

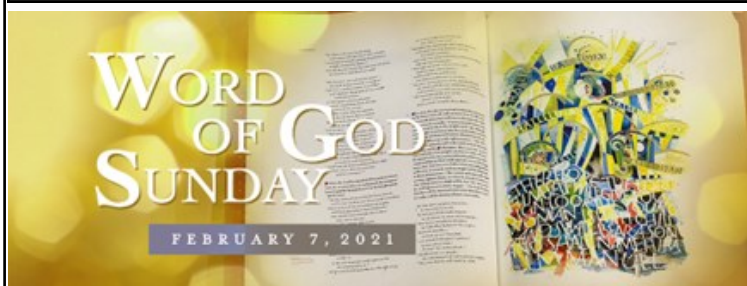


Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, Stafford

A Parish of the Brisbane North West Deanery

Vision: "To follow the example of Jesus by serving others."

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B 6th/7th Feb 2021



Word of God Sunday:

Reflection for Word of God Sunday by Fr Tom Elich, Editor, Liturgy News

For many decades, the Catholic Church in Australia has taken part in National Bible Sunday organised on the third Sunday in July by Bible Society Australia. It is good that this is an ecumenical event since all Christian Churches hold the Scriptures in common. It is always listed among the special commemorations in the official Ordo, but I suspect in recent times it has been largely ignored in many Catholic parishes.

Towards the end of 2019, Pope Francis instituted a Sunday of the Word of God. This was put down for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. He chose this date because it



is close to when the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated in the northern hemisphere. This timing is quite impractical for Australia. The dates get mixed up with the final weeks of the summer holidays, the return to school

and the celebration of Australia Day. This is why, many years ago, we moved the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to the time between Ascension and Pentecost, which is generally in May.

This raised the question of our date for the Sunday of the Word of God. It cannot easily be near to the Christian unity week because all the Sundays are taken up with Easter, Pentecost and the solemnities which follow. Should it coincide with National Bible Sunday in July? In any case, the Australian bishops have decided to keep it close to Pope Francis' day, so it will be the first Sunday in February. This means we can avail ourselves of any resources which the Holy See may produce.

The Importance of the Word of God

In fact, there were two documents about Scripture released by the Holy See on 30 September – one in 2019 and the other in 2020. They mark the 1600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, the great Scripture scholar who prepared the definitive translation of the Bible into Latin. The first document institutes the Sunday of the Word of God, intended to help people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. The second gives an account of St Jerome, his scholarship, his faith and his "living and tender love" of the Word of God. Jerome is proposed as a model for inculturating the Gospel and discovering Christ for our time.

Most are no doubt familiar with the saying of Vatican II: **"the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord's body ... offering people the bread of life from the one table of the Word of God and the body of Christ (Dei Verbum 21)."** In the same vein, the second document

quotes St Jerome: **"We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says:**

'whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood' (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the [eucharistic] Mystery, Christ's body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God's teaching."



Preparation for the Sacrament of Penance (for

Children): Parents of children who turn **TEN or older in 2021** are welcome to enrol their child for this preparation which will begin in March (see below). Please go to the link below to **complete the enrolment form on or before Tuesday 16th February**. If you cannot enrol via the

internet, please ring/email the Parish Office (pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au or 3356 7155) and other arrangements will be made. The Parish Team **will help Parents prepare their children** over three meetings. **For both at least one PARENT AND CHILD(REN):** Tuesday 2nd March 7pm, Tuesday 16th March 7pm; Tuesday 23rd March 7pm. Here's the link: <http://bit.ly/2L57Fi3>



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

2nd Reading: Corinthians 10:31-11:1

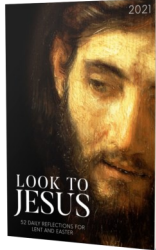
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45



Lenten Program 2021 We have two options for you to consider for your journey through Lent....

Look to Jesus -52 Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter prepared by the Brisbane Archdiocese Evangelisation Brisbane team.

Overturn the Tables - inspired by the words of the encyclical Laudato Si and prepared by Alice Carwardine.



