



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."

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day to Baptism of the Lord Year A

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Monday 11th January. Fr Denis will be around during this time. However, he has many commitments that require him to be away from the office at times.



Please email or leave a message on the answering machine. If your matter is urgent, follow the prompts on the phone to connect with Fr Denis.

New Year Mass Times

No morning mass 28th Dec to 1st Jan

Thurs 31st - 6pm Mass **Vigil Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God / NYE**

Regular Weekday mass times resume on 4th January - see below.

Mon 4th Jan - 8.30am Mass

Tues 5th Jan - 8.30am Morning Prayer and Communion

Thurs 7th Jan - 8.30am Mass

Fri 8th Jan - 9.00am Mass

Weekend Mass times remains

unchanged with 5pm Saturday and 9am Sunday



Vinnies Christmas Hampers - With the generosity and assistance of the students and families of our two schools, and despite not having a Gifting Tree due to Covid-19, this year we have been able to distribute Christmas hampers to 37 families with 105 children. Every family expressed its gratitude for our parishioners generosity. \$10700 Collected so far! Wonderful effort!



I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade.

That's why I also like sunrises, Mondays, and new seasons.

God seems to be saying, "With me you can always start afresh."

Ada Lum

Have a wonderful New Year.

The generosity of our parish continues with combined donations collected for the **Holy Land Collection** held in September totalling \$533.70. These monies go towards the proper maintenance of Holy Places as prayerful sites for the local Christians and for pilgrims.

There was also the **Catholic Mission Appeal** held here in November where cash collections totalled \$800.00. While that figure is down on last year, we haven't been advised of the donations received online from Stafford parishioners.

Mass Livestream via Zoom is here at Stafford! Follow the link below to login and join us for Mass.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83188069705>

Meeting ID: 831 8806 9705

Passcode: birth

One tap mobile

+61280156011,,83188069705#,,, *622190# Australia

+61370182005,,83188069705#,,, *622190# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 2 8015 6011 Australia

+61 3 7018 2005 Australia

Passcode: 622190

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83188069705>



Archbishop Mark has a message for you

In this country, and even more dramatically elsewhere, the pandemic has taken a new and darker turn with the appearance of new strains and a resurgence of infections. So while Christmas will be more subdued here, it will be celebrated hardly at all in other countries. Some are saying that Christmas has been cancelled. But that's impossible. Nothing can change the fact that God became one of us in the birth of Jesus long ago. Nothing can change the fact that Jesus comes to us now, even in the midst of COVID-19. And nothing can change the fact that Jesus will come again at the end of time. So Christmas is like the coronavirus: it mutates. It has mutated in countless ways from age to age and from culture to culture. It is still mutating, and nothing can stop it. Christmas celebrates God-with-us; and in a time like this we need God close to us more than ever. We need the Child in whom God enters all our vulnerability. This year's Christmas will be one like no other! Archbishop Mark Coleridge touches on the extraordinary year 2020 has been and reminds us that when the star of Bethlehem rises and shines, we will all still be led to Jesus. [Watch now.](#)



The Epiphany of the Lord

(Year B)

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



The Baptism of the Lord

(Year B)

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11
2nd Reading: St John 5:1-9
Gospel: Mark 1:7-11



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Year B)

1st Reading: Samuel 3:3-10, 19
2nd Reading: Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20
Gospel: John 1:35-42



Lenten Program 2021 - 52 Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter.

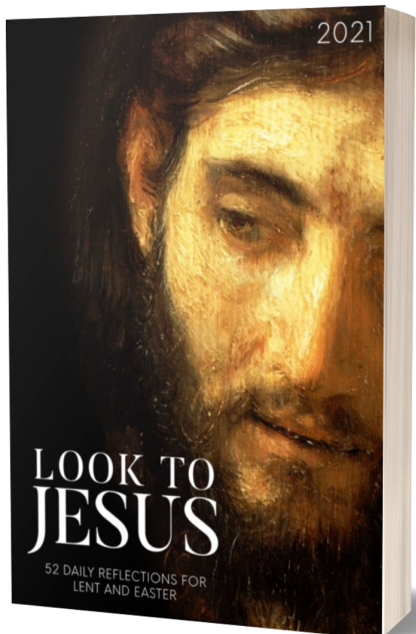
Look to Jesus will nourish and nurture parishioner's prayer, spirituality and discipleship each day during Lent and into the first week of Easter.

The daily reflections, written by Shane Dwyer, will invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day. This reflection will be followed by a quote from Pope Francis and a simple prayer.

The daily reflections will only require 5-10 minutes for a person to read, reflect and pray. This Lenten practice will lead the reader into a deeper questioning and examination of their daily life. As they 'look to Jesus' – in their families, workplaces and the community – they will walk as 'missionary disciples' on the path to Easter, and beyond.

The resource:

- a small book that is easy to carry, and read, while commuting or sitting at home
- daily reflections for Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, Easter Monday to the Second Sunday of Easter
- for each day there is a double page spread with: the date; the day (eg Thursday of 2nd Week of Lent); a Scripture verse; a short reflection written by Shane Dwyer; a quote from Pope Francis; and a short prayer
- introduction and 'how to use this book'
- at the back of the book there are suggestions for group use and questions for reflection and sharing



PETITION TO STATE PARLIAMENT – THE 'CARE FIRST' APPROACH WORKS BEST

As you may be aware, Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation will come before parliament in mid-2021.

