception to death. This resulted in their conviction that Christ was conceived on the same date that he died, 25 March. In fact we celebrate the Annunciation on that date. Adding exactly nine months (because Christ is the perfect human being) gives 25 December as the date of his birth.

This connection between Christmas and Easter reflects a theological link. If it had not been for Christ's passion, death and resurrection, we would not be celebrating Christmas at all!



## CHRISTMAS on a MONDAY

Normally it is quite easy to determine what feast we celebrate on any given day. The higher-ranking feast take precedence over a lower-ranking commemoration. That gets quite tricky when Christmas falls on a Monday. Both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day have the same ranking and both are what we call? days of obligation?. The question then arises: what do we celebrate on Sunday evening? A common rule of thumb is that the actual day itself takes precedence over an anticipated Mass of the following day. But that will not work in this case. In Australia, people's certain expectation will be that Christmas Eve will feature

celebrations of the Christmas solemnity, and not the Advent Sunday. Therefore, while it is technically possible to celebrate the Advent Sunday with an evening Mass on Sunday 24 December, it would not be wise to do so. They should be the usual Christmas Masses which people have come to expect. The Sunday will therefore be celebrated on the evening of Saturday 23 and the morning of Sunday 24. **by Tom Elich, Liturgy Brisbane**

## Our Lady, Queen of Apostles - Stafford Parish Christmas Mass Times

- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.30pm Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 5.00pm Mass - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.00am Mass - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
5.00pm—Christmas Eve  
8.00pm - Christmas Eve **(Please Bring A Plate to Share)**
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 8.00am Christmas Day **(Please Bring A Plate to Share)**
  - 28th (Thursday), 29th (Friday) usual Mass times
  - 30<sup>th</sup> /31<sup>st</sup> Dec Sat 5pm, Sun 9am (as usual)  
Feast of the "Holy Family"  
**(Cake will be served after Fr D's last weekend masses)**
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 5pm – Mass for Feast of the "Mary, Mother of God"
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 5.00pm Epiphany
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Epiphany
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 5.00pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- From 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January – NO WEEKDAY Mass but Morning Prayer with Communion will be prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am.**



**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**BRING A PLATE to share!!!**  
*Christmas Eve 8PM Mass and  
Christmas Day 8am Mass.*  
*— we're going to have a little  
party!*

**Christmas Cards** are NOW available for purchase - \$5.00 for a pack of 8. Contact TISHA in the office for purchases.



*Next Sunday's Readings*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*16-17 December*

*First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*

I exult for joy in the Lord.

*Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54*

My soul rejoices in my God.

*Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28*

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.



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

Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass
	6.30pm	<i>Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation</i>
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Mass
	11.30am	<i>Latte Ladies' (w Anna's Group) XMAS Lunch</i>
	12nn	<i>Men's Group Xmas Lunch</i>
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Reconciliation
	5.00pm	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Anointing of the Sick</i>
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Anointing of the Sick</i>
	10am	<i>Children's Advent Workshop 3</i>

**Name tags**

There are still nametags waiting to be collected at the back of the church. We invite you to wear your badge at mass each weekend - just keep it in the car for easy retrieval. It will also enable Fr Joe to learn names as he is welcomed to our parish in January. Please email the office (**complete name AND preferred first name**) if you need one.



**Advent Prayer and Reflection**

Please continue to do your Advent Prayer and Reflections at home.

**A**nnual Leave for the Parish Secretary I will be on leave from Christmas Day and will return on Monday, 8th January. Fr Denis will be around until 31st December and then will be off to a new routine as a retired priest. :) The office will be unattended from 1st January until I get back. Then on the 15th, we will welcome Fr Joe McKay in our parish! -Tish

**THE CATHOLIC LEADER**

**VERY IMPORTANT NEWS!!!**

As you all know, the Leader will no longer be supplied to parishes or Saint Vincent De Paul Societies in 2024. As such, there are only two editions left (Advent/Christmas). *If you wish to continue receiving it, you are encouraged to take out a subscription to The Catholic Leader and support Brisbane Archdiocese's multi-platform news service. Once subscribed, the paper will be delivered to your door each month. To subscribe either call The Catholic Leader team on (07) 3324 3555 or click [here](#) subscribe OR use the RETURN ENVELOPES available at the Catholic Leader table.*

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

Respect & Protect.



