

## 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.

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A 21st/22nd Dec 2019

HILDREN'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: TODAY (Sunday 22nd)

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

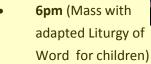
#### ITURGIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:

Mon 23rd Dec: Mass 8.30am

Tues 24th Dec: See below for Christmas Eve.

#### **Christmas EVE/DAY:**

#### **Christmas Eve:**





 9pm (our "Midnight" Mass) Our tradition of sup per after 9pm Mass continues, please bring a plate to share.

#### **Christmas Day:**

8am ONLY (No 5.30pm Mass Christmas Day)

Thurs 26th Dec: No Liturgies

Friday 27th Dec: No Liturgies

#### WEEKEND 28th/29th:

Sat: 5pm

Sun: 7am, 9am (NO 5.30pm Mass)

Monday 30th: Mass 8.30am

Tues 31st: Vigil Mass for NY/ Mary Mother of God: 6pm

#### Wed 1st Jan:

**Thurs 2nd Jan and following:** Weekday and Weekend Liturgy Times return to normal.

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

- 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.
- 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:

continued page 3

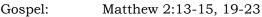
## A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.
In each and every moment that we are blessed
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.
Amen.



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year A)

1st Reading: Eccl 3:2-6, 12-14 2nd Reading: St Paul 3:12-21



Ounters Roster for 23rd December Today we are looking for a few volunteers.

eligious 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

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

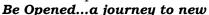
There are some new features in the latest Lenten Program including an extra week - it now covers six weeks of Lent and Easter Sunday! There is also an app for those unable to join a group. This can be used on various devices and will be available from January 2020 through Apple App Store and Google

Be Opened

ent Program 2020

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.



*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

ne 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.

hat 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 stepfathers.

#### 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

TAMPS FOR MARIST MISSIONS: We have forwarded another \$200.00 to the Marist Missions this week, bringing our total so far this year to \$680.00. Thank you so much to all your support this year. God Bless you all.

**Toilet Rolls and Paper Towels** that are made from 100% recycled paper, or Bamboo—all environmen-



tally friendly and as you buy them (cost is average for what you pay at Woolies) 50% of the cost supports the building of toilets in impoverished countries thus providing pro-

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tection and dignity for women, avoiding diseases such as cholera. Go on line to "who gives a crap" at <a href="https://">https://</a>

au.whogivesacrap.org/ and investigate for yourself.

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Monday 13th January. Fr Denis will be around during this time. However, he has many commitments that require him to be away from the office at times. Please email or leave a message if urgent.

- 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.



Tennis Courts for Hire
with lights
CHEAP RATES!
Bookings available through the

office Monday to Thursday

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



"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

# **Christmas Symbolism**



Star represents the bright star that shone the night Jesus was

**born.** "Where is the new born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2



Candy cane represents the shepherd's staff. Christ is also called the Good Shepherd. And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8



Gifts represent the gold, frankincense and myrrh. ... And when they opened they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11



**Evergreen tree represents the eternal life.** For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



Christmas carollers represent the multitude of angels that sang on the night Jesus was born. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..." Luke 2:13-14



Christmas candles and lights represent the light that Jesus has brought to the world. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79



Holly Berries represent the blood that Christ shed for us. For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many remission of sins. Matthew 26:28



Nativity scene represents the scene in the manger where Jesus was born. And she brought for her firstborn son, and wrapped him swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:7



Christmas wreath represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head... John 19:2



Christmas Bells represent the call of mankind to worship the Lord. For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10



Prepared by Allison Hall



The only funeral service owned and operated by the Catholic Church

#### 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 23rd 8.30am **Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting** 6.00pm Tues 24th 8.30am Morning Prayer and Communion 6.00pm **Christmas Eve Family Mass Christmas Eve Late Mass** 9.00pm Wed 25th 8.00am **Christmas Day Mass** No Mass today Thurs 26th No Mass today Fri 27th Reconciliation (until no one is waiting) Sat 28th 4.00pm 5.00pm Mass Sun 29th 7.00am **Mass** 9.00am Mass 2.30pm Rosary No evening Mass tonight

#### We pray for those recently deceased including:



Leon Morel, Jozef Drewniak, John Morahan, Nora Stevens, Peggy Ellaway, Dennis Dower, Trevor Jewell and Collette Horn.

### We pray for those who are unwell

White Island Volcano Victims Jack Charalambous

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

#### 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

- \* The Catholic Leader wishes all readers a joyful, holy Christmas and a happy New Year. Our office will close from December 20 until January 6, and our first edition next year is dated January 12.
- \* Cairns Bishop James Foley will retire due to ailing health after 27 years and is expected to cease duties early next year.
- \* A brother and sister who arrived in Australia as refugees just 18 months ago were declared dual duxes of St James College in Brisbane's innercity.
- \* Farmer Lyle Winks sits down with radio personality Donna Lynch to discuss his life on the farm in drought conditions and the hope to come at Christmas.
- \* Baby Jesus could share a birthday with a boy whose life was saved by a crisis pregnancy safe house in Brisbane.
- \* Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge joined the other bishops of Queensland in sharing their Christmas messages with the People of God.
- \* Joseph Leeds tells his story about a run-in with hard drugs and a near death experience, saying he is only alive today as a product of God's mercy.



Still only \$2

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

Michael O'Donnell, 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.