



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."

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 27th-28th January 2024

Message from Fr Joe McKay OFM

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus silences an evil spirit. The people around him could see that Jesus spoke with words of authority and power. When Jesus spoke it changed things! Every time we listen to the Gospel it changes us. When we listen more deeply and Jesus' words touches our hearts and we are changed.

The Gospel cannot be left as just words on a page, they are meant to be living words. When we listen to the Gospel and take the words to heart and live them we are meant to become the Gospel, the Good Word for others. We may not feel like we have the power to speak words to silence evil spirits but every time we do an act of kindness, speak words of mercy and compassion, we dispel evil in the world. Through us Jesus dispels the evil of despair or loneliness that is so prevalent in our community.

The words of the Gospel help nourish our faith and form our conscience. While the scriptures may have been written in a different culture and in another language they help us see how God has guided his people. St Paul reminded Christians that we do follow scripture like a book of rules or laws, we follow the Jesus, the living Word of God.

God continues to speak to us today: through scripture, through the teaching of the Church, through sacraments and prayer. The word of God speaks today when we are moved as a community and individually to respond with love to the Gospel. It is this Word that has built churches, hospitals and schools. It is this Word that calls us to care for the stranger, the widow and the orphan. This Word still speaks with authority and power.

The question for us is do we listen? Do we respond? Do we seek to make God's words alive today in our own heart?



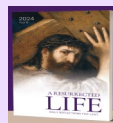
Anna's THURSDAY Group

THIS THURSDAY, 1st February at Rosetta's **at Stafford City at 12pm.**

(Please note the NEW VENUE)

Any questions ring :

Dianne on 0407616637



LENTEN PROGRAM

With Ash Wednesday occurring 14th February (FOUR weeks time!) it is necessary to plan now for Lent. The Evangelisation Brisbane resource this year is "A Resurrected Life" and costs **\$6 per book. Pay Cash/Credit Card.** We are looking at running a Lenten group on during Lent, day and time to be confirmed. These books can be used in **groups or for personal reflection.** It is imperative we **order** them ASAP as they are very popular and usually sell out. If you would like a copy please do one of the following: Put your name on the **Order Sheet at the back of the church** **OR** contact **Tish** in the Parish Office **33567155** **OR** email stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
(DEADLINE on Sunday, 4th February)

Name tags

We invite you to wear your badge at mass each weekend (just keep it in the car for easy retrieval). It will enable Fr Joe to know our names, thanks!

Latte Ladies



Latte Ladies will meet **NEXT Thursday, 8th Feb** at **Mocha Bella, Flockton St, Everton Park** at **9:45am.**

All are welcome to come and enjoy a 'cuppa', great conversation and companionship.

Enquiries - Truci Dove 3359 2267

JOB Opportunity

Sacramental Program Coordinator (Kedron)

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/careers/?ja-job=828745>

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct working with children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) and/or vulnerable adults. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has a zero tolerance to abuse of children or vulnerable adults."



*Next Sunday's Readings
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
27-28 January*

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth,
and he will tell them all I command.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2,6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the
things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-28

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.



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

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| Mon 29 th | 8.30am | Mass |
| Tues 30 th | 8.30am | Morning Prayer with Communion |
| Thu 1 st Feb | 8.30am 12nn | Mass Ana's Group |
| Fri 2 nd | 8.30am | Mass |
| Sat 3 rd | 4.00pm 5.00pm | Reconciliation Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 4 th | 9.00am | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

PNG Prayer Appeal

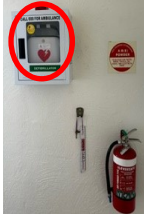
Some of our Convent residents and ex residents from PNG have asked for prayers for their families, especially children who are still living there and are caught up in the current unrest in Port Moresby. Please keep them in your prayers during this very worrying time.



Church First Aid Information

Our Church now has an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** installed (just outside Martha's room).

An AED can assist in a person's survival if they suffer a sudden cardiac arrest. An AED is easy to use. Once you open the AED carry case, it will automatically start providing instructions to you. **Remember in an emergency, always call triple zero (000) for an Ambulance.**



We thank the Latte Ladies group for their suggestion of this initiative in the interest of helping Parishioners' and visitors' wellbeing.

