



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."

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 10th-11th February 2024

Fr Joe's Reflection

Mark 1:40-45 The leprosy left him and he was cured.

Jesus becomes a leper?

We have seen during the Covid period the need for isolation to protect the population from disease. We know how isolation can make us feel. This practice was an ancient one as shown in the Book of Leviticus. Throughout history people suspected of leprosy, were to live a separated life. Some cultures required them to live in leper colonies, wear clothes that marked their condition, and forced them to warn others of their presence.

In Australia, a number of islands become leper colonies. Peel Island near North Stradbroke and Fantome Island south of Palm Island were sights of leper colonies in Queensland. Around the world leprosy and leper colonies still exist, even though it is now a treatable disease.

To be a leper was to be a person separated and removed from their community, family and friends.

The leper knew that Jesus had the power to cure. What the leper was worried about was whether Jesus really loved him enough to touch him and take a risk for him. By touching the leper, Jesus becomes ritually 'unclean'. Jesus took the place of the now clean leper.

When the leper started openly talking about his cure, Jesus was forced to hide away from the towns. Jesus needed to find quiet places because people were desperate to be cured of illness and disabilities. He lost his freedom and given it to the leper.

Jesus was making an exchange, just like how he had with the leper. The Son of God was going to give his life for the world.

For Franciscans, this is one of our foundational Gospel stories. St Francis of Assisi wrote that it was encountering a leper and for the first time having the courage to show compassion for a fellow human being, rather than fleeing in fear that led to his conversion. In some of the stories, the leper St Francis encounters is the hidden Christ. The Gospel invites us to look again at who are excluded from living life to the full, to look at who we fear and sometimes unconsciously exclude. We are being invited to exchange following the way of the world for God's way. *Fr Joe McKay ofm*



THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY 14th February 7am Mass with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes (will be in zoom)

On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent, a 40-day season of penance that ends at sunset on Holy Thursday. During Lent Catholics are called to prepare ourselves to enter more deeply into the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection in the celebration the Easter mysteries. Lent is not just a season for giving things up but a season of renewal, reconciliation and nourishing of our faith. It is a time of preparation.

On Ash Wednesday the faithful are marked with ash, an ancient sign of contrition and penance. The 40-day period of Lent reflects Jesus' period of temptation in the desert and the destructive but cleansing flood of Noah's time. The season is an invitation to turn back to God and deepen our relationship.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence. All aged between 18 and 60 years age are bound to abstain from meat and fast. All older than 14 years of age are bound to abstain from meat. To fast means that we are to have no more than one full meal and two "lesser meals" that cannot add up to a full meal during the day.

Every Friday of the year, especially during Lent, Catholics aged over 14 years of age are bound to abstain from meat *or substitute* this with another form of penance, such as prayer, fasting, service or almsgiving to others. The entire period of Lent is one of voluntary personal penance and preparation.

During Lent we might join in a parish Lenten reflection group, participate in the celebration of the Stations of the Cross, or come to a Reconciliation Service. All these Lenten penitential practises are about directing our heart to what we and the world really desires. We learn again to hunger for Christ.

When Lent ends on the evening of Holy Thursday we sit with the Apostles with Christ in the Upper Room and the next day we are witnesses to Christ's Passion and death. On Holy Saturday, the Church waits prayerfully in growing anticipation and desire for the celebration of the Great Feast of Easter and Christ's Resurrection. *Fr Joe*



*Next Sunday's Readings
First Sunday of Lent
17-18 February*

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

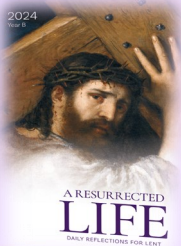
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.



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

Mon 12 th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 13 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Wed 14th	7.00am	Ash Wednesday (will be in zoom)
Thu 15 th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 16 th	9.00am 10.30am	Mass Men's Group
Sat 17 th	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation First Sunday of Lent
Sun 18 th	9.00am	First Sunday of Lent



LENTEN PROGRAM
starts **THURSDAY, 15th February**
after the **8.30am mass**.

Please bring **CASH** or pay via **EFTPOS** this weekend or use the link below to pay :

Lenten Book PAYMENTS

Stations of the Cross

commences on Friday, 16th.

*following Friday morning mass
EXCEPT on 1st March when we host
WORLD DAY of PRAYER

*5.30pm each Friday during Lent

All are welcome to join us.



The Sacramental Team needs you!

The Sacramental Team is urgently seeking someone who is confident in computer programs such as Microsoft Forms and Excel. We also extend the invite to welcome those who are not so computer savvy to also join our team!

