

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."

Fourth Sunday of Advent 23rd - 24th December 2023 Yr B

The Nativity of the Lord 25th December 2023



Jesse Tree

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



Zechariah	Anticipation	Luke 1:57-80	Pen & Tablet
John the Baptist	Preparation	Mark 1:1-8; Matt 11:7-15; Jn 1:19-23	Grasshopper
Mary	The Hope for a Future	Luke 1:26-38	White Lily
Joseph	Trust	Matt 1:19 -25	Carpenter Tools
Shepherds	Welcome	Matt 2:1-6	Lamb
Jesus	Birth of the Messiah	Luke 2:1-20	Manger
Maji	Worship	Matt 2:1-12	Star

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

From the beginning, the Christian Church has understood that Christmas is more than just the commemoration of Jesus' birth on 25th December. For nearly 2000 years, Christians have celebrated Christmas from December 25 through to the Epiphany. The church calendar today extends this celebration until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Christmas in fact celebrates the beginnings of the mystery of salvation – Christ's birth, his revelation to the Jewish shepherds and the Gentile magi, his baptism by John in the Jordan and his first miracle – the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana.

While it is natural to focus on Christ's nativity at Christmas time, we should not stop there. When we celebrate someone's birthday, we reflect on the life of that person in its entirety, not the day of their birth. Similarly at Christmas we remember not just Christ's birth, but his life, death and resurrection and what it means for us.

Christmas is above all a celebration of the fact that, through the Incarnation, God is present in our everyday lives. The Christ whom we adore at Christmas is no longer the infant in the manger; he is the risen Lord of the universe.

Christmas celebrates not only the light of the star over Bethlehem, but Christ as the light of the world.



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

24th Dec 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 Dec (Thursday), 29th Dec (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

**Anticipated 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.



Thanks and Goodbye (I thought I'd pinch this last bit of the front page!) For Diocesan Priests like me, the parish is my prime community. This presents us with two critical times—establishing a relationship with all of you at the start AND leaving that "family" at the end. You all have been a wonderful

"family" to me over 14 years. We've done a lot together to make the world a better place according to our Baptismal mission.

That's what makes me so grateful for this time with you—you all are inspiring in the way you face the good times and the bad with faith, hope and love.

May every day be a "eucharist" day—as Paul says "in ALL things, give thanks"! Why? God is faithful and will never cease in victory of Good over evil, Light over dark and LIFE OVER DEATH! - Denis

**Next Sunday's Readings- Feast of the Holy Family
30-31 December**

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1-6,8-9

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading: Hebrew 11:8,11-12,17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.



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

Mon 25 th	8.00am	CHRISTMAS DAY Mass (cuppa after mass)
Tues 26 th		NO Morning Prayer
Thu 27 th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 29 th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 30 th	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation Feast of the Holy Family (cake after mass)
Sun 31 st	9.00am 5.00pm	Feast of the Holy Family (cake after mass) Anticipated Mass for Feast of the "Mary, Mother of God"



**The Nativity of the Lord
December 24-25,**

Christmas Vigil
(optional)

Isaiah 62:1-5
The Lords in you.

First Reading

*Responsorial
Psalm*

Psalm 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
For ever I will sing
the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Paul spoke of Christ,
the son of David.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25
A genealogy of Jesus Christ,
son of David.

Christmas Night
(optional)

Isaiah 9:1-7
A son is given to us.

Psalm 95:1-3, 11-13
Today is born
Our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.

Titus 2:11-14
God's grace revealed
to all people.

Luke 2:1-14
Today a saviour
has been born for you.

Christmas Day
(optional)

Isaiah 52:7-10
All the ends of the earth shall see
the saving power of God.

Psalm 97:1-6
All the ends of the earth
have seen the saving power of God.

Hebrews 1:1-6
In our own time God speaks to us
through his Son.

John 1:1-5, 9-14
The Word of God became flesh and
dwelt among us, and we saw
his glory.

Readings- Mary, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD (1 January)

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

They will call down my name on the children of Israel
and I will bless them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3,5,6,8

May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying
gin the crib...When the eight day came they gave him the name
of Jesus.

