



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."

Pentecost Sunday - Year A 30th/31st May 2020

Reflection on Pentecost Sunday

One of my philosophy professors told me there were two sets of alternatives at the heart of philosophy, which is another way of saying that there are two fundamental choices between two different ways at the heart of understanding life. The years have proven, at least as far as I am concerned, just how insightful this observation was. The two sets of alternatives are one and many, and being and flux. The solemn feast of Pentecost, the last day of our Easter season, gives us the opportunity to reflect on the first set: one and many. When we look out at the world, are we the kind of persons who see what we have in common with others and see what unites us, or are we the kind of persons who first notice the differences between us and other people: either our gender, or our skin colour, or our language, or our religion, or our social status, or our nationality, or our education, or our occupation? There are so many things that make us different from one another that it is a rare person who is able to focus on what makes us one.

Yet, it is our Christian vocation, given to each of us in baptism, to be people of oneness and unity. Being one is a key concept in John's Gospel, as we see in the great prayer of Jesus, which we find inserted into the Last Supper narrative. That unity is brought about by the Spirit. In John's Gospel the giving of the Spirit to the disciples occurs not at Pentecost, as we hear in Acts of the Apostles, but on the evening of Easter Sunday itself. While the various texts of the New Testament may not agree on their chronology, they do agree on the important point about the significance and purpose of the Spirit being given.

Augustine of Hippo expressed this significance well in one of his homilies preached to his congregation in the early years of the fifth century about how the disunity symbolised by the tower of Babel was reversed by the conferring of the Spirit:

At Pentecost, by contrast, the humble piety of believers brought all these diverse languages into the unity of the church. What discord had scattered, love was to gather together. Like the limbs of a single body, the separated members of the human race would be restored to unity by being joined to Christ, their common head, and welded into the oneness of a holy body by the fire of love. Anyone therefore who rejects the gift of peace and withdraws from the fellowship of this unity cuts himself off from the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Sermon 271) [Footnote: The excerpts from the translations of Augustine's sermons that appear in these reflections come from Augustine, *Sermons*, trans. Edmund Hill, 11 vols in *The Works of*

Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century series (New York: New City Press, and Augustinian Heritage Institute, 1991-1997).]

Acts of the Apostles shows us how the earliest Christians attempted to live this unity: it was a unity in diversity, not a unity based on uniformity. Theirs was a unity based on a common experience of the love, forgiveness, and peace of Jesus. In a fractured world, we, as Christian people, must be living beacons of unity. We know we have the Spirit when our actions lead to reconciliation, not division; when they lead to understanding, not anger; when they lead to hope, not despair. We are thankful today for the gift of the Spirit, who inflames our hearts and makes us one.

Geoffrey D Dunn



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.

We are selling rolls of Toilet paper for \$1.20, Tissues for \$2 and rolls of Paper Towel for \$3 each. They are made from 100% recycled paper, or Bamboo—all environmentally friendly and as you buy them (cost is average for what you pay at Woolies) **50% of any profit 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. We will have them for available sale in the parish office. (Cash or Eftpos)

The Most Holy Trinity (Year A)

1st Reading: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

2nd Reading: Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: John 3:16-18



The Small Blessings campaign

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has developed a campaign aimed at encouraging people to take care of one another, especially the vulnerable, during this challenging time, in line with the principles of solidarity and stewardship of the community.

As Catholics we are all called, especially during difficult times, to make a difference for others and to give thanks for the small things. We have coined these small blessings, and we are asking the community to share, create and as often as possible be small blessings for others.

Through parishes we can take care of one another and be or create small blessings by:

- supporting people to continue to practice their faith
- making sure people can embody their faith, by supporting others in the broader community
- keeping people connected.

Parishes can also play a role in sharing small blessings with the broader community to inspire and remind people of what they could be doing for others.

Share your small blessings

Be or create small blessings – Community

Here are some ways you can reach out and offer assistance to the broader community.

Support parish initiatives

Our parish is preparing for a letterbox drop. Put your hand up for a walk with the dog or kids and reach out to a neighbour.

Offer to help. Ask for help.

