



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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 5th/6th September, 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 contact the office.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877610555>

Meeting ID: 878 7761 0555

Passcode: listen

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Weekly Reflection - The Lectionary omits all of Matthew 17 from the Sunday readings and so from we

leap today to half-way through chapter 18, into the middle of what may be described as advice for living as Church. Navigating the conflicting ideas, expectations, hopes and values within any community takes some work, and the Church is not exempt from this messiness that is natural to all human communities. But how deep must the disagreement be before an "offender" is considered to have gone too far? How far off the path does one need to go in order to be deemed "wicked"? How much responsibility must we take for the wrongdoing of others, and how wrong do others have to be before we feel compelled to correct them? And who likes being corrected, or correcting? The advice in the first part might be considered as rules for responsible conflict resolution. There are four steps: speak with the offender in private (for humiliation, which creates resentment, must be avoided if rehabilitation is the aim); if matters are not resolved then involve a few others (for the evidence of others is needed—or may help break an impasse); if matters are still not resolved, involve the community in the hope that it will be listened to; and if matters are still not resolved, treat the offender as a pagan or tax collector. This last piece has been interpreted in some times and places as advice or command for the community to shun and expel offenders.

But did not Jesus keep company with tax collectors? Did not the apostolic Church reach out to pagan gentiles with the Good News? So, instead of being rejected the offender is identified as one not yet converted, not truly incorporated into the Church and so outside community and communion, and therefore is one in need of conversion, for which engagement is required.

The next item, on binding and loosing, takes us back to the gospel reading two Sundays ago (Matt 16:19), but the authority to bind and loose is here directed not to Peter, but to the community of disciples, that is, the Church. These sayings in different nuances (the first is in the singular, the second in the plural) are found only in Matthew, and their nearest equivalent is John 20:23, but the same terminology and similar expressions are found in other ancient and rabbinic sources. It is a Jewish expression concerning legal decisions that impose or lift sanctions. This language arises also in Matthew 23:4 (to be read on the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time this year) when Jesus accuses the scribes and Pharisees of binding heavy burdens on others and being unwilling to remove them. Christ's mission, and therefore his Church's, is to set free, to remit debt, to forgive sin – to lift the burden from those who are bound.



On turning to the second reading, a correction would not go astray. Sometimes translators have to balance competing interests of a direct translation versus a smoother one. Two paraphrases in today's second reading have lost something. The first, "If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations", with its needlessly gendered language, seems concerned merely with what satisfies an obligation. Instead, the Greek has "For the one loving the other fulfils the law." Various verbs synonymously meaning fulfil, complete, and perfect are found in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. In this case, Paul indicates the deficient nature of law, since its precepts are reductions that when cast in the positive provide examples of right acting, and cast in the negative are examples of contraventions of right acting. Loving the other guides one away from willingly wronging the other,

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The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1st Reading: Eccl 27:30—28:7

2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



and it guides the way of doing right so that the right thing that is done may be done with good grace. The second quibble over translation is in the last line, "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments", which in Greek more directly reads, "Goodwill [or love] does no wrong to the neighbour, so goodwill [love] is the fulfilment of the Law." The preceding positive summary of the Law's end may be put thus: Cherish/Love your neighbour as if your own self.

Rev Dr Barry Craig - *Liturgia* - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK—SEPTEMBER 6—12, 2020

This year National Child Protection Week will celebrate its 30th year with the theme 'Putting children first'.

Putting children first means prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children. To grow up well children need to feel safe and loved, have a chance to play and explore, have a say in decisions that affect them, and access to essential things like food, shelter and healthcare.

A Prayer: "Lord, You asked that the little children be allowed to come to you; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith.

Guide us as we strive to ensure that our Catholic communities provide a safe environment for each child.

We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood. Give them courage in facing the past and lead them to Your healing protection."

Advice for parents: "One of the key findings of the FBI concerning abuse of children and adolescents in families and beyond is about the personality of the child. Abusers of young persons avoid the kind of child many would regard as a brat – loud-mouthed and opinionated – because these children are not easy to manipulate into silence...at any time.

So raising children to speak out confidently and to present as confident will help deter predators. Keep communication open between parents and child, where no subject matter is seen as taboo, will work against any child being manipulated into secrecy.

Also, giving children a plan to activate as soon as they feel intimidated or uncomfortable around an adult will move them away from the very first approach of a predator."

– From the FBI guidelines, Adapted from Cath News comment cited by Marie H on 17th June 2009.