Please **register your interest** for the Lenten program with me in the parish office via email or phone. You can do one or both programs. I will need to order books for the Look to Jesus program at the latest by 10am **Monday 15th Feb.** Debra

An excerpt from the Archbishop's Homily

We want to invite you to join in sharing the Good News of Jesus with everyone in the Archdiocese, especially perhaps those who have been baptized but no longer walk with us. We want to offer all Catholics the priceless gift that is their right as someone baptized into Jesus. We want to offer them the power to rise from their sick-bed like Peter's mother-in-law,



to be free of all the evil powers that can hold us down. We want people to know the healing touch of Jesus in a Church which, as Pope Francis says, is a field-hospital.

On this Word of God Sunday we're making a call to all Catholics to encounter the Word of God in a new and deeper way. The call isn't harsh or heavy; it's more an invitation than any kind of command. We want to propose, not impose. If you're baptized Catholic, but feel estranged from the Church, this call is for you. Perhaps you have friends in the same situation: well, you could also invite them. This call comes not from us but *through us* – *through us from Jesus himself. If it were just from me or from us, then forget it. But the call comes to you from Jesus. It's a call from him and to him. He calls you to himself – not for his own sake or for the Church's sake, but for your sake and the sake of the people whose lives you touch.*

So join me in inviting anyone and everyone you know to listen to the Lord's voice which can be hard to hear with all the inner noise of our mind and heart and all the outer noise of a world full of loud voices, many of them promising life but delivering death. My prayer is that, on this Word of God Sunday, the Holy Spirit will move in the life of every baptized Catholic, so that in the time ahead everyone will discover the deep meaning of their baptism and have their lives changed by the encounter with the Word of God himself, with Jesus crucified and risen.

Since the pandemic came upon us, I've been listening a fair bit to the music of Leonard Cohen who's long been a favourite of mine. His seems just the right voice for a time like this – sombre but truthful and in the end hopeful. In one of his songs, Cohen says, "There's a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in". There's also a crack in everyone, a crack in you and me. But that's how the light gets in – the light of Jesus which nothing and no-one can dispel. The call to you and to all whom you may know is a call from the light and to the light. Whatever the darkness may be, let the

light in...
then come,
walk with
us.
+ His Grace,
Archbishop
Mark Cole-
ridge



Call to all Catholics

Vinnie's SOS!!!!

"Does anyone have a two - two and a half seater sofa bed they are no longer needing. Vinnies are looking for one for one of their clients. Please call Liz on 33531780 if you can help."

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday is 17th February. There will be Mass here at 7am. The distribution of ashes will be a sprinkling of ashes on the head. This is in line with current restriction due to COVID-19. Stations of the Cross will be

ASH WEDNESDAY



held each Friday during Lent after morning mass at 9.30am and again on Friday afternoon at 5.30pm.

Registration for attendance will be made available online using the mass booking link. We would prefer pre registration so we can prepare sufficient booklets for attendees.

The Catholic Leader has returned as a monthly newspaper after a 10-month hiatus. Limited copies are available at this parish for \$4 each. This month's issue includes:

- Message from the Editor about our new monthly issues
- Changes with the distribution of Ashes explained
- Regular monthly column by Archbishop Mark Coleridge
- Brisbane men take up life of asceticism with Exodus 90
- Journalist Jo Hayes hosting Catholic news program

Subscribe today to receive The Catholic Leader at your door. Visit catholicleader.com.au/subscribe to get started.



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An Outreach of the Catholic Church

Funerals with Faith

Consider nominating yourself for our Parish Pastoral Council or Finance Council for 2021.

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.

The purpose of the **Parish Finance Council** 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. It is a separate and distinct body from the Parish Pastoral Council as required by Canon 537.

"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'"
- Mark 1:35, 38



In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

What's on this week at Stafford

Mon 8th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 9th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Wed 10th		
Thurs 11th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 12th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 13th	5.00pm	Mass
Sun 14th	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
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

Live Stream Mass via Zoom

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

<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



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

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, Sick & Shut-in Sonia Officer and Pam & Norm Ward



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

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:

Barry Thompson

Michael Daley

Maria Vieira

Irene Johnson

Bruce Oxenham,

Jo T'Erheegde

Jose Elmer Torib

Colin Kenny



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