Be aware of those that need help. Be aware that there are people willing to help you if you need it. Things we can do to support each other are simple tasks like collecting shopping and other essentials for those that are self-isolating due to health, risk, age or other reasons.

If you'd like a call please
phone the parish office on
3356 7155 or email
stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
and someone will call you for
a chat! "

Getting parish groups involved

Some of our groups have already reached out to the community. There have been many offers to make phone calls. Another way to connect is the old fashioned letter. This is a great time to start to get the youth involved. They could invite elderly or isolated parishioners to become pen pals.



Stewardship
a way of life

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more "God-centred" and less "self-centred" and our lives truly reflect God's light, love, and mercy.

Vinnies are still open for business. If you or someone you know needs help for food or household goods or something else please ring 1800VINNIE (1800 846 643)



Vinnies
good works

A few things from the desk of Debra...

I will be preparing the **Tax Receipts for Project Compassion** donations next week. I will attempt to email these out to each of you. If you would prefer a hard copy receipt, I can print one for you. Any hard copy receipts can be collected from the parish office during the week. (Phone first, so I can leave it in the foyer for you)

I'm missing the **counters** that assist me on Monday's. Any collection monies that were counted by our volunteer counters are now counted by me. It appears that some of you have a habit of not recording the amount of giving on the outside of the envelope. This can lead to problems, as there is no amount for counters to reconcile to when counting and recording your planned giving. The envelopes are pre-printed with an area for you to write the amount enclosed.

6	13 OCT 2019	13 OCT 2019	6
Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Parish Stafford		Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Parish Stafford	
1st Collection <small>(18% to Archdiocese, 82% to Parish)</small> MY OFFERING SUPPORTS		2nd Collection <small>(18% to Archdiocese, 82% to Parish)</small> MY OFFERING SUPPORTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish's responsibility to the Archdiocese in assisting the Archbishop to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - care for retired and sick priests - subsidise poor parishes & ministries • Our Parish's outreach to the wider community 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish sacramental and education programs • Development of pastoral and community enrichment programs • Parish administration and operations costs • Maintenance of Parish assets 	
Help our counters by writing your offering enclosed		Help our counters by writing your offering enclosed	
AMOUNT \$.....		AMOUNT \$.....	

Many of you are bringing in multiple envelopes at a time. To save you some time, you can put all monies into one week's envelopes. For example, if you give \$5 per week to first and second collection and have four weeks you wish to give, place \$20 in one envelope for first and \$20 for second collection. I hope that makes sense. It also helps me when counting as I don't have multiples for one Planned Giving number to process.



Again, **thank you** to all that have continued to make the effort to bring in their envelopes and to assist with the financial health of the parish.

Restrictions easing COVID-19

Although we have had some easing of restrictions in the community, there has been no changes to access of the church buildings at this stage. The Archdiocese have prepared a COVID-19 Safe Plan, which we need to adhere to. There will be many checks and measures before we are able to open up again. In the meantime, if you haven't made a prayer space in your home, and if you haven't joined a phone call group - do

something this week. It could be some time before you can greet each other at the church doors. If you haven't tried a Zoom liturgy or Zoom chat session, try something new this week! You'll be surprised how much you will enjoy the interaction with your fellow parishioners.

Update from last week... We are aiming for a restart of Mass from 12th July. There are many things for us to consider before we open the church doors to everyone. Our mass services may be controlled by a booking system so we can monitor how many are attending a service and we will also need to collect contact details for all attendees.

We will be governed by the restrictions in place at the time. As you can appreciate, all our plans to reopen will be effected by any changes that the government implements. We may need to train volunteers to assist with cleaning of the church too. Initially there will be no cuppa after mass, to stay within the government guidelines

We would appreciate some feedback about the new style 'mass'. Would you be attending with restrictions in place or prefer to wait until further relaxation of restrictions? Will you be willing to go on the roster during COVID-19 restrictions? Any feedback will be welcome and helpful too.

Thank You letters have been received from Caritas and from Share the Dignity this week. Although we have been in lockdown here at the parish, we have received donations to Caritas for their Project compassion Campaign for 2020 totalling almost \$5000.00. Although this figure is down on our collections for 2019, we still did well.