**Safeguarding Training**

Safeguarding training was reviewed earlier in the year and, after receiving overwhelming

feedback from parishes, a single safeguarding module has been developed. Clergy and employees will complete the module via the Archdiocesan Arch e-Learn online learning system as part of mandatory training. Volunteers can continue to access the module on the Archdiocesan public website at [www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training](http://www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training). Volunteers who have an email account may now also complete the module via the Arch e-Learn system and are encouraged to do so to ease the administrative burden for the parish. To arrange volunteer access to the Arch e-Learn please contact Jennifer Burrows from the People & Culture (HR) office on 3324 3184 or [burrowsj@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:burrowsj@bne.catholic.net.au)

*'Heaven and Angels Sing'*

At the Christmas Eve church service, I sat with my two boisterous grandchildren, ages three and five. Their parents sat in front of the church to present a nativity reading titled "Silent Night." They had warned the children to behave. I had warned the children to behave. With scrubbed angelic faces and Christmas wonder in their eyes, they looked like model children posing for a magazine holiday spread. I indulged myself in a few moments of pride.

Alec pinched Aubrey. I was grateful that the organ thundered into the first hymn just then, drowning out her yelp. I grabbed her hand before she could return the pinch. During the Lord's Prayer, Aubrey shredded the program I had given her to color on. The crayons had already rolled under the pew. I watched bits of paper fall on the carpet like snow. I would help her pick it up later, but for now the naughtiness I was allowing kept her occupied and her brother quietly admiring.

We were enjoying an uneasy truce when their parents stood to deliver the reading. "Mommy!" Alec yelled. She frowned, and he sat back in his seat. "Silence," my son said to the congregation. "Think for a moment what that word means to you."

My daughter-in-law signed his words. Earlier that year, she began to use her new signing skills for the benefit of the few hearing-impaired members of our church. Alec said a naughty word, thankfully too low for many to hear. I scowled at him, shaking my finger and my head. Aubrey grinned. Then she proclaimed, every syllable enunciated perfectly, in a clear voice that carried to far corners of the sanctuary, "Alec is a potty mouth!"

Everyone stared. I was too stunned to speak. My son and his wife looked at each other. But instead of anger, I saw surprise. My son set aside his script and told another story. He told about their daughter being born profoundly deaf. He talked about four years of hearing aids and speech therapy with no guarantee she would ever learn to speak plainly. He talked about the rugged faith that kept the family praying she would have a normal life. He said Aubrey's outburst was an answer to prayer: the first perfectly enunciated sentence she had ever spoken.

From the back of the room, a lone voice sang the last line of a beloved Christmas Carol: Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king. While the congregation sang four verses of the unscheduled hymn, my two little angels wiggled in their parents' arms, adding laughter and giggles to the joyful Christmas noise. -- By Carol Stigger





## Our ADVENT preparation for CHRISTMAS

**Celebrating the Forgiveness of our Sins:  
Why not celebrate our common Sinfulness and that God**

**never ceases to forgive and show us mercy?**

This **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm**, we will celebrate the Second Rite of Penance. **How to do that??** All those who wish to celebrate are asked to consider their sins, (spend some time reflecting on "why do I do these things") and write them and your answer down on a piece of paper BEFORE coming to church that night (DO NOT include your name!!). The basic structure of the Second Rite is: Introduction, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Penance and concluding rite. During the Liturgy of Penance, you will process forward, hand your **OPEN sheet** of paper to Father, receive Absolution and return to your place.

*"... the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us....But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. –*

*Apostle Paul to the Romans 5:5, 8*

*Jesus was never upset with sinners; he was only upset with people who did not think they were sinners! (Fr Richard Rohr)*



**Latte Ladies Christmas Lunch**  
will be held at Aspley Hornets Football Club, Graham Road, Aspley at 11:30, Friday, 15th December.

Please call **Truci Dove, 0403 726 584** for any question.

### **Men's Group** **Friday, 15th December at 12nn**

**Stafford Tavern in Webster Road Stafford.**

To ALL MEN in our Parish of LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES this a opportunity to share a meal and drink with your fellow men folk and celebrate 2023 at OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES CHURCH. A table of twenty has been booked but can be extended to cater for more. Come Join Father , John Lamb , Peter Dove , Frank Fee, Luke Cowan and John his Carer , Mark our Groundsman and his side kicks Kerry McMahon, Alan Keating , Chris Gardiner and myself. If I have missed anyone please let me know **0408711496** or email me. Apologies due to Families and other commitments are Ian Workman and Rod or Muzza. Please consider our invitation and join in the fun. I need to know final numbers by the tomorrow, Monday, thanks. Cheers, **Gary**



**HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK**

1 - 10 DECEMBER 2023

This week is the 75th anniversary of the **UN declaration of Human**

**rights.** The theme this year is - **Universal means everyone. HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL."**

### **Advent Workshops for children** **(5-12y/o)** **17<sup>th</sup> (LAST Sunday)**

- ✓ Designed to help children understand Jesus' family lineage through the symbols of the Jesse Tree
- ✓ Active Learning through story, mime, song and craft will ensure a fun time for all.

