



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."

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 7th/8th Nov 2020

Weekly Reflection - Context Connection

This Sunday's Gospel focuses on the servants of the bridegroom, who are prepared to welcome him home with his bride. In Jesus's day, a marriage was prearranged, which means that the bridegroom's father and the bride's father made contractual arrangements for the marriage to take place. In many, if not most, cases, children were betrothed to each other. A betrothal was the promise of marriage made some time before the celebration of the wedding. The dowry was also negotiated at this time.

The Gospel story opens just as the betrothal period officially draws to a close. The bridegroom, accompanied by his attendants, goes off to the house of the bride to bring her to his home for the wedding celebration. Final arrangements regarding the marriage contract are to be made at this time. In the Gospel story, these negotiations, in the view of the bridegroom's attendants, take longer than anticipated. In some translations, these attendants are referred to as bridesmaids. These bridesmaids are selected by the bridegroom to serve the bride, to cater to her every wish. Later in the story, the bridegroom claims not to know five of these bridesmaids, who emerge as foolish maidens for their lack of foresight. The procession that forms around the bride, escorting her to the bridegroom's house, is filled with music and light. Five of the ten bridesmaids chosen to serve the bride anticipate that things might take longer than expected, so they bring extra oil for their lamps. As a result, they are able to join in the festive procession. The other five, however, run off to buy more oil, and the procession passes them by. When they knock at the door, seeking entry into the wedding celebration, the bridegroom replies, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you" (25:12).

Matthew closes with the words, "Keep awake therefore, for



you know neither the day nor the hour" (25:13). Keep in mind that this Gospel was written around AD 85. Though many of the Apostles and their followers had died, some were still alive. The Second Coming of Jesus was expected to occur in their lifetime. Matthew wants his community, even if they don't know the exact hour of Jesus's return, to be ready to follow him.

Tradition Connection

As Catholics, we believe Jesus died, rose, and will come again. This Sunday's Gospel emphasizes the importance of being ready for Jesus's return. Spiritual readiness is the personal responsibility of every believer. Jesus, through his earthly ministry, ushered in the Kingdom of God, but it is not yet complete. Therefore we must stand ready to carry on the work whenever the Master calls. (see CCC, number 2612).

Before his Ascension, Jesus reveals to his disciples that the fullness of the messianic Kingdom will be realized in the future at a time chosen by God alone. However, Jesus clearly points out to his followers that the in-between time in which we live is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the gift he

Jonathan Sacks

Note: Jonathan Sacks is the chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom.

"Shabbat" = "Sabbath" (for Jews—Saturday; Christians — Sunday.)

Jews survived because they never lost three things: their sense of family, their sense of community, and their faith. And these values were renewed every week on Shabbat, the day of rest when we give our marriages and families what they most need and are most starved of in the contemporary world: namely time.



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1st Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

2nd Reading: Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30



promises. The Holy Spirit has empowered and emboldened disciples in every generation to be credible witnesses in a world that still struggles with evil and injustice.

The Kingdom of God is already present within the Church, which is to serve as the transformative agent of change in the world. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be builders of the Kingdom of heaven on earth through our watchfulness in faith.

Wisdom Connection

Many humans are on a lifelong quest for wisdom, and that quest calls for a high level of vigilance or spiritual readiness. As Christians, we believe God personifies true wisdom. In seeking wisdom, therefore, we are seeking God. Through the biblical Book of Wisdom, we come to understand that God's wisdom possesses a radiance, which makes it easy to find. In embracing this wisdom, one gains an inner radiance. When we first read this story, we may have been struck by the bridesmaids' unwillingness to share their oil. This precious oil, however, represents that which keeps faith alive for the believer. One person cannot give this to another. Each individual must cultivate faith within his or her own heart. Matthew knows this task to be difficult at times. The cares of everyday life can create tremendous pressures and burdens. But in seeking God's wisdom, we will be gifted with the interior strength of grace, which will let our light of faith shine. Matthew also reminds us that Christ comes amid history, in the ordinariness of our daily lives, and for this reason we must undertake the spiritual work to stand ready.

From Youth Reflections - Liturgia - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

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.** Ladies will meet again at **12pm on 13th March** for lunch and be a support for each other. Good food and good conversation is guaranteed!!! Contact Dianne 0407616637 for further information.



Strengthen the Household of Faith

Jesus asks us to demonstrate our love for Him through our generosity to others. In our everyday lives, He calls us to share our gifts. "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25: 40) Please consider a gift in any amount given through your Will to strengthen our Parish. For more information about how you can leave a legacy to Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, call the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 or call the parish office.

Held in God's Loving Hands – A Quiet Weekend Retreat for Women

What do God's hands look like? How can we reimagine our lives held in lovingly cupped hands and held close? Comfort, compassion, mercy, nurture, deep love.....

A weekend opportunity for women to leave behind the chaos and clutter that can be a part of life and enter into quiet in com-

munity. Come and experience a time of prayerful reflection.

Facilitated by Grace Harwood (Dragonfly Ministries)

2 opportunities to choose from:

Friday 11 December 6pm to

Sunday 13 December 3pm

OR Friday 15 January 6pm to Sunday 17 January 3pm

Place: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston

Cost: \$370 (\$340 for pensioners, f/t students and unemployed) includes all accommodation, meals, resources and facilitation.

Santa Teresa requires an additional \$30 fee for those with special diets.

To register or enquire contact: grace@dragonflyministries.net.au or 0409 524 283 (also Grace)



ACRATH* Calendars are here again! But, this year with a difference! They are being given to us for free! (Although if you wish to leave a donation for ACRATH to continue their work - thank you!).