This is a complex life ethics issue and requires action from those who support palliative care and accompanying the sick and vulnerable as the more compassionate way of caring for the terminally ill.

There are still options for those who are opposed to euthanasia/assisted suicide and adding your voice to the following petition is one of them.

Although this is a secular based petition, please note it is perfectly in harmony with the Catholic position on VAD, in that:

we support better funding of palliative care instead of legislating VAD

Faced with a new parliament hosting many first time members, it's wise to follow due legislative process and allow a proper parliamentary committee scrutiny of the new draft legislation

To show your concern about the legislation of VAD, please stand with thousands of other Queenslanders and visit the e-petition page at:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3449>



*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
(Luke 2:10-11)*

Welcome to all visitors and new comers to

our Parish during the festive season.

For any new parishioners to

Stafford, please take home our Welcome Pack. They can be found in the brochure holders at the rear of the church in a large white envelope. Inside you will find a letter of introduction from Fr Denis along with a census form and some other brochures about various topics of interest.



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.

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - Colossians 3:13



Stewardship
a way of life

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share give the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Tennis Courts for Hire
with lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



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.


In order to support this policy it is mandatory that all Parish- es and Agencies of the Archdiocese engage in the following four strategies:

1. *safe recruitment and selection practices – helping prevent those who pose a risk to children from holding positions of trust;*
 2. *adhering to the code of ethical behaviour – having clear guidelines that set out what is and is not acceptable behaviour as an essential part of keeping children safe;*
 3. *operating safe activities for children – can help ensure a safe environment for children;*
 4. *mandatory reporting of harm or suspected harm.*
- The Archdiocese is committed to safeguarding children through vigilant prevention and protection practices as prescribed by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and legislation.*



Most Rev Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane




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

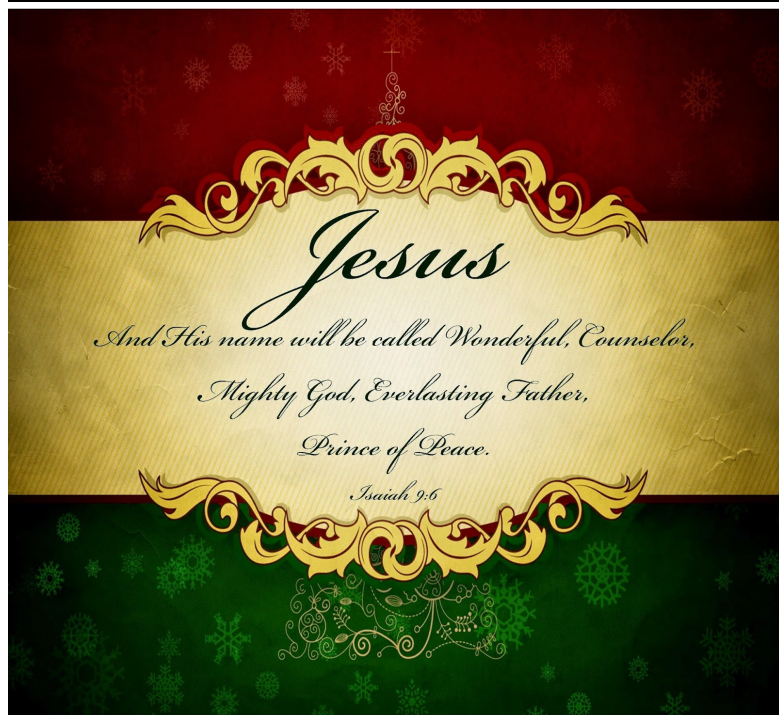
Address: 70 Appleby Road, Stafford
Parish email: stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish WEBSITE: www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au
Parish Administrator: Fr Denis Scanlan
Fr Denis' E-mail: pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Pastoral Council: ppcstafford@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Debra Visser
Office 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 (2020)
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.



We pray for those recently deceased including:



Irene Johnson Bruce Oxenham, Jo T'Erheegde,
Jose Elmer Torib, Colin Kenny, Mr E Blackman,
Maria Nohora Pataquiva, Kerri Lanfranchi,
Yvonne Graham, Ronald Harriss & Terry McGlone.

We pray for those who are unwell

Chloe Dunn
Caitlyn Lengkeek
Rupert Officer Jnr,
Brian Officer,
Mary Axisa,
Beryl Cowie nee Officer,
Sonia & Fernando (snr) Palmer,
Peter O'Donnell,
Paul Glynn,
Tom Tartan,
Sonia Officer,
Noel Hall,
Pam & Norm Ward
Kate Sigtenhorst



ANOINTING OF THE SICK



immediately after Mass on the 3rd Sun of the month (ex Oct). IF you are **going to hospital unex-**

pectedly 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.

The Catholic Leader: Keeping faith with you



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.

The Catholic Leader wishes all readers a joyful, holy Christmas and a happy New Year. Pick up your complementary copy of their Christmas edition today.

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.



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

Ron and Lynette Matthews, Michael O'Donnell, and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.