



Our Lady Queen of Apostles Parish, Stafford

A Parish of the Brisbane North West Deanery

Vision: "To follow the example of Jesus by serving others."

Second Sunday of Advent - Year A 7th/8th Dec 2019

Our Parish School, "Queen of Apostles", was set up by our Parish as a major way in which we, as a community can fulfil the promise we make, through the Godparent(s) to the Parent(s) at the Baptism of their Child.



We promised to "help these parents in their duty as Christian Parents." This week our school ends its school year. A big "THANK-YOU" to all the staff for their dedication in supporting the Parents in the faith growth and education of the children.

May all the staff, children and their families have a happy and safe holiday. – May they constantly remember the Christmas Message "Emmanuel" – God is with us – always, everywhere and at everytime!

Our ADVENT preparation for CHRISTMAS: Celebrating the Forgiveness of our Sins

(Sacrament of Penance): (Thursday 19th Dec 7pm)

Why not celebrate our common Sinfulness and that God never ceases to forgive and show us mercy? On **Thursday 19th December, 7.00pm**, we will celebrate the Second Rite of Penance.

How to do that?? All those who wish to celebrate are asked to consider their sins, (spend some time reflecting on "*why* do I do these things") and **write them and your answer down on a piece of paper** BEFORE coming to church that night (DO NOT include your name!!). The basic structure of the Second Rite is: Introduction, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Penance and concluding rite. During the Liturgy of Penance, you will process forward, hand your **OPEN sheet** of paper to Father, receive Absolution and return to your place.



"... the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given

to us.....But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. – Apostle Paul to the Romans 5:5, 8

Jesus was never upset with sinners; he was only upset with people who did not think they were sinners! (An article by Fr Richard Rohr)

We must bear patiently not being good . . . and not being thought good. -- St. Francis of Assisi

Whoever is willing to serenely bear the trial of being displeasing to herself, that person is a pleasant place of shelter for Jesus.— St. Thérèse of Lisieux

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD 2020: We are restarting and revamping this important "learning" tool for our Prep to Year 4 children. If you'd like to volunteer (there will be training and resources), email Fr Denis (pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au) or see him after Mass. **RSVP: Sunday 21st December.**



Requirements: 13yr or older, attends Mass regularly, and some paperwork will need to be completed.

CENSUS FORMS: If you haven't completed yours yet, they are available on the trolley near the front door of the church. Please complete it (especially emergency contact person) and put it in one of the Yellow Boxes (or from next weekend) put it in an envelope and put it on the plate (or scan and email it).

Can you help? I have received a request from a resident at TriCare, Stafford for assistance to attend Mass at 9am on Sunday's. The lady doesn't drive so, she would be grateful to find someone willing to pick her up and drop her home on Sunday's. Contact the parish office for more details.

Just in case — a "heads up" before people leave for holidays — depending on the Parish Council discussion tonight (Thur), we may be **reducing the number of weekend Masses** next year. The basic reason for this is a concern whether, with small numbers in a couple of Masses, people's faith is being enhanced or not. (Music in Catholic Worship para 6: *Faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration. Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations weaken and destroy faith.*) If the Parish Council agrees, there will be a vote on the weekend Feb 8/9th.

A PRAYER FOR THE Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again.
Amen.



Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

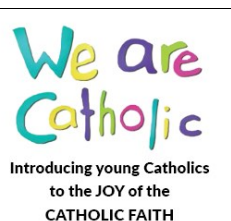
2nd Reading: St James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



Counters Roster Team D: Margaret McLean, Kemsley Kelly and Aileen Kyle.

Religious Goods Shop: We have a large range of cards, religious icons, rosary beads and medallions. We have catalogues with a huge range of gift ideas for new babies, Baptism, birthdays and other special occasions. We have a lovely book in stock which would make a great gift for children for Christmas.



Christmas cards are back in stock and a few nativity scenes, which are hard to find in the secular world

Lenten Program for 2020 - 'Be Opened, A journey to new life', is ready for early ordering!

