



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."

Third Sunday of Advent - Year A 14th/15th Dec 2019

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

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

Why not celebrate our common Sinfulness and that God never ceases to forgive and show us mercy? On **Thursday at 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

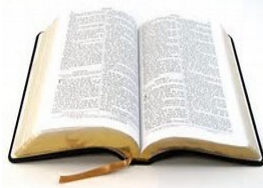
Richard Rohr)

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: (So far, I have got **ONE** volunteer) 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: NEXT Sunday 22nd 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 on the plate (or scan and email it) or give it to Fr Denis.

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.

The Parish Council discussed the issue of reducing the number of Weekend Masses. A few issues were considered:

- 1) Sadly, some people, because of work commitments, can only attend one particular Mass time each weekend and if "their" Mass was cancelled, we could lose them to another Parish
- 2) Our older parishioners have moved (to heaven or another suburb) and are replaced by younger people (with fewer children) who don't go to Mass
- 3) These days, only about 10% Catholics go to Mass and so on the weekend, there are fewer than many years ago when the four Mass times were established.
- 4) Maybe we could combine 7am and 9am Masses??
- 5) If a Mass time has the church not even 25% full, it is almost impossible to create a spirit of community, have supportive singing and responding and therefore "Good Liturgy". (Cont'd page 3...)
- 6) There have been attempts asking people to personally encourage others to come to "their" Mass but this has not worked on the whole.

A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near.
Amen.



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
2nd Reading: St Paul 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



Counters Roster Team E: Kev & Trish McGrory, Alan & Helen Gibney, John Mahony 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. **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

Parish Council News — **THANK YOU** to **Kemsley Kelly, Len Cavanagh, and James Flaherty** who have served the Parish so well for the last two years on the Parish Council. Kemsley and Len will continue running the Plenary Sessions until they are finished and James will continue to work on a Communication Package where our Weekend Mass can be streamed to our housebound parishioners homes and those with hearing difficulties at Mass can be helped. **CONGRATULATIONS** and **THANK YOU** to our **NEW** members: **Anne Thomas, Barbara Winkle, YawHan and Grace Cortes** who join **Zara Saellon, Nic Forster, Christine Lindsay, Saju Mathew, Jules Tisdall and Ben Campbell** on our 2020 Council.

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.

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.

Note: One of our parishioners shared with me that she was a victim of racist bullying on a bus—it's not just Muslim women who are victims of cowardly attacks.



PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 SUBMISSION

This is the Parish response to the Listening & Discernment Experience for 4 of the Plenary Focus Themes.

Q. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?

Missionary & Evangelising.

We need to lay more informed foundations related to today in our Catholic School system and with young adults.

Decision makers need to be Community centred.

Greater focus on Joseph as a role model for step-fathers.

Humble, Healing & Merciful.

Jesus came to look after the marginalized. We should show the same respect to the LGBT, single or remarried divorcees and other cultures.

Making the Church aware of their parishioners with a welcome like Jesus, by listening to individuals and accepting people as they are.

Better communication of good news items in the Church system.

Inclusive, Participatory & Synodal.

Affordable adult faith formation education courses.

Hierarchy to listen to the laity.

Modernise the Church teachings.

Prayerful & Eucharistic.

Greater emphasis on prayer & Sacraments.

Mass to be appealing to youth and children.

Importance of Communion services in rural Parishes.

The Christmas /New Year roster has been prepared. Copies are available in Mary's room. There are still a few spots to fill, so if you are available, please let me know. Deb

- 7) If anything, the numbers coming to some Masses have declined over the last ten years.
- 8) KNOWN CONSEQUENCES of cancelling a Mass Time: Experience from other parishes indicate:
- Sadly, some Catholics will change parishes to find “their” Mass time e.g. we lost many parishioners when West Chermside started its Sat Arvo Mass. (Especially Sad is it that some have to do this out of necessity e.g. Work or other important commitments.)
 - Others will accept the change and readjust to fit into their Parish’s change.
 - Surprisingly and worryingly—some Catholics will give up going to Mass altogether!!!
 - Another Consequence—a challenge to our Parish—we could lose around \$20000 in much-needed income

Positive Consequences include:

- A. Our limited roster of Instrumentalists and Vocalists will not have to “double-up” on extra Masses so often — we have few volunteers joining these.
- B. More people at any one of the remaining masses, hopefully will foster a better spirit and encourage better singing and responding (some thing essential to make Mass more “attractive” to Adults and especially children—and help faith grow.)
- C. If the statement from ‘Music in Catholic Worship’ is true, we cannot NOT try to improve our celebrations— (para 6: *Faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration. Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations weaken and destroy faith.*)

What can be done to avoid losing a Mass time?? Increase dramatically the attendance at all Masses and the level of responses and singing and involvement of the congregations in various ministries would be a great start. This is the responsibility of EVERYONE. There will be a vote for your preferred TWO mass times on the weekend Feb 8th/9th for those present at Mass that weekend.

The Queen Of Apostles Men's Group meets on the third Friday of the month. It is open to any senior gents in the parish - married, widowed, single, clergy, retired or working. They will meet on **Friday 20th December** at The **Three Little Pigs, Stafford City** 10.30am.



All Welcome. **Phone Gary McLean (ph 3863 4149) for more information.**

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 **THIS WEEKEND**. So bring some happiness to these families and give, give, give. Many thanks from your Stafford Vinnie's Conference.

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 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 Christmas Day)
Thurs 26th, Fri 27th - No liturgies.

Tennis Courts for Hire
with lights

CHEAP RATES!
Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday

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	16th	8.30am	Mass
Tues	17th	8.30am	Morning Prayer and Communion
Wed	18th		
Thurs	19th	8.30am 7.00pm	Mass Sacrament of Penance
Fri	20th	9.00am 10.30am	Mass Men's group
Sat	21st	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation (<i>until no one is waiting</i>) Mass
Sun	22nd	7.00am 9.00am 2.30pm	Mass Mass Rosary No evening Mass tonight

We pray for those recently deceased including: Colin



Randazzo, John Morahan, Nora Stevens, Peggy Ellaway, Dennis Dower, Trevor Jewell, Collette Horn, Majella Tracey FMM, Maureen Jones, Sr Mary Cooke RSC, and Laurie Fischer.

We pray for those who are unwell

White Island
 Volcano Victims
 Viv Layzelle
 Pam & Norm Ward
 Irene Johnson
 John Blumke
 Bernadeen Hodby
 Ado Padayhag
 Miguela Savellon
 Brian Turner
 Vincent Jenner
 Mary Law
 Nerida Versace
 Eadie Curry
 Sonia Officer



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

- * Young Australian Catholics marched in their thousands to the steps of Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre last weekend – a pilgrim army united by faith, and urged by their bishops to “go and rebuild” the Church.
- * Fertility medical consultant Dr Terry Kent found a link between an American study that shows the pill changes a woman’s brain structure and a treatment option for women who have used oral birth control for decades.
- * Western Australia signs euthanasia and assisted dying legislation into law on December 10.
- * Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge answered questions and reflected on 2019 during a Facebook Live session with thousands of viewers from as far afield as Sydney and Suva.
- * A Brisbane priest said it was important that Church and medical workers offer hope to off-shore refugees and asylum seekers after the repeal of a controversial “medevac” law.
- * National costumes and flags of the Americas heralded a vibrant feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Brisbane on December 9.
- * Marina Castellanos shares her story as friends and relatives were being kidnapped, tortured and murdered, and she was left asking “Where is God?”

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.