



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 Easter (Divine Mercy) - Year A 18th/19th April 2020

Are you reading a "hard copy" of this newsletter? Do you **have email**?—If so could you **please email me (pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)** so that I can keep in contact with you.

If you **do not have email**, and no one has rung you, or in any other way, contacted you, could you **please ring the Office (3356 7155)** and leave your name and phone number? I don't want anyone in our parish "falling through the cracks" and not sharing in all that is going on even though there is no Sunday Mass.

ALSO, **please read the following letter** I sent out to all on email this week. It's really **important for ALL members** of our parish.

The letter:

NOTE: Just to clarify the following:— Maybe if you thought about answers to the following as if our church buildings and ways of doing things no longer existed. What if we were like the first disciples after Pentecost?

Hello my fellow Stafford Parishioners,

Easter Weekend is finished and society has returned to the "new" normal we are grappling with.

Another big change is due next week for you who have kids at school. I know our beloved QofA school has all in hand regarding that and that Nigel and the staff are ready to help in ensuring your child(ren)'s education continues to be catered for.

For all of us, life has changed dramatically in that we cannot gather together in our church building to celebrate the Word AND Eucharist every week. However, we are still gathering to celebrate Christ's presence among us in our Community and the Word each week using "ZOOM" at 8.30am each Sunday.

Realistically, this could be the "new" normal for a few months and there's a good chance that our "old" normal will never be the same again. Even if that's the case, in this Easter Season, we remember that we are the "same but different".

We are a community **united by the Holy Spirit and whose mission is to proclaim the Good News**. HOW TO DO THAT in faithfulness to all our Ancestors in faith and to those whose life situation is much more onerous than ours. Think of our fellow Christians who are persecuted because of their faith in China, Myanmar, and some middle eastern countries. Think of those who have never been able to celebrate Eucharist every week such as those in the Amazon.

The answer to that depends on the "vineyard" we are

living in and will change according to times and circumstances.

I believe it's **really important** that we let go of the "old" normal, recognise our grief at its passing, and **with faith and trust in the Holy Spirit**, actively pray and reflect on how we can adapt in these new circumstances. (Let's **keep it local** with what our own parish can do alone or with others.

We have been ground breakers in many areas in the past (e.g. the first parish to have a Parish Council, one of the first parishes to welcome Vietnamese Boat People in the '70s, the first to offer accommodation to the current Asylum Seekers in a convent, the first parish to have a "Laudato Si" forum – having more people enrol than the Archdiocese of Melbourne when it had one, and so on). Let's continue to give example, "leave our boats behind" and inspire others in what we do.

The four signposts we use to discern the readiness of an Adult to be Baptised are: WORD, WORSHIP, COMMUNITY and SERVICE.

How, in these **new circumstances**, do we ensure the **WORD** is proclaimed and reflected on amongst all of us?

How, in these new circumstances, do we gather as the Body of Christ, whether we live alone or with others and **WORSHIP** – especially on the Day of the Lord, Sunday but also on other days?

How, in these new circumstances, do we live as **COMMUNITY**, a sign to the world of how God wants all of God's children to live together – here there is a special challenge – How do we reach those without any 'on-line' presence?

How, in these new circumstances, do we be a people of **SERVICE**? How do we truly support e.g. those in need in our local neighbourhood and our brothers and sisters who continue to suffer in our world, Asylum Seekers, People who speak up for justice and, of course our Mother Earth?

BIG questions!! **You** are all **GIFTED** with the **SPIRIT**. You are all **equal members** of the Church with different Gifts. **DON'T FORGET TO CONSULT WITH THE KIDS (AND ESPECIALLY TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS)** – they too are "church" and gifted with the Holy Spirit!)

Send me your ideas – **NOT** for me to do them all but to be a **conduit**, a **catalyst** whereby WE all can be '**CHURCH**' in the world.

Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

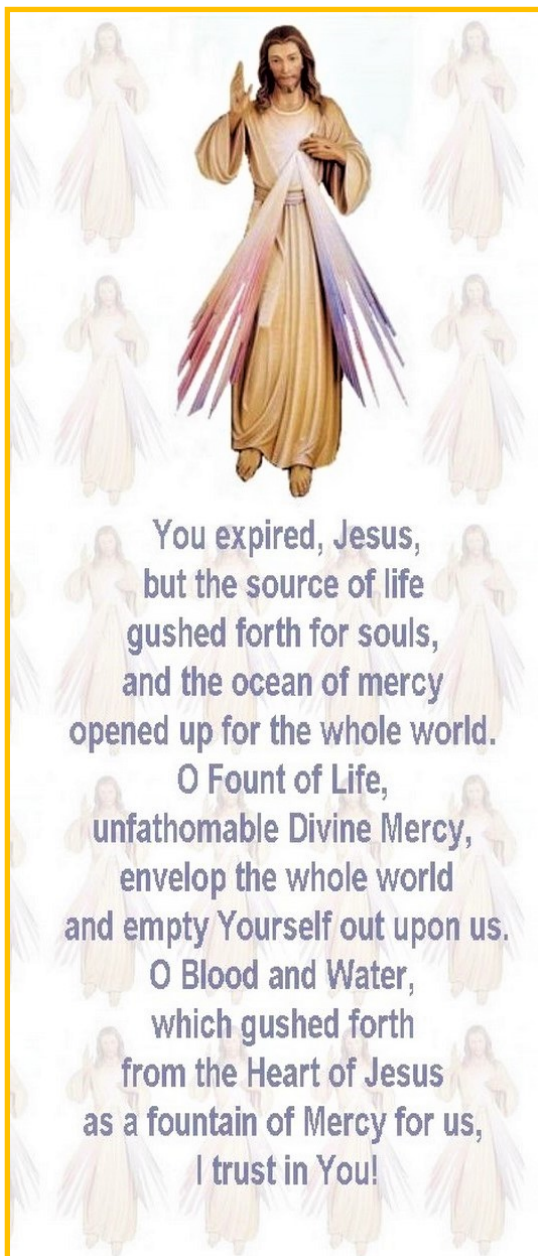
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: John 24:13-35

The buddy system is working! I have heard that the Latte Ladies were gathering this week using Zoom. Thanks goes to Louise Scott for arranging that for the ladies. Now more than ever before, it is so important to make a connection with someone. If you have received a phone call from some one in our community, perhaps pay it forward and phone someone too. Our lives and relationships will be richer through our interactions with one another.