There are some new features in the latest Lenten Program including an extra week - it now covers six weeks of Lent and Easter Sunday! There is also an app for those unable to join a group. This can be used on various devices and will be available from January 2020 through Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

In 2020, there is a strong link between *Be Opened* and the Plenary Council journey - providing parishes and communities a great focus/reflection opportunity during the period after the Discernment phase.

Be Opened...a journey to new life in many respects reflects the plenary council journey and process.



If we place an order before 31st Dec, we do receive a small discount. To reserve a copy, please send me an email or phone me in the office. Debra

Social Justice News - RIP Sam Watson At their recent meeting, the Social Justice Group noted the death of Indigenous leader Mr. Sam Watson. We wish to stand in solidarity with our indigenous brothers and sisters who are mourning the loss of their friend and leader. May God be with them.

One of our residents in the convent is ready for full-time work. She has recently completed a Cert II in Hospitality and Cert II in Skills for Work & Vocational Pathways. She has previously held positions in Archiving, holding a Diploma of Archive. Ideally, she would like to find a role in administration/archiving. If you know of someone looking for staff, please contact the parish office for more details. She is keen to work and has previously held positions working for government and university document archive centres.

St Gerard's Christmas Festival Nightly 29 November to 23 December

Including New **Carols by Candlelight** Outdoors 21 December at 7pm with Renata and Paradise City Band.

Massive Light Display, Gift Shop and Op Shop, Coffee Shop, BBQ. Free Musical Entertainment every night. See website for schedule

(www.olaparishchermside.org.au)

146 Maundrell Terrace, Chermerside West.



What should you do if you witness Racism?? In most cases of Islamophobia, the victims were women and visibly Muslim, wearing a head covering (hijab), and the perpetrators were white men. Studies show 71% of perpetrators were male and 72% of victims were female. Alarmingly, most Islamophobic attacks occurred in public, and yet only 14% of bystanders got involved or intervened. And of those, only one in three defended the victim. The majority of witnesses simply passed by without paying attention.

The Anna's Group is now open to **ALL WIDOWS.**

They meet again on **Friday 13th December** at **Coffee Club in Flockton Village** at 12pm.



Good food and good conversation is guaranteed!!!

Contact Dianne 0407616637



Christmas Lights - The Archdiocese of Brisbane is pleased to announce the return of the Lights of Christmas at St Stephen's Cathedral.

This free, family-friendly event incorporates a spectacular light show projected onto the walls of the Cathedral, while a kaleidoscope of moving colour will transform the adjacent chapel.

This year the event will run from Wednesday 11 December until Christmas Eve and include

music, food and children's activities from 6.30pm followed by the 12-minute show running continuously from 7.00pm.

Christmas Roster preparation is vital to good liturgy during the festive season. Many travel to be with family and many may visit us at this special time of the year. There will be sheets at the rear of the church to add your name if you are available to assist with the liturgical roster at the Christmas masses. We also need to hear from those normally on the counters roster and the 'shop' too for coverage over the Christmas and New Year period.

If you missed adding your name to the sheet, I'm happy to have you email or phone the parish office.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:

6pm (Mass with adapted Liturgy of Word for children)

9pm (our "Midnight" Mass)

Our tradition of supper after 9pm Mass continues, please bring a plate to share.

Christmas Day:

8am **only** (No 5.30pm Mass on Christmas Day)

Thurs 26th, Fri 27th - No liturgies.

Weekend 28/29th Dec:

Sat 5pm, Sun 7am & 9am only.

(No Sunday 5.30pm

Mass)

New Year's Eve : 6pm



You can make a gift of life and hope by donating to CARITAS. <http://view.e.caritas.org.au/>

Food insecurity and under-nutrition are widespread in vulnerable communities. Over 820 million people around the world do not have enough to eat*, and 1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water*.

Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God's eyes.



This Christmas, please give generously to help light up a family's future:

- **\$45** could give a family access to clean and safe water, to improve their health
- **\$125** could support a family with vegetable seeds, to protect them from malnutrition
- **\$500** could support communities to install drip systems for their farms, to help them build a sustainable future

VINNIE'S GIFTING TREE 2019. Vinnie's will provide gift tags re food items to be placed under the Christmas tree. These gift tags will be placed near each of the doors of the church on the this weekend.

