



# 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."*

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B 16/17th Jan 2021**

## **R**eflection on the readings

This Sunday we commence the Ordinary Time readings of Year B, following Mark, except that we read John 1:35-42. John's unique style often perplexes people, but this comes from reading it too much as a standard narrative and too little as poetry. One of the Johannine techniques is to build images by way of layering and weaving variant repetitions. People often find lengthy passages of John tedious, and not a few preachers dread those series of Sundays that steadily present Johannine thought. But a contemplative reading that allows the readers to be aware of the many threads and layers simultaneously pays off. Episodes in a literary series are not always chronologically sequential; they may be multiple facets of the same episode, reflecting the one story from different aspects or viewpoints. Nor should monologues be read as sequential speech, but rather a single saying or insight being parsed in simultaneous threads. Some episodes have parallels in the preceding or following one, or sometimes it is only elements that are shared across them; the three, or even more, together form a multidimensional narrative. Special phrases, usually varying in form, keep appearing, like threads woven across sections or throughout the gospel. And then there are linguistic subtleties between Aramaic thought and Greek composition that are not always obvious, or may be lost in translation. These take more work to uncover.

Today's episode is the second of three following the Lord's baptism, each opening with "The next day", but our Lectionary has omitted this expression. Does this expression indicate three days in succession, or a threefold telling of the day after the baptism? In the first, John the Baptist exclaims "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" He also mentions seeing the Spirit descend from heaven and remain on Jesus, before declaring "This is the Son of God". In the second (today's reading), John the Baptist *regards* Jesus and in the presence of two disciples

declares "Behold the Lamb of God!" They follow Jesus, and after the invitation "Come and see" they *remain* with him that day. One was Andrew, who early the next morning fetched his brother Simon, saying "We have found the Messiah." He leads him to Jesus, who *regards* him and calls him Cephas: Rock, Peter. In the third use of "The next day" Jesus calls Philip to follow, but he goes and fetches Nathaniel, saying "We have found him of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote." Nathaniel scoffs, but Philip says "Come and see." At their meeting Jesus declares Nathaniel guileless, who replies "You are the Son of God, the King of Israel." Jesus concludes: "You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." Thus over the three episodes we see several reappearing threads interweaving, but there are too many to explore fully here.

One thread of particular interest, due to its role in every Eucharist, is "the Lamb of God" and "Son of God". There is a helpful parallel in some synonymous English words: *kid*, a young goat, may also be used of a *child*, which may be a *boy*, which may designate a subordinate co-worker or domestic servant. In other cases, an older man may call an unrelated child or young man "son". Similarly in Aramaic, the word for *lamb* may be used of a *child* or a cherished *servant*. After careful attention to their uses, it appears that John's "Lamb of God" is Isaiah's "Servant of God", the expected anointed one (the Messiah), the Son of David and King of Israel, who is Shepherd of Israel and Light of the Nations, among other titles. One of the titles we use of him too is "Son of God".

Back in the first reading, at the call of God and under the mentorship of Eli, the prophetic ministry awakens in young Samuel, whose name was said to mean, loosely, "God listened". As an aside, note that Eli calls him "my son", though they are unrelated, and teaches Samuel to call himself "your servant" before God, and to listen to God. Samuel spent much of his life listening, and so came to anoint first Saul then David as king of Israel.

The responsorial Psalm echoes this listening, even saying that an attentive ear is better than sacrifice, offerings and holocausts. Thus there is an invitation to attentive contemplation in the first reading and Psalm, and in the Gospel's "Come and see". It is in quiet contemplation of Christ, in regarding him through Scripture and in our liturgical life, that we glimpse his manifold face.

*Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B*

*Image: Unsplash.com*



### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

2nd Reading: Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20



### COVID Update for Parishes as at Monday 11th January 2020

The occupancy of Churches has been reduced to 1 person per 4 square metres during this time.

Churches may open for Masses but **face masks must be worn** by everyone in attendance.

The presider is required to wear a mask upon entering and exiting the Church. You may remove the mask as you begin Mass.

It is recommended that parishes have a supply of masks available for parishioners who may arrive without one. Parishioners who refuse to wear a mask are not allowed to enter unless they are a child under 12 years old or a person affected by a medical condition or disability. *(We will have a supply of masks here for anyone that arrives unprepared for the current restrictions)*



The Body of Christ should continue to be administered only in the hand and the chalice should be received by the celebrant alone. Avoid direct physical contact where possible and limit contact to hands.

**Funerals and weddings may have a maximum of 100 attendees.**

No visitors are permitted to aged care facilities, disability accommodation services, correctional facilities, or hospitals (with the exception of an end of life visit for a patient) through 22 January.