Please reach out to Teresa Rotolone or Jules Esler for more information or if you can help us in any way.

Please send an email to: qoasacs@hotmail.com



Thinking about joining Vinnie's ?
Ring Gavin Conroy
(Stafford Conference President)
on 0410 566 068 and have a chat
and he will advise you on what to do.

Sign up and join our team

More information available on the parish bulletin board.

GENTLE REMINDERS for VOLUNTEERS on SAFEGUARDING

- Here's the link to find **VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTIONS** that relate to each role on the current Safeguarding Matrix:
<https://ai.catholic.net.au/hris/Volunteer%20Documents/Parish%20Position%20Descriptions>
- POLICE CHECK RENEWAL** www.bit.ly/staffordpc
- BLUE CARD RENEWAL** <https://my.bluecard.qld.gov.au/login>
- PRIOR CONDUCT DECLARATION form updated version now available in the parish website**
- A review of safeguarding training was undertaken, as a result, there is now only one **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING MODULE** for all workers & volunteers. The training module is available on the Arch e-Learn system for clergy and employees. Volunteers can access the module via the Archdiocesan public website at <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>. The module will take about 1 hour to complete and **must be completed every 2 years**. Please be sure to register completion of the training with your parish or ministry and the People & Culture (HR) team for compliance purposes. Volunteers will also soon be able to access the training via the Arch e-Learn system.

Waste Voucher 2023-24

100 kg for general green waste
Creating a clean Brisbane

to 31 August 2024
conditions listed overleaf.

DONATION NEEDED!
You may leave vouchers at the parish office or mail box.
Thank you!



**Project Compassion Sunday
10 & 11 February**



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for **all future generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Men's Group CUPPA
THIS Friday (16th Feb) 10.30am-12nn
Café 63, Stafford



You are very welcome to bring along any of your mates (Catholic or not) and enjoy each others company plus a drink and something to eat.

THANK YOU

to our parishioners who have
donated
their pre-loved
vacuum cleaners!

VACUUM DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our residents in the old convent ARE IN NEED OF PRE-LOVED VACUUM CLEANERS/ (PREFERABLY BAGLESS). Maybe you or someone you know has one they no longer need. Please email stafford@bne.catholic.net.au or call Tisha at the parish office (3356 7155) to schedule drop off time.
Thank you!



USUAL *Supper / Morning Tea*

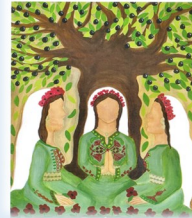
After Third Weekend Masses

(17th) Saturday 5pm Mass

(18th) Sunday 9am Mass



World Day of Prayer 2024
Palestine



World Day of Prayer 2024

Friday, March 1st.

10am Morning Tea

10.30am Prayer Service

Toni Evans on 0431705456

*We'd like to ask our Stafford parishioners
to please bring a plate to share.*

THANK YOU!

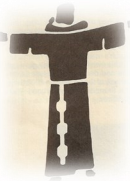
Secular Franciscan Order

“Ordinary Catholics following Christ’s Gospel in the footsteps of St Francis.”

**A lay organisation initiated by
St Francis of Assisi.**

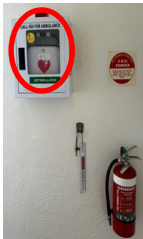
**Meets 3rd Sunday of the Month.
Kedron.**

**For more information:
Jim Kearney 0410-881622**



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>)



ICAN
AUSTRALIA

draws your attention to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Here is an opportunity to support peace and to exercise your voice as a proud Australian citizen.

The Australian Bishops conference supported the Treaty when it came into force in 2021, and it’s been strong church teaching since Vatican II. Many other faith organisations have also endorsed it. Here’s what ICAN Australia have to say.....

<https://icanw.org.au/petition/?>

Three years ago today the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force. Back then there were 50 states parties... now there are 70, with an extra 23 signatories!

We haven’t abolished nuclear weapons yet, and it is devastating to see several nuclear-armed states waging horrendous wars today, but the TPNW is changing the course of history:

To find out more about the Treaty and to place your name on the petition: [Please sign or share it onwards to your friends here.](#)

*Please raise a toast to the ban as we celebrate three years of our powerful young treaty being *in force*. Next step: let’s get Australia’s signature sorted. **Dr Ruth Mitchell (ICAN Australia board member Chair of the Int Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)***



Care for Creation

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 SUNDAY 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)**



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:

Miguela Savellon, Sr Patricia Coyle, 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:

Gran Acuna and Greg Curry 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.