



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."

Fourth Sunday of Advent— Year B 19th/20th Dec 2020

Advent Prayer on Consumerism

From [Education for Justice](#)

Slow us down, O God, this Advent,
So we may understand
the darkness we are in,
The darkness of fear that comes with wanting more,
And the fear of having less.
Grant us the light of transformation,
As we wait for your true abundance—,
The love of the Incarnation,
A love that brings us true dignity and security,
A love that embraces all, that enriches all,
That calls us all to share justly and celebrate joyfully.

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

LIKE the Holy Family trekking all the way to Bethlehem to register for the census, all Brisbane Catholics must reach out to their local parish to register for Christmas Masses. Christmas Masses are among the most popular of the year and once COVID-safe capacities are reached, parish workers will have to turn people away and direct them to live-streamed Masses. Anyone who has family, friends or neighbours who are unaware of the COVID- safe rules and intends on going to Mass, should make sure to let them know that they will need to register with the parish they are planning to attend. It would be best to check local parish websites for details on their booking arrangements first.

When booking for Christmas mass, please only book for yourselves. Do not reserve seats for others 'just in case'. We do have limited seating and we want to fill all available seats. Be gracious and consider others—we don't want bookings to reach capacity and then have a half empty church at Christmas with the 'just in case' people not showing up. **We will not be accepting any walk-ins!**

- ♦ **Christmas EVE (Thurs): 5pm, 7pm, 9pm.** (Because of limited numbers and 5pm not providing time for all the working parents to attend, there will be no dedicated "Family" mass this year.)
- ♦ **Christmas DAY (Fri) 8am**
- ♦ **Saturday 26th Dec 5pm & Sunday 27th Dec 9am**

We hope to 'ZOOM' at least one of the Christmas Masses and at least one of the Weekend Masses if all our technology and training is complete.

IN QUEENSLAND EXCERPT— TALES FROM 2020

If you haven't come across the alternative to the Newscorp and Nine Newspapers yet 'In

Queensland' is a start up online paper. It recently featured Archbishop Mark reflecting on preaching to an empty Cathedral and getting used to Zoom on the run:

<https://inql.com.au/insights/tales-of-2020/2020/12/04/tales-of-2020-archbishop-markcoleridge-hold-tuesday/>

Archbishop Mark has a message for you



Christmas in Australia is very different than it is in the northern hemisphere. One obvious fact is the difference of seasons. In the north it's winter and so much of the symbolism and poetry of Christmas is about winter with its cold weather and dark days. Here in Australia it's warm weather and bright days, with Santa Claus more likely to arrive on a surf-board than in a sleigh. We've long set aside the winter fare of poultry and plum pudding that we brought from Europe in favour of summer seafood which we found here. Another difference is that here Christmas coincides with the end of the academic year, which means that December is much more hectic than it is in the north. It also means that in Australia the season of Advent tends to get swamped by end of year celebrations and Christmas preparations. That's a pity because Advent is a very human time that focuses on our deepest desires and our deepest hopes. Christianity believes that these desires and hopes are fulfilled, astonishingly, in the Child of Bethlehem. Christianity says that our desires and hopes are no mirage. They are reality; they are what make us truly human; they are what make our life more than just grim survival. Their fulfilment in Jesus is what makes joy possible.

A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.

In each and every moment that we are blessed
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.
Amen.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year B)

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



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.

To donate to our Annual Appeal, you can obtain an envelope from the marshals at Mass and return the envelope at any Mass between now and Christmas.

For those Parishioners wishing to make their donations by **Bank Transfer please use -**

Acc name: SVDP Stafford

BSB: 064-786 Account No: 100026699

If you require a receipt please send a copy of your deposit with your name and address to

svdpstafford@gmail.com Subject: Vinnie's Appeal

May God Bless you for your generosity and love for the vulnerable in our community.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY

**...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
Mark 10.14**

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm.

They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

This means that everyone in the church must ensure that the fundamental rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults are respected. This will be achieved through the development of respectful relationships and a commitment to safety embracing appropriate boundaries, behaviours and practices, in accordance with the Archdiocesan Code of Ethical Behaviour and adherence to legislative imperatives of the State.

This policy applies to Clergy, Religious, Staff, Parishioners, Volunteers, students on placement and Visitors to our sites.