In the parish office, masks only need to be worn in the office when a distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained.

**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. **Amazingly generous parishioners - we have now collected \$12002 from our annual appeal!**



**Vinnies**  
good works

**Lenten Program 2021 - 52 Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter.** Lent begins on 17th February, so start thinking about how you will journey through Lent and Easter Season in 2021.

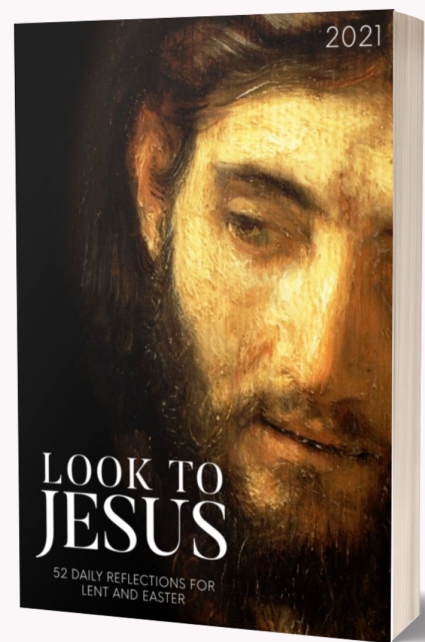
Look to Jesus will nourish and nurture parishioner's prayer, spirituality and discipleship each day during Lent and into the first week of Easter.

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



**Our Parish School Staff** will be joining us at 9am Mass on Friday 22nd January, where they will be receiving a blessing for the start of the school year. Please make the effort to support them! Come along (with your kids/Grandkids) and pray for them (it only takes 30minutes!) - Don't forget to register via Eventbrite!



*"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38*



What are you looking for? Are you wasting your time looking for the material comforts of the world? Or, is your heart longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God? Take time, each day, in silence and ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do.

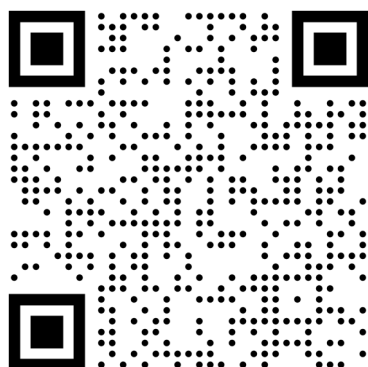


## SPEND TIME WITH GOD EVERY MORNING

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.



*"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility it assumes quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community"* *Evangelii Gaudium* n. 28

Consider nominating yourself for our Parish Pastoral Council or Finance Council for 2021. It can be a very rewarding experience. I'm speaking from my own time spent on my parish Pastoral council. Debra

A **Pastoral Council** consists of the Pastor together with a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community. The Pastoral Council's role is to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world. The Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

A group with a special role to play in Church life is the **Parish Finance Council**. Its purpose is to assist the Pastor in the administration of parish financial resources in order to carry out the mission of the parish. Members of the Parish Finance Council are appointed by the Pastor on the basis of their expertise in finance-related matters. The Parish Finance Council operates according to the guidelines set down by the diocese. It is a separate and distinct body from the Parish Pastoral Council as required by Canon 537.

### What's on this week at Stafford

<b>Mon 18th</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Tues 19th</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
<b>Wed 20th</b>		
<b>Thurs 21st</b>	10.00am	Funeral Mass for Maria Vieira
<b>Fri 22nd</b>	9.00am	Mass with Blessing of School Staff for 2021.
<b>Sat 23rd</b>	5.00pm	Mass
<b>Sun 24th</b>	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom—see page 4 for details.

### Tennis Courts for Hire with Lights

#### CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



### Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Office

Address: 70 Appleby Road, Stafford  
Parish email: [stafford@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Parish WEBSITE: [www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au)  
Parish Administrator: Fr Denis Scanlan  
Fr Denis' E-mail: [pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au)  
Parish Pastoral Council: [ppcstafford@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com)

### Queen of Apostles School Contacts

Address: 10 Thuruna Street, Stafford  
School email: [pstafford@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:andrew.knife@caritas.org.au) or call 33243134 to register your interest.

**This is the link to our mass bookings.**



**This is the instructions to join us for Live Mass via Zoom**

**Topic: Live Stream Mass via Zoom**

**Time:** This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81808532313>

**Meeting ID:** 818 0853 2313

**Passcode:** eucharist

**One tap mobile**

+61731853730,,81808532313#,,,,\*698241838# Australia

+61861193900,,81808532313#,,,,\*698241838# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 7 3185 3730 Australia

+61 8 6119 3900 Australia

**Meeting ID:** 818 0853 2313

**Passcode:** 698241838



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

Aludia Tolentino  
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:**

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

