



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."

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe - Year A 21st/22nd Nov 2020

NEW PARISH COUNCIL – WHY is it so important??

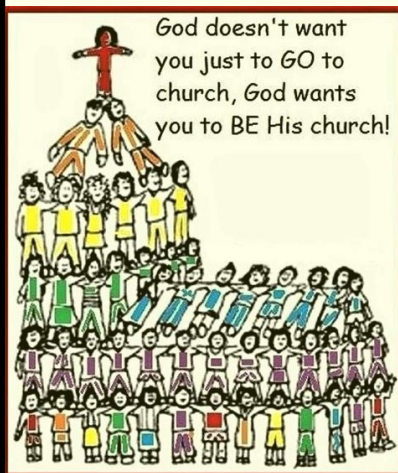
(Before you skip to the next article or cuppa or whatever, please read this because it is relevant to YOU as a parishioner.)

God has a mission that all God's children (all humanity, all creation) can live in communion with each other rejoicing in their different God - Given gifts. Jesus expressed this when he said "Peace be to you, My own peace I give you."



God's Mission has a Church (we, the Baptised) entrusted to carry it out. Our Vision statement puts it another way, **"To follow the example of Jesus by serving others."**

Simply put, Jesus showed us how to do this – Love God and Love your neighbour as yourself. He told us wonderful parables including the Good Samaritan whereby he challenged us to "be a neighbour" to others. This



love as demonstrated by him unto death is the power of God that defeats all Darkness, Evil and even Death. It removes ALL barriers/walls between ourselves and others and God's creation.

To be "a good neighbour" takes us out of our own self and directs us towards others in com-

munion.

We sometimes tend to busy ourselves with all sorts of activities and "holy" things that justify our avoidance of the core of our faith – "Love". Through history, it hasn't so much been fancy liturgies, or wise catechesis that has attracted people, it's their experience of our love for one another and for them that has attracted them. People flocked to Jesus because of his love and compassion for them regardless of what rules they kept or disregarded.

Over my holidays I've been reading, praying and thinking about this and the current state of our church, declining numbers, a dearth of young people, parents struggling to find faith-filled peers for their children, and, the terrible image the "institutional" church has amongst the wider population.

I have thought that maybe it's time to get back to the basics Jesus taught. Concentrating on supporting and helping people "be a good neighbour" in their family life, their work life, their political life, their use of money and goods – every aspect of their lives so that we can all more truly reflect the life of Christ. This is what Jesus called us to "Do in memory of me".

The Parish Pastoral Council has an important role in helping this eventuate because, comprising ordinary parishioners, it can reflect the feelings and faith of our community and in doing so, work with the wider parish in proposing actions whereby all are helped achieve this vision.

Here's my plea and my challenge to YOU. Please consider being on the new Parish Pastoral Council. What gifts do you need? Whatever God gave you (and God DID give you some!!). Regardless of the colour of skin, culture, age, and/or your language, if you are breathing, you have a role! A Council with a mixture of people who have different abilities e.g. to think "outside the square", to organise people/projects, can think deeply, prepared to commit as one of your most important roles (involves a monthly meeting at least), who try and listen to others, to work with others. – It's a pastoral role – We will spend time in prayer, discussion, and formulating actions that will help all of us to be better neighbours and so promulgate Christ's Peace.

Please let me know if you are interested – I need to know by November 30th. Or, if you like, tell one of the other current Parish Councillors. – Denis.

Share
your small
blessings

PARENTS – PLEASE TAKE NOTE (I received this call from a couple of parents this week):

"(We) have been talking recently about the difficulty of connecting our children into a network of other Christian children who come to church, and who have families that take their faith seriously. No one in ??'s class comes to Mass, and occasionally perhaps one or maybe two from yyyy's class.



As you'd appreciate, when children don't see others their age who come to church, then there's little incentive for them to keep coming. We've been finding it quite a lonely experience, especially this year (not helped by Covid of course), and the time is slipping by when our children can be inspired by other families

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44



with children their age taking up their faith as a living reality, before the pulls of teenage-hood set in.