A Farewell Note from Sr Dorothy Bayliss RSC

Who ever knows what is in the heart and mind of God. Denis
this is just to tell you that I am heading home to Sydney on
Monday. My health issues escalated a few weeks ago ... I leave
for Sydney for more supportive care. Its a big shock and I'm
trusting that it's the right decision but I trust in Gods Plan for
me which I have tried to do all my life. Unfortunately I have not
had any time to see people and say my good byes which in
itself is hard.

I just wanted to thank you Denis and the Parishioners for yours
and their support companionship and prayers over the past
five years I was very blessed to be in an all inclusive and prayer-
ful parish. Please continue to pray for me as this is the hardest
thing I have faced in my life so far.

Wishing you and all Parishioners a Blessed Peaceful Safe and
Christ filled Christmas and New Year .

With Gratitude

Christmas from the Heart

The tinsel is shining in the sunlight at noon
Our tree is laden with gifts
My heart is full with my family home
My head in a spin with the list
This Christmas is simple
Bring your heart and your soul
Remember what 's important in your life
Be kind to your brother and sweet to your sister
Give your parents a big, long hug
When the day comes around
Give my love to your folk
Tell them all the reasons you love them
Give a gift from the heart
Leave the sales for the weary
Hunting bargains is not my clearing
Give your follies to all
Bring cheer to the table
Sprinkle it with funny jokes and laughter
Follow this with a course of gratitude and thanks
And an afternoon of rest straight after
Take it easy this Christmas
Be a saint of goodwill
Fill a bowl with sweet loving
And wear your best frills
Have a blast this Christmas
Give your all to the joy
Be the Santa within you

Serve your kin from your heart. - **Luke Cowan 23/11/2023**

Congratulations to KOKO-PALOMA MULLARKEY who, at 5.00Pm Mass this weekend will be fully initiated into the Church through celebrating her first Communion! We the church thank her parents, Karla and Paul for their example and commitment to Koko's faith.



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

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.

Name tags

There are still nametags waiting to be collected in Mary's room. 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.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

On Sunday 31st December we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Holy Family, of course, refers to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Many people in today's world can relate to the trials and anxieties experienced by the Holy Family. An emperor's edict compelled Mary and Joseph to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem; a king's cruelty forced the family to flee into Egypt; fear of Herod's successor made them move from Judaea and settle in Galilee. Mary and Joseph experienced the anguish of their son's disappearance for three days in a strange and bustling city. Through these difficult and stressful times, the Holy Family placed themselves in God's hands and followed where God called them to go. The Son of God experienced all human conditions, including being subjected to the rulers of this world and the perils of human existence. Despite this, in fact because of it, he accomplished the will of his Father and the work of salvation. In the same way, it is not by fleeing reality that we find God. God is to be found in the ups and down, the joys and sorrows, of family life. The prayers of the feast ask God to 'help us live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in peace with you and one another'.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
BRING A PLATE to share!!!

Christmas Eve 8pm Mass
and
Christmas Day 3am Mass

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

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

Congratulations to JOSHUA and JESSICA JAISON who, at 5.00pm Mass NEXT weekend become fully initiated into the Church through celebrating their first Communion! We the church thank their parents, Jaison and Linsi for their example and commitment to their children's faith.



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Safeguarding Commitment

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

+ Blessing
Most Rev Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane

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

*Praise His name for
He is a living God,
He was born to save us all.*

*Merry Christmas and a blessed
Happy New Year!*



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**

Parish Priest 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.

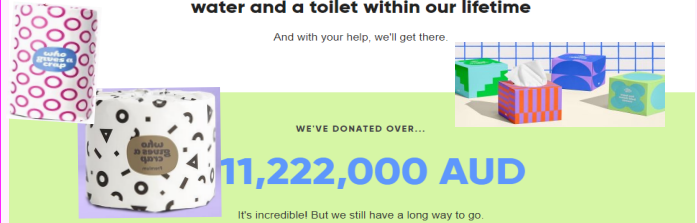


Please call the Parish office 3356 7155 if you would like to have a look on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday or after week-end Masses and Fr Denis will open for you. Thank you.

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 Father 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 Lofgren, 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:

June Colch, 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: 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.