**KEEP
CALM
AND
PHONE A
FRIEND**

Second Sunday of Easter is also called “Divine Mercy” Sunday because of today’s Gospel. Divine Mercy is a devotion some people in our parish follow. In light of this, you may like to pray the following “Divine Mercy” prayer:



With the main source of any communal prayer being within the family these days, this is more relevant than ever....

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

—James A. Baldwin



Are you going crazy in isolation? Keep life in perspective and continue to witness to the resurrection — try doing this once a day....

Awareness Examen

A REVIEW OF YOUR DAY

1. Ask God for Light

(Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path) Talk to God about your day.

2. Give Thanks

What are you grateful for today?
Thank God for this.

3. Review the Day

What disappointed you today?
Speak to God about this.

4. Consider your Choices

Guided by the Holy Spirit, think about your choices today. Is there something you need to say sorry for and ask for God's help?

5. Look Toward the Day to Come

Being a disciple of Jesus how can you use your gifts in the day ahead? Give thanks to God in your own words.

Catholic Leader—Do you miss your weekly copy of the “Leader”. Do you know that if you go to the Homepage of our website (<https://www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au/>), click on the “picture-button” called “Stay Connected” you will be able to read the current Catholic Leader online.



A compost bin can halve your rubbish and improve your garden soil



Tennis court Hire Restrictions due to COVID-19

We are bound by the Queensland Government legislation and Chief Health Officer public health directions. Our tennis courts fall under the category of Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction (no.4). Tennis is considered a **Social sporting-based activity and is limited to two people**, with social distancing observed at all times. Failure to observe these directions can attract large fines for both the parish and for the players. Please do the right thing when using our courts. Social distancing at all times saves lives!



A Novena of Prayer — We pray for humanity as we struggle to manage and overcome the effects of COVID 19 ——— Pray this Novena for nine consecutive days.

Instead of asking Mary to be our 'intercessor', **why don't we simply ask Mary to pray WITH us?** When we pray in community, we are a circle of

friends who are united in intention and deed. Mary becomes one more friend in that circle who will pray with us, asking God to hear us and help us in our actions. As our friend, Mary supports us with confidence and encouragement. A tenacious Australian, who made a great difference to the people of our nation, she knew how to be successful in the face of adversity.

By asking Mary to pray WITH us, rather than FOR us, we claim our worthiness to approach God. We learn, from her belief in and experience of, God's creative, omnipotent presence.

Tennis Courts for Hire with lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



From the Pen of Mary:

God's love is too deep for words to express. 1870 Abide in me as I abide in you. John 15:4



Reflection: .We pause and read silently, we take a few moments to reflect

Mary MacKillop was a big hearted woman full of compassion and love. She felt and experienced the abundance of God's love for her. In times of trials and tribulations she found refuge in the hospitable heart of God's love. 'When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten, I quietly creep into the deep abyss of the Sacred Heart; and securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace' 1907. She was a woman whose heartbeat was in unison with the heartbeat of God. Through her actions, she became the gentle face of Christ in a wounded world.

We Pray:

St Mary MacKillop of the Cross, you said "Never see a need without doing something about it" Please join with us and advocate for our ravaged world, in Jesus' name. **Amen**

Creator God, open our hearts to the abundance of your love. May we, like Mary MacKillop, share with you our troubles and trust in your loving care. We ask for your wisdom and guidance as humanity struggles to manage the ravages of COVID 19. Help us to be people of service; to show Your love in our wounded world. May our prayers for those in anguish sustain them in their helplessness and bring hope into their hearts. **Amen**




Vinnies
good works

Vinnies still operates and is available. Ring 1800VIN-NIE (1800 846 643) if you are in need of food or other help.

FUNERALS — Although regulations limit us to 10 people (excluding the celebrant), we can still celebrate "Catholic" Funerals.

Sunday ZOOM Liturgy will be at 8.30am every Sunday morning until further notice. Join your fellow parishioners as we celebrate Communion and the Word. Help with ZOOM available—contact Denis.

Mass is 'Live streamed' from the Cathedral:
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast/> **Mass on TV** Sun 6am Ch 10.


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
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. **SUSPENDED**



We pray for those who are unwell

Chris Stevens
Jack Charalambous
Maurice Drake
Maria Rosa Arreguici Zuzarte
Fr Ron Mollison
Bushfire Victims
Brian Becker
Pam & Norm Ward
Irene Johnson
Ado Padayhag
Mary Law



ANOINTING OF THE SICK



If you are **going to hospital unexpected-ly** 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.

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

John Winkle, Gloria Patalinghug, Bienvinido Tolentino, Des O'Brien, Sid Tynan, and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.



We pray for those recently deceased including:

Alex Pipe
Fr Peter Conroy
Archbishop John Bathersby
Marjorie Moroney
John Blumke
Aunty Joan Hendricks
Jack Hamilton
Rita Butt
Patricia Trudgian
Vincent Jenner.