**Running for one hour in the Meeting Room immediately after Sunday Mass.**

**Registration at the back of the church or via the Parish Office.**

### **Cathedral of St Stephen Advent Concert Series**

Dominic Perissinotto (organ) | Sunday 3rd December | 5:00pm

Christopher Trikilis (organ) | Sunday 10th December | 5:00pm

Susan Collins (violin) | Sunday 17th December | 5:00pm



*MUSIC AND POETRY  
TO CELEBRATE THE ADVENT SEASON*

Tickets through [www.trybooking.com/CN600](http://www.trybooking.com/CN600)



### **ST. JOSEPH and ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH**

30 Eldorado St. Bracken Ridge

**15 to 23 December, 2023**

**Sunday to Friday**

6:45 pm Holy Rosary

7:00 pm Carols

7:30 pm Holy Mass

**Saturday**

7:15 pm Holy Rosary

7:30 pm Carols

8:00 pm Holy Mass

*Come join us in our Preparation for  
Jesus' birth....*

**Everyone welcome! Mass in English**



**THE ADVENT WREATH** Many homes, businesses and churches use the Advent wreath as a symbol of this season.

The Advent wreath is of ancient origin and relates to celebrations of the winter solstice when European days are shortest and gloomiest. Because people longed for the return of the sun's light and life, they suspended wagon wheels, decorated with greenery and candles, in their celebration halls. There they waited for their sun gods to return. Around 200 years ago, the Advent wreath became customary in German homes and public buildings. It made its way into the church and has become a popular symbol of the passing of time during Advent.

The circle of the wreath, without and beginning or an end, symbolises God's unending love for us and reminds us of eternity. The evergreen leaves represented growth and hopes of eternal life. The symbol of evergreens is rather lost in our part of the world, so Australian gum leaves, nuts and flowers are sometimes substituted. The four candles mark the four Sundays before Christmas, with one more candle lit each Sunday during Advent. Traditionally three candles are purple with the candle for the third Sunday being rose, but it's the increase in light as more candles are lit that is the focus, not the colour of the candles themselves.

Sometimes a 'Christmas candle' is placed in the centre of the wreath on Christmas Eve. This candle should be lit throughout the Christmas season. Its visual link with the Paschal candle helps connect the celebration of Christ's birth with its fulfilment in the Easter mystery.





## ONLINE TENNIS COURT BOOKING

FOR CASUAL HIRE Click link below:

[www.tennisvenues.com.au/booking/stafford-parish-tennis-courts](http://www.tennisvenues.com.au/booking/stafford-parish-tennis-courts)

or scan:



[Terms and Conditions](#)

Please contact the parish office for PERMANENT BOOKINGS.

Glass wine and spirit bottles for a 10c refund. How good!



Stafford Parish Scheme ID:  
**C10195625**



## 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](mailto:stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)

Parish WEBSITE: [www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au)

Parish Administrator: **Fr Denis Scanlan**

Fr Denis' E-mail: [pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)

Parish Missionary Council: [ppcstafford@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lsr.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)**

**(Archdiocese Office for Safeguarding Services: 07 3324 3752)**

**STOpline** Service: 1300 304 550 or

[AOB@stoline.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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>



## 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 or after week-end Masses and Fr Denis will open for you. Thank you.

### 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

## 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:

Bev Losgren, Gerard McGrory, Sr Dorothy Bayliss, Rachel Oxenham, Sandra Henry, Margaret Alcock, Liz Martin, Robert McLean, Graeme Rosewarne, Lyn & Jim Payne, Caitlyn Sheehan, Brian Scanlan, Wendy Roberts, Ed Taylor, Allan Gibney, Peter Caruso, Timothy Willson, Graham Taylor, Maria Pirrottina & Sam Fumera.

### We pray for those recently deceased:

Peter Murphy, Timothy Boulton, Alfio Mangano Sr, Michael Rickens, Mick Tanwan, Frank Hughes & Sr Anne Crowley RSC.

### And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Joan Good, Ron Matthews, Lynette Matthews, Bruce Oxenham & Graham (Macca) McLean 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.