Calendars will be available after each Mass next weekend 14/15. Anyone on Zoom please phone and collect from parish office. (Or, we could arrange delivery) These calendars are so worthwhile as ACRATH continues its fight against slavery in our modern world. In this year's calendar we read the story of modern slavery right here and now in Queensland! The mistreatment of 22 men from Vanuatu hired under the Australian governments aid program to work on farms in Queensland. The labour contractor promised them a good wage. Instead they were paid little or nothing and fed little, often relying on the food they picked. Their families in Vanuatu waited for money to be sent home. Nothing was paid. (Read the full story in our parish Webpage) ACRATH is perusing justice for these men who are owed

\$77,000! It is a slow fight but one that will continue through the courts until these men receive compensation. How can we help? (*Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans.)



"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - Matthew 25:13



Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. Don't delay. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan)

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is proud to launch its first RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) on **Tuesday 17 November** with a Mass and reception at St Stephen's Cathedral. The five pilot parishes (Beenleigh, Bracken Ridge, Cleveland, Inala, Zillmere) will be in attendance, along with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives, the RAP artist, Reconciliation QLD, and local members of parliament. To find out more about the RAP please visit: <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/inclusion/reconciliation-action-plan/>



Due to COVID restrictions, the RAP launch is invitation-only, however you are

most welcome to join the joyous celebration online from 1:45pm on Tuesday November 17th at: www.archbne.org/bzw

National Recycling Week 2020

National Recycling Week will be celebrated in Australia from November 11th -17th, 2020. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about important environmental issues amongst Australians. The theme of the 2020 National Recycling Week is 'Recovery - A future beyond the bin'. Here at Stafford Parish we have already introduced many initiatives around recycling and environmental impacts. Thanks for all who are donating to the parish through Containers for Change.

Containers for Change

Log on to containersforchange.com.au to register your personal code or use the Parish Code and donate the funds to Our Lady

Queen of Apostles Parish

Parish Identification Code is C10195625

Stafford State School Collection Point, enter from Webster Rd, Stafford



1. Bottles must have the lids removed.



2. Label the bag with your registration number or our Q of A code C10195625



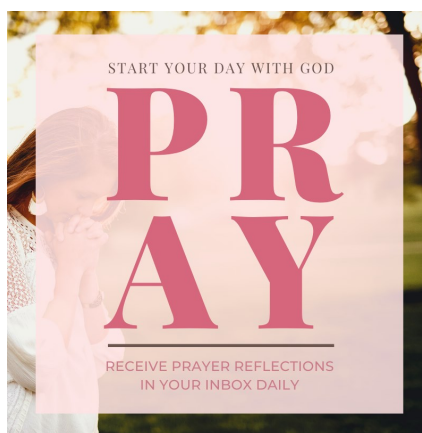
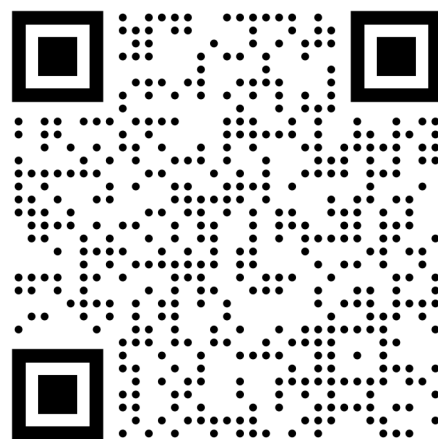
3. Labels are provided for you if you have not taped your own onto the bag.

4. Deposit your bags into the bin.

SPEND TIME WITH GOD EVERY MORNING

Sign up to receive the Daily Gospel Reflection. These reflections are mailed to your inbox at 6am each day (Monday to Friday) and are just a three minute read that could be done over breakfast, intended to invite you into prayer.

Written by Catholic lay people (men and women from the team at Evangelisation Brisbane), for Catholic lay people about the gospel of the day to help you start your day with God.



Subscribe via the Evangelisation Brisbane website <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/> or simply scan the QR code.

What's on this week at Stafford


Mon 9th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 10th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Wed 11th		
Thurs 12th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 13th	9.00am 12.00pm	Mass Anna's Group
Sat 14th	5.00pm	Mass (Booking required)
Sun 15th	7.00am 9.00am	Zoom Liturgy Mass (Booking required)

Tennis Courts for Hire with Lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday




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

We remember those whose anniversary of death occur about this time including Collette Horn, Katter, Matthews and Rowbotham families, Gloria Patalinghug, Aludia Tolentino, Francesca and Domenico Antonaglia, Angelo Di Mauro, Laurie Fischer and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.

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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81036948771>

Meeting ID: 810 3694 8771

Passcode: lamps

One tap mobile

+61871501149,,81036948771#,,,,,0#,,061423# Australia

+61280156011,,81036948771#,,,,,0#,,061423# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 8 7150 1149 Australia

Meeting ID: 810 3694 8771

Passcode: 061423

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcyLCNb2F7>



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 of the list.



BAPTISMS in this Parish occur at 10.30am on the Third Sunday of each Month (**except** during Lent and OCTOBER).



For BAPTISM BOOKINGS please contact the Parish Office.

We pray for those who are unwell

Tom Tartan	Barbara Flynn
Sonia Officer	Madonna Power
Noel Hall	Dianne Stevens
Pam Ward	Glenn Stevens
Norm Ward	
Kate Sigtenhorst	



We pray for those recently deceased including:

Gemma Debattista
Kerri Lanfranchi
Yvonne Graham
Ronald Harriss
Terry McGlone
Pauline Clayton
Helen Maria
Eluwa
Carmel Remphrey
Fr Joe McGeehan
Marie Daley
David Watson



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 copies are reintroduced.