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. This weekend we will have Eftpos facilities for purchase of calendars and cards.



This story was shared with me a few years ago. I hope you enjoy this as much as I do....Debra

For the Man Who Hated Christmas by Nancy W Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it—overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma—the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids—all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition—one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a cheque to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children—ignoring their new toys—would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by

three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

Annual Leave for the Parish Secretary

I will be on leave from close of business on Christmas Eve and will return on 11th January. Fr Denis will be around during this time, however, sometimes his work takes him away from the office. If your business is urgent, I suggest phoning beforehand. Debra.

For last minute gift ideas go to [Global Gift Card \(globalgifts.org.au\)](http://Global Gift Card (globalgifts.org.au))

A Global Gift is a special Christmas card that gives twice. First, your donation will help families struggling with poverty and injustice. Second, your card will bring a smile to someone you love.

It's called a Global Gift because it's a gift that will send joy, hope and love across the globe for the people who need it most.

Get Creative, Upcycle and Recycle this Christmas

In the spirit of giving, consider giving to our Mother Earth this Christmas, by reconsidering your Christmas Gifting.

- ♦ Host a clothes swap
- ♦ Seconds-only office Secret Santa
- ♦ Source from second-hand vendors, support your favourite Op Shop
- ♦ Get creative with things you already own!
- ♦ Instead of Christmas Wrap, use brown paper decorated with colourful hand written greetings. Tie the wrap with jute string or colourful ribbon.
- ♦ Sew a gift bag from recycled skirts, shirts or sheets.
- ♦ Pot succulents in a recycled coffee mug or glass jar.
- ♦ Bake some treats and gift in a glass jar.

Give the gift of time. Make a voucher pledging something meaningful like help in the garden, a massage or an 'in home' pedicure.

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28



After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Stewardship
a way of life

Position Vacant – Parish Secretary

Applications are open for the above position at the Albany Creek Parish. The position is a part-time 16 hour role over 2 days per week (Wed & Fri)

For additional information, please visit the Archdiocese of Brisbane website <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/> and to careers.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct working with children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) and/or vulnerable adults. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has a 0 tolerance to abuse of children or vulnerable adults.



The Catholic Leader will be printing a Christmas Edition which will be available this weekend. If you are a Zoomer and would like a copy, please let us know. This special edition will be free of charge.



What's on this week at Stafford

Mon 21st	8.30am	Mass
Tues 22nd	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Wed 23rd		
Thurs 24th	5.00pm 7.00pm 9.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass
Fri 25th	8.00am	Christmas Day Mass
Sat 26th	5.00pm	Mass
Sun 27th	7.00am 9.00am	Zoom Liturgy Mass



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

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

Rupert Officer Jnr, Brian Officer, Mary Axisa, Beryl Cowie nee Officer, Sonia & Fernando(snr) Palmer, Irene Johnson, Peter O'Donnell, Paul Glynn, Tom Tartan, Sonia Officer, Sick & Shut-in Noel Hall, Pam and Norm Ward And Kate Sigtenhorst



SEEKING PARISH AMBASSADORS FOR CARITAS and ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

The Annual Catholic Campaign and Caritas Australia need your help! It is our shared hope to have ambassadors in every parish in the Archdiocese. We know that our appeals are close to the hearts of faithful people everywhere and that many people are already involved in supporting us, and so we would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone interested in volunteering to help raise awareness and funds. We will be hosting information sessions on this opportunity via ZOOM in January, and warmly invite you to participate. Please contact Andrew Knife at Caritas Australia in Brisbane for more information. Email andrew.knife@caritas.org.au or call 33243134 to register your interest.

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/89136201058>

Meeting ID: 891 3620 1058

Passcode: house

One tap mobile

+61731853730,,89136201058#,,,,,0#,,549313# Australia

+61861193900,,89136201058#,,,,,0#,,549313# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 7 3185 3730 Australia

+61 8 6119 3900 Australia

Meeting ID: 891 3620 1058

Passcode: 549313

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89136201058>



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

Ron and Lynette
Matthews and 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:

Jo T'Erheegde
Jose Elmer Torib
Colin Kenny
Mr E Blackman
Maria Nohora Pataquiva
Gemma Debattista
Kerri Lanfranchi
Yvonne Graham
Ronald Harriss
Terry McGlone
Pauline Clayton
Helen Maria Flawa