We ask for God's blessings that it may never need to be used.

If you would like to see an instructional video of how to use the AED we have installed, you can view this video at <https://youtu.be/o-uHeD4lcq0> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-uHeD4lcq0>)

Pregnancy Crisis Incorporated (PCI)

PCI is a Catholic not-for-profit comprised of men and women who volunteer to serve women and girls with crisis pregnancies and their unborn babies and any other children they may have. This is done through the immediate and ongoing provision of relief to those in distress, whether it is due to financial hardship, homelessness, domestic violence, pressure to abort their babies by family or their workplace, or for any other reason. Relief includes accommodation, food, and clothing during pregnancy and until around six months after birth, friendship and the easing of isolation and loneliness through visitation, material baby goods from nappies to prams to cots and everything in between, spiritual and emotional support, and referrals for, and accompaniment to, social welfare appointments, medical care, and counseling. Further, they assist both men and women with post-abortion trauma crises.

Unfortunately, PCI's public liability insurance premiums have increased significantly this year, approximately an additional \$21,000 p.a., due to claims made by other organisations around the world. PCI receives no government funding and relies totally on donations.

To ease this financial burden, the group is hosting a dance, in their private capacity, to raise funds for PCI.

Details are as follows: Friday, 9th February 6:30 - 11:00 PM

Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church Hall, 616 Ipswich Road, Annerley, Queensland, 4103

\$35pp includes a glass of wine upon arrival, \$20pp for ages 10-17, and ages 0-9 are complimentary.

All ages; youth and young adults, families, and seniors are most welcome.

Please see this booking link for further information, such as dress theme: <https://www.trybooking.com/COEVT>

World Day of Prayer 2024

hosted by **Our Lady, Queen of Apostles—Stafford Parish** this year. The date, **Friday, March 1st**. The format is usually a **Morning Tea** starting at **10am** with the **Prayer Service commencing at 10.30am**. This a wonderful time of the year to show our support so let us have Queen of Apostles well represented at this Service. We will provide more details as the date draws closer. Meanwhile you may like to contact **Toni Evans on 0431705456** for more information.

World Day of Prayer 2024
Palestine



Remembering your parish in your Will

"Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts." (Matthew 5:16)

Do you wish to become an Eternal Guardian of your parish and leave a gift in your Will to your parish? It is important that the correct legal entity is referenced in your Will including the parish name and official address of the Parish Office. The recommended wording for a gift in your Will to your parish is:

"I give [insert amount/percentage/asset/item] to The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane for the use and benefit of general charitable, religious and educational purposes of the *Our Lady, Queen of Apostles* situated at 70 Appleby Road, Stafford 4053. In the event that the parish has changed its name or been amalgamated with another parish or parishes, this gift shall be given to the parish which at the date of my death incorporates the major area of the *Our Lady, Queen of Apostles - Stafford Parish* as it exists at the time of making of this Will."

For a confidential conversation about a gift in your Will, please contact: Archdiocese of Brisbane Gifts in Wills Senior Manager:

p: 07 3324 3632 e: pererar@bne.catholic.net.au

Information Day for Cathedral Guides & Welcomers

Thursday
1st February 2024

9.30am -1:00pm
Hanly Room,
Francis Rush Centre.

Refreshments provided.

An information day for anyone who would like to find out more about becoming a guide and/or a welcomer at The Cathedral of St Stephen



RSVP: 25 Jan 2024 ☎ 3324 3030 ✉ cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au

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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.

Our SUNDAYS 7.30pm to 8.30pm
SENIOR permanent hirers are needing more
players. If interested, please
contact the parish office (call-3356 7155 or email:
stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)

"THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY 'COME'" RESPONDING TO FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24, 26). The new document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Fiducia Supplicans* (Trusting Supplication), bears the sub-title On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, which is the key to understanding what it says. Before all else, it is a clear and penetrating reflection on the meaning of blessings of any kind. They are not all of a piece. Some blessings, like the Nuptial Blessing, are strictly liturgical and find their proper setting in the liturgical rites of the Church. Others – like the many and varied blessings a priest or deacon gives after Mass – are less formal and public. They tend to be spontaneous rather than scripted, private rather than public, responding to a need in a particular moment of a person's life. These blessings are sacramentals rather than sacraments; and their proper setting is popular piety rather than the liturgy.

