



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

Jesse Tree

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
David	A Shepherd for the People	1 Sam 16:1-23 - 17:58, 2 Sam 5:1-5, 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.

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, & 16th January at 8.30am.



Congratulations 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.



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



CHRISTMAS PARTY

BRING A PLATE

to share!!!

Christmas Eve

8pm Mass

and

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.



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	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun 24 th	9.00am 5.00pm 8.00pm	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)

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.



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.



Your gift helps support the health of children, individuals and families like Petrolina's, through the work of Sr Carolina in Timor-Leste, as well as many other similar projects around the world.

Catholic Mission gratefully acknowledges:

Stafford Catholic Parish



Signed:





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**

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!

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.



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

Annual 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.



ONLINE TENNIS COURT BOOKING

FOR CASUAL HIRE Click link below:

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

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>



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:

Frank Deighton, Anne Carter, Bev Losgren, Gerard McGroary, 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.