The Season of Creation is a new Liturgical Season for the Catholic community globally as it joins the 30-year ecumenical/orthodox history of celebration under the leadership of Pope Francis and through the promotion of the Vatican Dicastery for

Promoting Integral Human Development. It extends from September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Season focuses on God as Creator of the vast cosmic universe, God's revelation in Creation, and our calling to care for God's creation, protect its rich diversity and address the urgent, destructive crises threatening its health and future.

This year's theme is Jubilee for the Earth. Climate change, currently one of Earth's most pressing crises, is a result of the intersection of greed, inequality and destruction of God's Earth. Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor. Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most must care for those who have suffered the most. Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people.

On this 1st Sunday of the Season of Creation, the scriptures call us to accept our prophetic responsibility in love to invite each other to conversion and care for creation in these times of ecological crisis.



The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will be NEXT WEEKEND AS YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AFTER MASS (12/13th Sept) to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross** on September 14th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and the increasing cost of living. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13th and please also keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

Social Tennis players are invited to join a Sunday afternoon group currently playing on our courts. They have lost a few players to illness and injury and are looking to find a few like new players for a social hit of tennis. They are a mature age, mixed group of players that enjoy the social hit of tennis. If you are interested, please let your name with the parish office.

The Anna's Group is now open to all widows. They **meet** on the **2nd Friday** of the **month** at the **Coffee Club** in **Flockton Village** **at 12pm**. They meet again this Friday 11th September for lunch and be a support for each other.

Good food and good conversation is guaranteed!!!

Contact Dianne 0407616637



Social Justice News -There are currently around 16,000 children in families seeking protection in Australia. Many people seeking asylum have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19, as they often work in the service sectors worst affected, and as they are not eligible for the JobSeeker or JobKeeper payments, they have been left with nothing. Demand on emergency relief at asylum agencies has in most cases trebled.

The [No Child Left Behind campaign](#) is being led by the Refugee Council of Australia, in coalition with a number of other civil society organisations, including Jesuit Refugee Service, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Uniting Church, and many others. This coalition is supporting efforts by educators across the country to speak out about the current situation for many students seeking asylum and are joining the call to ensure no child, including children seeking asylum, is left behind during Covid-19.

From across the country, educators, parents and students, and the relevant bodies representing them, have signed a joint statement to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Families and Social Services. If you would like to add your signature (and concerned members of the public can also sign a separate petition, in support of the educators speaking out), you can do so via the [No Child Left Behind site](#). You might also like to participate in the [National Week of Solidarity](#), which is taking place from 6 – 12 September (in conjunction with National Child Protection Week).

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!

Fr Denis will be on leave during the month of October. It is especially important that we are self sufficient as a parish. When volunteering please make clear which Mass /Zoom you are volunteering to assist and in which ministry role you would like be rostered. Thank you.

"You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel..." (Ezekiel 33:7)



Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, especially the one that means the most to us.

Stewardship
a way of life

The Parish Office will be open while I'm on leave, in the safe hands of Fr Denis. However, he has many commitments that require him to be away from the office at times. Please email or leave a message if urgent. **I return on 21st Sept. Debra**

Have 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.



Planned giving envelopes have been prepared for the next campaign period. If you are booked in to Mass they will be available for collection at the church doors. If you are a 'Zoomer' you can collect your envelopes from the parish office.



Share the Dignity Charity box will be in the church again this weekend. Last chance to donate to this very worthy cause.

What's on this week at Stafford

Mon 7th	8.30am	Mass (Booking required)
Tues 8th	8.30am	Morning Prayer of the Church
Wed 9th		
Thurs 10th	8.30am	Mass (Booking required)
Fri 11th	8.30am	Mass (Booking required)
	12.00pm	Anna's group
Sat 12th	5.00pm	Mass (Booking required)
Sun 13th	7.00am	Zoom Liturgy
	9.00am	Mass (Booking required)

Tennis Courts for Hire
with lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



Holy Cross
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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**



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, Michael O'Donnell, Adeline Lambert, Sr Maureen Shelvey, Michael 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

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



Father's Day Prayer

Lord, thank you for all fathers.

For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms.

For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life.

For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children.

For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens.

For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults.

For the father uncles, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews. For all granddads, who love and support their precious grandchildren.

For the foster dads that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones. For the Sunday dads who care for our children and lead them in faith.

For the dads who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love.

Thank you Lord for all our beautiful fathers. Help us to support them and keep them in our prayers. May you bless them now on this their special day. Amen.

(a Father's Day prayer from www.lords-prayer-words.com)