... What we were wondering though, was whether you might be aware of **any other families like ours who would be voicing a similar concern?** It would be **so supportive** to be able to join up with a few families with younger children, who feel comfortable sharing on a faith level - which gives the opportunity for the children to "catch" the faith. Who knows - perhaps something really good could come out of a small beginning.

*(If you are a family similar to this looking for more support for your children – and yourselves – please contact the Parish Office **as soon as you can** and we'll set up a gathering of those interested in being in contact with each other.) -- Denis*

COVID changes in our parish.

With the onset of the Virus, **everything in our parish was turned upside down** – rosters decimated, new activities such as church cleaning and marshals started, new technologies like Zoom were introduced and so on.

It's **time to formalise some of our changes** so that we are more organised and the workload does not rest on the shoulders of a few.

FIRSTLY – for those WHO ARE ROSTERED as Special Minister or Readers at each Mass, this weekend, we will restore the tradition of **meeting for prayer in "Mary's Room" 10 minutes before Mass.**

SECONDLY: Please **ask yourselves** where you can be a **"good neighbour"** to your parish community in these areas:

Marshals (to help confirm who is present at a particular Mass) – something we need to know while the Covid regulations persist). All it asks is that you be at the Church about 25minutes before Mass, get three people to hand out the tickets, and then give people a tick as they enter the church. –My hope is that we have enough people so you can be rostered every two or three weeks.

Cleaners (to spray and wipe down the Church after each Sunday Mass – it takes about 25 minutes. Will **you** with one or two others (your family??) volunteer. Hopefully it'll be for every two or three weeks. We'll train you - it is easy and quick.

FINALLY

I am very conscious that in these times of Covid, there are **some sick and/or elderly people** who always

used to come to mass and **can no longer do so**. To ensure that they continue to really feel a part of our worshipping community, we are installing **new AV equipment** (a new **screen** that is clearer in all lighting, **Cameras** to broadcast our Mass into the homes, and **technology** whereby those in the church and at home will be able to see each other). It'll cost about **\$35000** – if you'd like to donate to help defray that cost you can do so with money in an envelope, Eftpos/ Credit Card (at the office) or bank transfer using this link [Make a Donation to our Parish](#)

THANK YOU to all those who have donated to help defray the costs of our new AV. As I mentioned before the new AV will enable those with poor eyesight to see words and images (even in full daylight) and it will enable the sick and those who for whatever reason are not able to join us for Mass to join in with us actively (even possibly be a reader). This is different to just watching on TV or on the Computer where people tend to be passive and have little connection to a community they know. If you'd like to join those who have already donated, either drop money in an envelope in the basket outside Mass, or drop it into the office or even just click on this link to donate. Thanks again.

Have you poor hearing and find it hard to hear the words being read at mass or other things?? We haven't forgotten you and are still looking at some sort of aid to help you. After the above AV renovations are finished, we possibly can "plug in" a possible solution. Some of our Technically minded parishioners have been researching solutions and have one or two ideas! In the meantime **all READERS are reminded to read loudly and clearly** for those who have poor hearing. I promise also to try to pay more attention to how I speak as well!!! - Denis

Contact Tracing Sheets (CTS) are a government regulation of our COVID-19 industry plan which we need to abide by. For all those who register for mass online, your registration process covers all aspects of the our obligations. **For those who manually fill CTS before mass - scant details or illegible handwriting are leaving us vulnerable and this needs to be addressed immediately!** We need a contact phone or email address or full street address. **If you have any concerns, please contact Debra in the office.**

Date Claimer: In preparation for Christmas, we'll be celebrating a **Second Rite of Reconciliation** (using our written notes as per previous times!). It will be on **Monday night 14th December, 6.30pm – 7.30pm**. As we get closer, an opportunity to book via "Eventbrite" will be provided as the same Covid rules apply here as they do to Sunday Masses.