These food items will be made up into food hampers by Vinnie's, for all our families in need for Christmas. Please be generous and feel free to take as many tags as you want. Remember!! These people struggle every day of their lives.

The closing date to place food items under the Christmas tree is 14/12/19 and 15/12/19. So bring some happiness to these families and give, give, give. Many thanks from your Stafford Vinnie's Conference.




Tennis Courts for Hire
with lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday




Holy Cross
FUNERALS

The only funeral service owned and operated by the Catholic Church

Ph: (07) 3293 0555 Web: www.holycrossfunerals.com

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 Pastoral Council: ppcstafford@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Debra Visser
Office Hours: Mon/Tues 9 - 3.30pm Thurs 9-1
Office Telephone: 3356 7155
Parish Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Representative: Cath D'Hage
STOPline Service: 1300 304 550 or
AOB@stopline.com.au or
www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Queen of Apostles School Contacts

Address: 10 Thuruna Street, Stafford
School email: pstafford@bne.catholic.edu.au
School Principal: Nigel Bird
APA: Leanne Murray (2020)
APRE: Ben Campbell
School Office Hours: 8.00am - 4.00pm (Mon-Fri)
Phone (Thuruna St:) 3352 9200
Phone (Chuter St:) 3326 0400

BAPTISMS in this Parish occur at 10.30am on the Third Sunday of each Month (except during Lent). **For BAPTISM BOOKINGS** please contact the Parish Office.



What's happening this week?

Mon	9th	8.30am	Mass Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting
Tues	10th	8.30am	Morning Prayer and Communion
Wed	11th	4.00pm	Parish Finance Council Meeting
Thurs	12th	8.30am	Mass
Fri	13th	9.00am 12.00pm	Mass Anna's group
Sat	14th	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation (until no one is waiting) Mass
Sun	15th	7.00am 9.00am 2.30pm 5.30pm	Mass Mass Rosary Mass

We pray for those recently deceased including:



Nora Stevens, Peggy Ellaway, Dennis Dower, Trevor Jewell, Collette Horn, Majella Tracey FMM, Maureen Jones, Sr Mary Cooke RSC, Laurie Fischer, Elaine Russell and Jackie Broughton.

We pray for those who are unwell

John Blumke
Bernadeen Hodby
Ado Padayhag
Miguela Savellon
Brian Turner
Vincent Jenner
Mary Law
Nerida Versace
Eadie Curry
Molly Rampa
Sonia Officer
Pam Ward



ANOINTING OF THE SICK



immediately after Mass on the 3rd Sun of the month (ex Oct). IF you are **going to hospital unex-**

pectedly for an op, let Fr Denis know and we can celebrate this Sacrament beforehand

You may add a **sick person's name to the list by phoning the Parish Office** (3356 7155).



To keep the 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.

The Catholic Leader: Keeping faith with you

- * Four Brisbane married Catholic men were ordained permanent deacons for the archdiocese on Saturday, November 30.
- * Collecting plastic bottles has become a tool for local Catholics to raise money for the poor in Our Lady of the Southern Cross parish in Springfield.
- * A landmark class action in favour of victims of the 2011 Queensland floods was reason for Brisbane Catholic Eddy Delsorte to reflect on the day his Sherwood home went under water.
- * Former refugee Anthony Gawlu escaped persecution and violence to become a seminarian at Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo.
- * St Paul's Book Centre on Elizabeth Street has been struggling against some "big problems", which could shut its automatic door forever without immediate assistance.
- * Townsville's young people were rising up – a group of 78 young Townsville Catholics have been commissioned for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth this weekend.
- * Catholic teacher Luke Thomsen wanted to help others "intensely develop" their relationship with Jesus and was leading young people to God at St Stephen's Primary School, Algeester.

Still only \$2

We remember those whose anniversary of death occur about this time including

Molly Vlug and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.