



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

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: TODAY (Sunday 22nd)

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

LITURGIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:

Mon 23rd Dec: Mass 8.30am

Tues 24th Dec: See below for Christmas Eve.

Christmas EVE/DAY:

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 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.

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.
- 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:

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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

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



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

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

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

STAMPS 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 environmentally friendly and as you buy



Premium toilet paper

them (cost is average for what you pay at Woolies) 50% of the cost supports the building of toilets in impoverished countries thus providing protection and dignity for women, avoiding diseases such as cholera. Go on line to "who gives a crap" at <https://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 Chermshire 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 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.



“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


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 Office Hours: Mon/Tues 9 - 3.30pm Thurs 9-1
 Office Telephone: 3356 7155
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 AOB@stopline.com.au or
 www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Queen of Apostles School Contacts

Address: 10 Thuruna Street, Stafford
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 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 6.00pm	Mass Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting
Tues	24th	8.30am 6.00pm 9.00pm	Morning Prayer and Communion Christmas Eve Family Mass Christmas Eve Late Mass
Wed	25th	8.00am	Christmas Day Mass
Thurs	26th		No Mass today
Fri	27th		No Mass today
Sat	28th	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation (until no one is waiting) Mass
Sun	29th	7.00am 9.00am 2.30pm	Mass Mass 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 inner-city.
- * 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.