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 again this weekend 21/22 Nov**. Anyone **on Zoom please phone** and collect from parish office. (Or, we could arrange

delivery) These calendars are so worthwhile as **ACRATH continues it's fight against slavery in our modern world.**

Break Open The Word has arrived this week. If you have paid for your copy, it will be in the church this weekend for collection. Payment for the books can be made via the 'plate' on the weekend using an envelope clearly marked BOTW and your name or in person at the office—cash or Eftpos or direct deposit using this link. [Break Open the Word Payment](#)

Adore Advent books have arrived! If you haven't paid for your copy, please use the same payment methods as advertised for BOTW.

Zoom Forum Invitation

In 2015 Pope Francis launched his encyclical *Laudato Si* and in doing so he invited 'all men of good will' to seek 'ecological conversion' and to actively live as caretakers of creation. Globally, our world has felt the consequences of misuse of the earth's resources. Fire, drought, storms and deluge has brought devastation to many populations, both humankind and in the animal kingdom.

The Concerned Catholics Canberra and Goulburn Group are hosting a Zoom Forum **The Pope's Revolution-The Implications of Laudato Si** on Thursday 26th November 5:00pm-6:30pm (Daylight Savings Time). All are welcome, **contact Mark Metherell:**

0417603 697 to register.

SPEAKERS

Dr Trish Hindmarsh (Tasmania)

Dr Paul Collins (ACT)

Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards are also available for purchase. Calendars are \$9 and cards are \$2.95 for a pack of 8. Contact Debra in the office for purchases.

Christmas update from Vinnie's re the gifting tree. Due to the virus, there will be no placing food under the Christmas Tree this year. You might think about giving extra money towards the Vinnie's Christmas Appeal to make up for it. May God Bless you for your generosity and love for the vulnerable in our community.

The Church will be closed during the week Monday 30th Nov to Fri 4th December. This is the week where the new AV equipment will be installed. I'm sorry that any liturgies will not be celebrated during that week. I hope that the AV will be up and operational for the weekend 5th/6th December and maybe we'll even have the computer people almost up to speed.

The Peter's Pence Collection will be taken up this weekend as a leaving collection. It gives Catholics in Australia an opportunity to join in communion with the Catholic faithful throughout the world in support of the charitable works of the Holy See. The Peter's Pence Collection is an annual collection of the Catholic Church around the world. The collection allows the Holy Father to respond to the most needy throughout the world, to offer timely, effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters.

The Holy Land collection was held in September. We sent \$313.70 to the Holy Land Commissariat. These funds go towards the maintenance of over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus, as well as providing local Christians with pastoral and health care and many other needs of those living in the Holy Land.

"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me."
— Matthew 25:40



Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, for givenness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

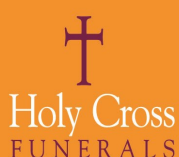
What's on this week at Stafford

Mon 23rd	8.30am	Mass
Tues 24th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Wed 25th		
Thurs 26th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 27th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 28th	5.00pm	Mass (Booking required)
Sun 29th	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



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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

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

Irene Johnson	Pam Ward
Peter O'Donnell	Norm Ward
Paul Glynn	Kate Sigtenhorst
Tom Tartan	
Sonia Officer	
Noel Hall	



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

Mr E Blackman
Maria Nohora
Pataquiva
Gemma Debattista
Kerri Lanfranchi
Yvonne Graham
Ronald Harriss
Terry McGlone
Pauline Clayton
Helen Maria
Eluwa
Carmel Remphrey
Fr Joe McGeehan

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/87821814864>

Meeting ID: 878 2181 4864

Passcode: sheep

One tap mobile

+61370182005,,87821814864#,,,,,0#,,708953# Australia

+61731853730,,87821814864#,,,,,0#,,708953# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 3 7018 2005 Australia

Meeting ID: 878 2181 4864

Passcode: 708953 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keorvdS5Vp>



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