



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."

1st Sunday of Lent Year B 17th-18th February 2024

Fr Joe's Reflection

Jesus is tempted in the desert (Mark 1:2-15)

Australia is the dry continent. Nearly 18% of Australia is desert while another 70% is semi-arid land receiving an average of less than 5 centimetres of precipitation a year. With little water living things struggle to survive. The Judean desert, east of Jerusalem, is not very large. It runs for 100 kilometres parallel to the Jordan River valley and Dead sea. It is a high rocky plateau cut with steep valleys and is inhabited by vipers, leopards and the hyrax, a large rodent like animal.

Mark's version of the Jesus entering the desert is short. We don't find mention of the three temptations found in Luke or Matthew. The emphasis is on the time and who Jesus encounters there.

Jesus is in the desert for 40 days. This brings to mind the 40 days of the destructive and cleansing rain at the time of Noah (Genesis 7:17); the 40 years of wandering by Moses and the people in the desert before entering the Promised Land (Joshua 5:6); the 40 days Elijah walked to Mt Horeb before encountering God, not in the fire, earthquake or wind but in the silence (1 Kings 19:1-18). Each of these occasions is a moment where the people's relationship with God is challenged and deepened.

Jesus meets Satan and the angels in the desert. Alone in the wilderness we see more starkly the choice between good and evil: The way of Satan or the way of God. The desert environment forces us to focus on the basics just to survive. Alone, we are starkly confronted by your own thoughts and fears. You have only yourself, your demons and God to turn to.

Deserts are challenging but not life-less. Our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in central Australia knew how to cross them because they knew where the food and the water was. Is our life nourished by the sacraments? Do we appreciate the gift of the sacraments, especially baptism, the water of life?

In a busy world we need to find time to enter the desert. A time for silence and contemplation. To stop and listen to what we are really saying to ourselves about who we are: to listen and hear who God invites us to be. We need to take time to confront our demons and draw water from the well of salvation. During the 40 days of Lent may we find time to return to the desert.

Jesus comes out of the desert like a new Elijah. Elijah emerged from the desert, a changed man, having confronted his fear, he is sent by God to anoint mortal kings to do God's will. (1 Kings 19:1-18) Jesus leaves the desert to proclaim that the start of God's reign is near, the Good News. He invites us to do God's will and enter God's kingdom. *Fr Joe McKay ofm*



NEXT SUNDAY...

**Welcome
Ceremony for
Our New Parish
Administrator!**

Please join us
Sunday, 25th February
9am Mass

On this special occasion with
Bishop Tim Norton
and

Fr Phillip Miscamble
(Provincial of Friars Minor)
for the **WELCOME CEREMONY** of
Fr Joe McKay ofm
Our Lady,
Queen of Apostles-Stafford
Parish Administrator

Music Practice

NEXT SATURDAY, 24th Feb 10-11am

Everyone is Welcome!





Next Sunday's Readings
Second Sunday of Lent
 24-25 February

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 115:10,15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
 in the land of the living.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

God did not spare his own Son.

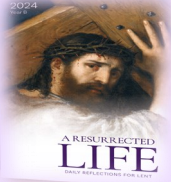
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.



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

Mon 19 th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 20 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Thu 22 nd	8.30am 9.00am	Mass Lenten Group
Fri 23 rd	9.00am 9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross
Sat 24 th	10.00am 4.00pm 5.00pm	Music Practice Reconciliation 2nd Sunday of Lent
Sun 25 th	9.00am	2nd Sunday of Lent WELCOME Ceremony for Fr Joe and the Friars Cuppa after mass



LENTEN PROGRAM

THURSDAYS after the 8.30am mass.

TWO MORE Book available for purchase.

Pay CASH or pay via EFTPOS or use the link:

Lenten Book PAYMENTS

Stations of the Cross

Fridays

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

*5.30pm each Friday during Lent



LINKS for VOLUNTEERS' SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS

1. VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

<https://ai.catholic.net.au/hris/Volunteer%20Documents/Parish%20Position%20Descriptions>

2. POLICE CHECK RENEWAL www.bit.ly/staffordpc

3. BLUE CARD RENEWAL <https://my.bluecard.qld.gov.au/login>

3. PRIOR CONDUCT DECLARATION form updated version now available in the parish website

4. SAFEGUARDING TRAINING MODULE <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

Waste Voucher 2023-24
 100 kg for general waste
 Creating a clean Brisbane

DONATION NEEDED!

You may leave vouchers at the parish office or mail box.

31 August 2024



First Sunday of Lent
17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.

Meet **Ronita** from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet **Leaia** from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet **Memory** from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



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: goasacs@hotmail.com

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!

Save the Date

**INTERNATIONAL
FOOD FEST**

Saturday, 8th June

After the 5pm Mass



Do you contribute to the Parish using **DIRECT DEBIT** or **CREDIT CARD**? Thank you. Do you know that at the doorways there is a laminated card that looks like our usual "envelope". Please take one and place it on the plate. Why?? A couple of reasons: 1) the symbol in our liturgy of putting this on the plate represents your life proclaiming the Gospel given back to God in thanksgiving represented by the bread and wine brought forth; 2) Little ones eyes are watching and it's a great example to them. While they may not understand that you already give via DD/CC, they will still see you put "something" on the plate (Otherwise, they may get the impression that adults around them put nothing there and so they don't need to either.)

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES
PARISH
STAFFORD -
PARISH
COLLECTION**
My share for the support of
Archbishop, Bishops, & Priests
of the Archdiocese of Brisbane
My share in helping to pay for
Faith Development Resources,
Community Activities, Parish Outreach,
and Administration.

.....
I contribute via
DIRECT DEBIT

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)

We invite families with children in
Grade 5 and above to prepare for the
Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation).

**Penance preparation will be held on
Sunday 10th March**

**If you're interested in your child receiving this
Sacrament, please send an email to
goasacs@hotmail.com no later than 3rd March.**

**Please Note: Children who have already received
the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist
are welcome to participate.**



Care for Creation

We are ready for **Clean Up**

Australia Day, 2024 Join us at
4.00pm, Sunday 3rd March. We will meet at
Keong Park, Quandine St, clean the park,
then 'emu bob' progressing along Appleby
and Shand Streets to Roy Harvey Park where
we will clean up, and conclude. The event
will run for a maximum of 90 minutes. Gloves
and bags will be provided. Be sun safe,
COVID safe and remember to hydrate.



Time: 4.00pm

Date: Sunday 3rd March

Place: Keong Park, Quandine St, Stafford

Lent: the springtime of the soul.

It is a time to make a new covenant with God and develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your desert and discover your calling.



Scan the QR code

to find out more, or call 1300 133 544

www.vocationbrisbane.com

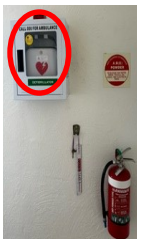
Follow us on socials

@vocationbrisbane



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>)



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



STAMPS FOR MARIST MISSIONS:

ALL STAMPS -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 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 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)**.



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.

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.

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**

Let Us Pray



We pray for those who are unwell:

Bunny Vargas, Miguela Savellon, Sr Patricia Coyle, Zina Di Mauro, Sr Catherine Hefferan rsc, 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:

Joan Madden; Elaine Rutherford, 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.

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.