The Share the Dignity campaign also suffered through the lockdown with their March 2020 Dignity Drive. We did still manage to donate a large bag of goods to the organisation!

They will do holding another dignity Drive in August. So keep that in mind when you are shopping and perhaps put an extra something in your trolley ready for their next drive.

If you missed out on making a donation to Project compassion, they will still accept donations till 30th June. Go to their website for more details.

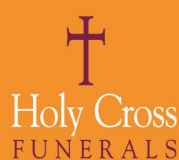
www.caritas.org.au



Tennis Courts for Hire with lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



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

Barbara Jones
Carmel Remphrey
Sr Elizabeth
Chris Stevens

Jack
Charalambous

Maria Rosa
Arreguci Zuzarte

Brian Becker
Pam & Norm Ward

Irene Johnson

Mary Law



ANOINTING OF THE SICK



If you are **going to hospital unexpectedly** 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.

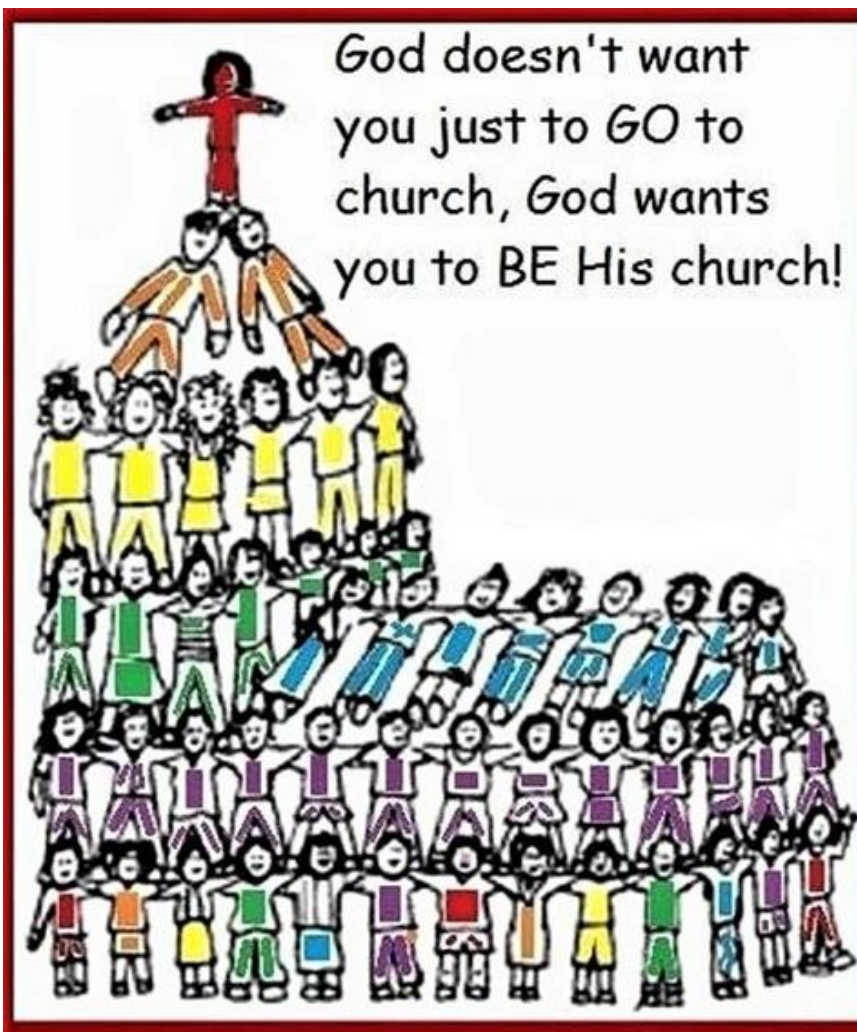
We remember those whose anniversary of death occur about this time including

Matthews, Ketter, Rowbotham, Horn and Sheehan families and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.

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THE
CATHOLIC
LEADER



We pray for those recently deceased including:

Michael Mather

Noel Wood

Jack Jones

Patrick McKewin

Alex Pipe

Fr Peter Conroy

Archbishop John Bathersby

Marjorie Moroney

John Blumke

Aunty Joan Hendricks

