

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." Third Sunday of Advent Year B 16th-17th December 2023

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



Ruth	Rescue	Ruth 2:2-3, 8-12; Ruth 4: 13-17	Grain
Jesse	Branches from the tree	Isa 11:1; Jer 23:5	Stump
		1 Sam 16:1-23 - 17:58, 2 Sam 5:1	
David	A Shepherd for the People	-5, 7:1-17	Shepherds Crook
Solomon	The Beginning of the Kingdom	1 Kings 2:45 Isa 9:6-7	Crown
Jonah	Three days	Jon 1:1-6; 11-17	Big Fish
Isaiah	The Call of the Holiness	Isa 1:10-20, 6:1-13, 8:11-9:7	Hot Coal

VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Vinnie's Christmas Appeal Envelopes can be found at the front of the church AND at the cupboard at the front left hand side.

You can donate cash, or if you prefer transfer money straight into Stafford Vinnies Bank account: BSB: 064 786 Acc No: 100026699 Acc Name: SVDP Stafford

If you want a **RECEIPT**, please (as soon as possible after making the donation) email: svdpstafford@gmail.com OR give these details to the office: Your NAME, Address, Date and Amount of Donation. Thank you and God Bless.

ongratulations to GIANLUCA PATTI who, at 9.00am Mass this weekend will be fully initiated into the Church through celebrating his first Communion! We the church thank his parents, Anna and Joe for their example and commitment to Gianluca's faith.



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

23rd Dec 5.00pm Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent

24th Dec 9.00am Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent

5.00pm—Christmas Eve

8.00pm - Christmas Eve (Please Bring A Plate to Share)

25th Dec 8.00am Christmas Day (*Please Bring A Plate to Share*)

28th (Thursday), 29th (Friday) usual Mass times

30th /31st Dec Sat 5pm, Sun 9am (as usual) Feast of the "Holy Family"

(Cake will be served after Fr D's last weekend masses)

31st Dec 5pm – Mass for Feast of the "Mary, Mother of God"

6th Jan 5.00pm Epiphany

7th Jan 9.00am Epiphany

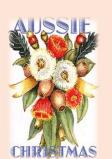
13th Jan 5.00pm 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 14th Jan 9.00am 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From 1st to 12th January - NO WEEKDAY Mass but Morning Prayer with Communion will be prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays: 2nd&5th, 9th&12th, & 16thJanuary at 8.30am.



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

CHRISTMAS PARTY



BRMG A PLATE

to share!!!

Christmas Eve

8pm Mass

Christmas Day

8am Mass

Retirement cake will be served after Fr Denis' FINAL MASSES (as Parish Administrator)



5pm Saturday 30th December 9am Sunday 31st December

Next Sunday's Readings- Fourth Sunday of Advent 23-24 December

First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

*Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5,27,29

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel: John 1:26 –38

You will conceive and bear a son.

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.



What's on in the coming week at QoA parish?			
Mon 18 th	8.30am	Mass	
Tues 19 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer	
Thu 21 st	8.30am	Mass	
Fri 22 nd	9.00am	Mass	
Sat 23 rd		Reconciliation Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Sun 24 th	5.00pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Christmas Eve (Supper after Mass -Please BRING-A-PLATE to share)	
Mon 25 th	8.00am	Christmas Day (Cuppa after Mass - Please BRING-A-PLATE to share)	

Thank you! Through your generosity, you have been the face of Christ for those in need in your local community.









At the end of 2023, nine priests will retire from active ministry.

Your support will provide them a home and basic healthcare in their retirement.



Holy Spirit Seminary welcomed three young men to the transitional diaconate in 2023.

Through your gift, you ensure priests for the future of our faith.

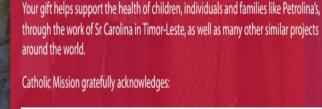
Six Mary MacKillop Bursary recipients graduated Year 12 in 2023.

Your support makes it possible to award bursaries to eleven new children in 2024.

With your gift, you have given women and children fleeing domestic violence a safe space this Christmas.

Because of you, they look forward to a brighter 2024.





Stafford Catholic Parish





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

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

quite tricky when Christmas falls on a Monday. Both the Fourth

THE DATE OF CHRISTMAS

and the morning of Sunday 24. by Tom Elich, Liturgy Brisbane

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!

FROM OUR PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN FRIEND IN THE WEST BANK (Bethlehem):

Hi Fr. Denis,

Thank you in thinking of us .I appreciate your concern. May our Lord brings us peace because really we are so tired from this bad situation but still we have full confidence in our king of peace.

Best regards and God bless.

Mimi

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

May this poem fill you with the Christmas spirit and inspire you.

Make Christmas Last *All Year Long*By Kelly Roper

Why confine the beauty of Christmas to a single season?

*Give to the needy whenever you're able.

- *Volunteer at a soup kitchen at least once a month.
- *Wish people a good day every day.
- *Sing your favorite Christmas carol just because.
- *end cards to let loved ones know you're thinking of them.
- *Surprise someone now and then with a gift from the heart.
- *Let that mistletoe hang all year round and use it.
- *Pray for peace on earth each and every day.
- *Try to love your fellow human beings even though they're far from perfect.
- *Give thanks for all the Lord provides.
- *Keep Jesus first in your heart.

If you can do these things all year long, Christmas never has to end.

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



or scan: 回過過數回 Terms and Conditions

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

Please contact the parish office for PERMANENT BOOKINGS.







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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



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@stopline.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 BAP-TISM 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 weekend Masses and Fr Denis will open for you. Thank you.

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



Available at the parish office:

*Toilet paper roll; \$2 Paper Towel: \$3.5 Tissue:\$2

ANDINTING 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:

Frank Deighton, Anne Carter, 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 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.