



# 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."*

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 29th/30th August 2020



**This is a shortcut to our mass booking links.**

I hope this makes things a little easier for you. This is also on our home page of our website. You no

longer need to open the newsletter online to book a seat at mass. This should work for all devices including phone and tablets. Of course nothing is foolproof. If you do experience problems, please let me know early in the week as I'll be on leave after Thursday. Debra

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029149997>

Meeting ID: 890 2914 9997

Passcode: path

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Dial by your location

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+61 8 7150 1149 Australia

+61 2 8015 6011 Australia

+61 3 7018 2005 Australia

+61 731 853 730 Australia

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 890 2914 9997

Passcode: 781082

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029149997>



**Weekly Reflection** - Jeremiah's language in the first reading (Jer 20:7-9) may shock people unfamiliar with mystics' use of erotic language when talking of the soul's relationship with God. Here Jeremiah claims to be like one seduced, in language like that of one so besotted as to trustingly surrender to the lover, only then to feel betrayed. The second line

may even be suggestive of rape; and it is not unknown for mystics to speak of the soul as being ravished by God. Perhaps the context is his initial call, which was to tear up, knock down, destroy and overthrow, and to build and plant (Jer 1:10); so far all that has happened concerns destruction: he has done none of the promised building and planting. The prophet's complaint is that he has been lured into proclaiming a message no one likes, and yet he is so captivated by God that he cannot stop: the message is like fire burning in his heart and imprisoned in his bones. Not only might jilted lovers recognise the sentiment here, but also those who experience the indescribable anguish and emotional pain that leads them to self-mutilation to release the inner pressure.

Psalm 63(62) then speaks words of consolation, at least if read as a call to recognise all such inner anguish as the response to a deep-seated desire that none other than God can satisfy. For mystics, who do recognise this, that deep pressure manifests itself not in self-harming ways, but in a self-giving, pouring forth one's life in service, in prayer, and even in tears of sorrow for any sins that divide from God, or tears of anguish for any perceived separation from God. This is not inconsistent with the second reading (Rom 12:1-2), which speaks of the rational worship that comprises self-giving, modelled on God's own self-giving. Early Christian apologists understood this as a rejection



of the former practices of offering "irrational" animals in bloody sacrifice, or other foods, or incense, but since offering human sacrifice is abhorrent and contrary to the love owed to all human beings as images of God, the rational sacrifice can be none other than the acknowledgment of God as Creator and the offering of one's self in prayer (in praise and thanksgiving) and in acts of love for other people. This is the self-giving indicated in the gospel (Matt 16:21-27) as Jesus begins to prepare the disciples for his destined suffering and death in Jerusalem, and the resurrection. His death is not to be understood in the way of the holocausts of the Mosaic Law, for the Father does not offer the Son as a more complete form of an imperfect sacrifice. It is instead the self-giving act of God for the sake of beloved humanity, a self-surrender in the face of threatened

## The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

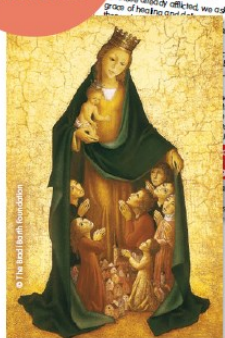
1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9  
 2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10  
 Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



violence, even unto death, a selfless showing of the pathway of God's incomprehensible love. The disciples are unwilling or unable to hear this message, and Peter, so soon after his profession of faith, so soon after being called the rock of the Church's foundation, betrays his own failure to understand the Messiah's mission. This earns him the rebuke that reveals another interpretation of his new name, meaning Rock: he may be the foundation's rock, or a stumbling stone, the rock you stub your toe on. But how could Peter understand the cross when none did until after that catastrophe and the resurrection? Then, as now, it is not easy to draw near to the perplexing message of the cross in all its depth. Perhaps sometimes we draw near when we contemplate how parents spend their very lives for their children, and lovers for each other, and carers for those in need.

Rev Dr Barry Craig - *Liturgia* - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.

Prayer cards during the coronavirus pandemic



**You can pick up a prayer card at Mass. They can be found near the newsletters or with the marshals and ushers.**

## Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

COVID restrictions are preventing the celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass, held each year at the Cathedral of St Stephen, in the usual way. However, on **Saturday 26th September at the 11.30am Mass**, Archbishop Mark will celebrate Mass for the special intentions of all couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage. Attendance of Mass at the Cathedral is restricted to 132, if however, any couple celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary are in good health and wish to attend the Mass in person, please contact the Cathedral office on 3324 3030 or register on-line via the Cathedral website: <https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/mass--reconciliation-times.html>



The Mass will be live-streamed via the Cathedral website for those who are unable to attend in person.

**Mass booking information** has been in the newsletter for many weeks now. All information relating to online mass bookings can be found on our website and on archived newsletters, also on our website.

**Cancellation of Online Mass bookings have been a hot topic this week.** Follow these instructions for success! Open your confirmation email from Eventbrite for the relevant booking. Scroll to the bottom of the email to box with Order Summary information. Click on **View and manage your order online**. This will open your booking on Eventbrite. You may need to register on Eventbrite. Your email address should match your email address used for your bookings. Then set up a password. This is only necessary for your first time. Click on the box **Cancel Order. Click on Yes, Cancel this order**. You will receive an email confirming your cancellation for your mass booking.

**Give the Gift of Faith.** Your generosity towards Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish can go on forever when you include our parish endowment fund in your Will. With endowment funds, the principal is kept intact and the distributions to the parish come from growth and earnings. This provides a steady stream of income to parish ministries forever. For more information on naming Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Endowment Fund in your Will, please call the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 or the parish office.