Requests for such blessings rise from a person's sense of need and a recognition that the all-loving God will respond to that need. Need and faith converge to produce the request, and the ordained minister responds to the need by mediating the blessing of God. The faith of the whole Church is gathered up in the blessing, faith in a God who never ceases to bless and who is closest to those most in need.

When people request a blessing after Mass, the priest or deacon does not enquire about their worthiness. The blessing is given unconditionally. The same is true of those who at Communion time come for a blessing: a simple blessing is given, whatever their situation in life might be. This is a recognition that God's blessing is not for the perfect but for those who, often in the face of great difficulty, are making their way step by step to the fulness of life in God. The blessing is God's word of encouragement to them to keep moving, not to give up, and to know that God is with them on their way, whatever their imperfections, even their sins or sinful situation.

Against this background, the Holy See has said that it is possible to bless people in irregular unions, such as those remarried after divorce or those in same-sex relationships. To say that it is possible is not to say that it is mandatory; to say that you may is not to say that you must. No ordained minister is obliged to offer such a blessing, though those who prefer not to should reflect on why and consider referring the supplicants to someone who will.

Those who choose to offer a blessing will have to exercise pastoral wisdom and sensitivity to judge when, where and how the blessing is offered. It should not be done in a liturgical setting; and given its essentially private character, it would be best done without a large gathering or the glare of cameras. No texts or ritual will be provided by the Bishops Conference or the Archdiocese; the ordained minister himself will have to decide the words best suited to the situation. Such words could include a prayer that these two people will always strive to know more of the will of God in their life, that they will keep moving on the path of faith towards the God who loves them, that they will know his peace on the way and always be open to the joy of his forgiveness.

There should be no linkage of the blessing with a civil union, and none of the rituals or symbols associated with marriage should accompany the blessing. This is because the Holy See's Declaration makes clear that the Church's teaching on marriage remains intact: marriage is a free and life-long covenant between a man and a woman which is open to new life. The Declaration distinguishes between the doctrinal and the pastoral. The Church's doctrine is not changed, but new pastoral possibilities are opened up in response to the reality of human experience and significant shifts at least in Western cultures. With couples in irregular unions, this means that the union itself is not blessed but the two people who seek the blessing. In that sense, the blessing is not a validation of the union but of two people who, in the midst of life's uncertainties and compromises, are seeking the peace and happiness which God wills for all his children.

One implication of this is that the blessing would not allow those blessed to receive Holy Communion, though it does mean that they remain children of the Church and will be accompanied by the Church in every way possible. A mother never ceases to be mother to her children: that is at the heart of the blessing and of what the Holy See has offered in *Fiducia Supplicans*. "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'. Let whoever hears say, 'Come'. Let those who thirst come; let those who desire take the water of life without price" (Revelation 22:17).

+ Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane
2 December 2023



Are you a VISITOR or do not carry cash? You can help our Parish's Good works. A "Smart Terminal" is at the front door. CHOOSE ONE of the pre determined amounts OR your own preferred Amount and THEN "tap and go" THANKS!

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. Thank you.

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



Stafford Parish Scheme ID:
C10195625



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

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!



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you are **going to the hospital unexpectedly** for an op OR develop a **serious illness**, let Fr Joe 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)**.



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 Joseph McKay OFM**
Parish Priest's E-mail: mckayj@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.

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:

Zina Di Mauro Elaine Rutherford, Sr Catherine Hefferan .rsc, 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:

Helen Mullins, Anne Carter, Frank Deighton and Gloria Ryan.

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Domenico (Tony) Antonaglia, Francesca Antonaglia and Angelo Di Mauro 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.

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.** For **BAPTISM BOOKINGS**, contact the Parish Office.

Further information on our website: <https://bit.ly/3VHHQ62>



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.