**We need you!! Rosters will be prepared again soon.** We would love to see more of you willing to assist in liturgy. As things have changed since the beginning of the year, we have many loyal volunteers who fall into the category of 'vulnerable' or considered in the 'at risk' age of their lives. So, if you are under 70 years and are in good health, please take this as a personal invitation to be more involved in making *Good Liturgy*. Training will be provided for the uninitiated!



I'm disappointed to say that very few new volunteers have come forward to assist with the many rosters that keep our masses and liturgies 'alive'. Fr Denis will be on leave during the month of October. It is especially important that we are self sufficient as a parish. Fr Denis needs to go on leave knowing we can welcome a visiting priest for mass and everything is in order. I will also be going on leave in September. I am hoping to add your name to the roster before I head away for a few weeks. When the emails flood my inbox on Monday, please make clear which Mass /Zoom you are volunteering to assist and in which ministry role you would like be rostered.



**Stewardship**  
*a way of life*

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26)

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.



**Share the Dignity Charity** are running a drive through August to collect sanitary items for those in need. We have a box in the parish office foyer and a basket in the church for donations. They are desperate for support as COVID-19 has had an impact on this area of need in the community. Because of COVID-19 it is expected that almost 5 million Aussies will be living below the poverty line. That's families where parents might have to choose between buying period products or food for the family. If you are out shopping, consider adding an extra item into your trolley. No one should miss school due to feeling embarrassed, undignified and ashamed!



**From Debra's Desk...** I will be taking annual leave from next Thursday 3rd September for two weeks. For anyone that has been relying on me to **book a seat at Mass**, please ask a friend, family member or a friendly face from the parish to do this for you. Things aren't going to change anytime soon, so we do ask that you make arrangements for your mass bookings to be done independently of the parish office.

Usually at this time of year, the Finance Council would be making presentations to the parish community about the state of affairs of the parish. You may have noticed your **planned giving** envelopes are down to the last six envelopes. New envelopes will be issued in the coming weeks. I won't be making any comment about the financial position of the parish or about any plans for the next twelve months. I will ask that you consider your current pledge. For those that are wanting to make changes to their pledge, it is quite simple. If you are giving by envelope, just increase the amount you enclose each week. For those giving by direct debit and credit card, there is a form for each payment type on our website. Here is a quick link to the forms. Any forms received after 3rd Sept won't be processed until I return from leave on 20th September.

<https://www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au/finance-council.html>

For anyone that gives each week 'on the plate' but aren't registered as a 'giver', please be aware that we do rely on your funds too. All cash and cheques, both in envelopes and loose are to be placed in the basket before mass. If you are **Zooming at 7am**, we do have a box in the parish office foyer where your planned giving can be placed. The foyer is open each weekday from approx. 8am to 4pm.

**Parish Census forms are available online.** Please complete this form if you are new to our parish or perhaps aren't so new but haven't shared your details with us. One thing we have learnt this year, is how invaluable it is to be able to connect with our community. If you aren't receiving emails from us, we probably don't know you or have your details on file. <https://www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au/new-parishioner-info.html>

**H**ave you noticed this sign on seating in the Church? Seats with this sign are to remind you of social distancing and are there so you **DO NOT** sit on these seats. **DO NOT** move these signs. They are there to keep everyone at a safe distance from one another. Most are on the end of a row. No one should be sitting in a seat A or at the end of the row. All seating is clean when you arrive at mass, so please do not move around and potentially contaminate seating around you. Thank you.

#### What's on this week at Stafford

<b>Mon 31st</b>	8.30am	Mass (Booking required)
<b>Tues 1st</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer of the Church
<b>Wed 2nd</b>		
<b>Thurs 3rd</b>	8.30am	Mass (Booking required)
<b>Fri 4th</b>	8.30am	Mass (Booking required)
<b>Sat 5th</b>	5.00pm	Mass (Booking required)
<b>Sun 6th</b>	7.00am	Zoom Liturgy
	9.00am	Mass (Booking required)

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**CHEAP RATES!**  
Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



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### Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Office

Address: 70 Appleby Road, Stafford  
Parish email: [stafford@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Parish WEBSITE: [www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au)  
Parish Administrator: Fr Denis Scanlan  
Fr Denis' E-mail: [pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Parish Pastoral Council: [ppcstafford@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com)

### Queen of Apostles School Contacts

Address: 10 Thuruna Street, Stafford  
School email: [pstafford@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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**



### AN OINTING 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

### We pray for those who are unwell

Noel Hall	Dianne Stevens
Pam Ward	Glenn Stevens
Norm Ward	Irene Johnson
Kate Sigtenhorst	Kevin Noonan
Barbara Flynn	Maureen Noonan
Ron Kerr	
Madonna Power	

**We remember those whose anniversary of death occur about this time including** Kathleen Cronin, Adeline Lambert, Sr Maureen Shelvey, Michael & Christina Johnsson, Francis Savellon, Dominico Olavides, and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.

THE  
CATHOLIC  
LEADER

**Catholic Leader is available online.** There is a link from our website. You can subscribe to a free digital copy on this link. Click on "Stay Connected" you will be able to read the current Catholic Leader online. You can also register to receive a digital copy each week until print

### We pray for those recently deceased including:

Carmel Remphrey  
Fr Joe McGeehan  
Marie Daley  
David Watson  
Salvador Pineda  
  
Jack  
Charalambous  
  
Mary Law  
  
Brian Becker  
  
Christopher Smyth



### PRAYER during the coronavirus pandemic

(Adapted from the USCCB)

Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Aid to the Church in Need is arranging a spiritual bouquet of Masses for the needs of our world during this pandemic. Visit, [www.aidtochurch.org/coronavirus](http://www.aidtochurch.org/coronavirus).

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation supporting the faithful wherever they are persecuted or oppressed.

