



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."

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B 13th/14th Feb 2021

Demons and Demon Possession in Jesus' Time:

From "Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels" by Bruce J. Malina, Richard L. Rohrbaugh. - Copyright 1992 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Pp 182-83

(This is a great article about how Demons and Demon Possession were understood by Jesus' contemporaries. This could be helpful especially as we are reading Mark's Gospel this year.)

In the worldview of the first-century Mediterranean area, causality was primarily personal. **It took a person, human or nonhuman, to effect significant change.** This was true not only at the level of ordinary society but at the levels of nature and the cosmos as well. Things beyond human control, such as weather, earthquakes, disease, and fertility, were believed to be controlled by nonhuman persons who operated in a cosmic social hierarchy. **Each level in the hierarchy could control the ones below:**

- ♦ "Our" God, the Most High God
- ♦ "Other" Gods or sons of God or archangels
- ♦ Lower nonhuman persons: angels, spirits, demons
- ♦ Humankind
- ♦ Creatures lower than humankind

Demons (Greek usage) or unclean spirits (Semitic usage) were thus personified forces that had the power to control human behaviour. Accusations of demon possession were based on the belief that forces beyond human control were causing the effects humans observed. Since evil always attacks good, people expected to be assaulted. A person accused of demon possession was a person whose behaviour (external symptom) was deviant or who was embedded in a matrix of deviant social relationships. A deviant situation or behaviour required explanation and could be attributed to God (positive) or to evil (dangerous). Such attribution was something the community would be concerned to clarify in order to identify and expel persons who represented a threat. Freeing a person from demons, therefore, implied not only exorcising the demon but restoring that person to a meaningful place in the community as well.

Accusations that a person had an unclean spirit or was demon-possessed are prevalent in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). This negative force was called "unclean spirit" in Israel, "demon" by Greeks. When Jesus summons an unclean spirit(s) out of a possessed man in pagan territory (Mark 5:2ff.), the man is called a "demoniac" (Mark 5:15-16). Similarly, Mark

notes that the Syrophenician's daughter was possessed by "an unclean spirit" (Mk 7:25), yet she calls the being "the demon," as does Jesus following her usage (Mk 7:29-30). In his commissioning of the Twelve, Jesus gives them "authority over the unclean spirits" (Mk 6:7) just as he has (Mk 1:27). And in Mk 9:25 Jesus casts out an unclean spirit from a deaf and mute man who is then able to hear and speak. In the very first episode in the day in the life of Jesus presented in Mark 1:01-45, an unclean spirit confesses Jesus to be "the Holy One of God" (Mk 1:24; see Luke 4:34). Mark further notes that whenever unclean spirits saw Jesus they would throw down the persons they possessed and cry out "You are the Son of God" (Mk 3:11; see Luke 4:41). The reason for this is that the demons sought to protect themselves against a being of higher standing by magically using that being's true identity (see also Mark 5:6-7; Matt. 8:29; Luke 8:28).

In antiquity, all persons who acted contrary to the expectations of their inherited social status or role (as did Jesus) were suspect and had to be evaluated.

Accusations of being possessed by an unclean spirit levelled at Jesus (Mark 3:30) were essentially the judgment that because he could not do what he did on his own power, an outside agency had to be involved. It could be God, as Jesus claimed, or the forces of unclean spirits claimed by his opponents. Note that in John's Gospel, even though Jesus does not cast out demons or unclean spirits from anyone, he is charged with demon possession and returns the charge (John 8:44-52).

Though it is now common to call the casting out of unclean spirits or demons "exorcism," this is not a word the New Testament uses of Jesus. Jesus' power over demons is essentially a function of his place in the hierarchy of powers, that is, his "authority" (and is used as evidence of that by the Gospel writers). He is an agent of God, imbued with God's holy/clean spirit, who overcomes the power of evil.

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

Update on Lenten programs

The Brisbane Archdiocese Lenten program has sold out of their booklets, so we are unable to promote this program in its entirety. We have looked to other programs that are available to us. The Broken Bay Diocese have a program for Lent, which we are able to participate. The theme for this program is Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega. A Lenten Program for the Diocese of Broken Bay to prayerfully reflect on the Sunday Gos-

First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

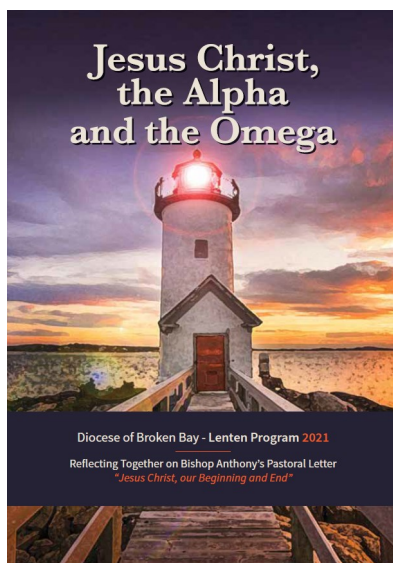
1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

2nd Reading: St Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15



pel readings in Lent together with the six priorities set before us by Bishop Anthony Randazzo in his Pastoral Letter to the community of the Church of Broken Bay dated 29 November 2020. The resource features reflections by Fr David Ranson, Tomasz Juszczak, Kelly Paget, Deacon Samuel French, Sr Josefa Mabini and Pina Bernard. The resource also features personal testimonies from local parishioners.



Our second option for Lent is **Overturn the Tables** - inspired by the words of the encyclical Laudato Si and prepared by Alice Carwardine. Alice will be speaking at mass this weekend about this Lenten program.

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. Debra

Lenten Program

Overturn The Tables 2021
By Alice Carwardine

Program includes

- Guide to help you make a Lenten Promise
- Information on actions and small changes
- Contemplation Ignatian spirituality activities
- Weekly reflection activities
- Resources

The Catholic Leader has returned as a monthly newspaper after a 10-month hiatus. Limited copies are available at this parish for \$4 each. Subscribe today to receive The Catholic Leader at your door. Visit catholicleader.com.au/subscribe to get started.



Call to all Catholics

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>



SMS Text Scam Activity You may have received scam text messages (phishing) on your mobile phone asking for donations of gift cards.

This phishing scam is targeting church-goers and we are seeing a number of Parishes in the Archdiocese targeted currently. Parishioners are receiving SMS texts (and sometimes emails) claiming to be from their Parish Priest (sometimes using their correct name) - asking for contributions or donations through gift cards.

Scammers love gift cards - it's one of their favourite ways to get your money. These cards are like giving cash - and nearly untraceable. Please ignore and delete such SMS text messages - Fr Denis or any other priest would never request gifts/contributions in such a way.

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. Please book online as per your usual mass booking routine. For anyone new to our parish, there is a mass booking link on page four of this



newsletter if reading this online. There is also a mass booking link on our home page of our website.

Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent after morning mass at 9.30am and again on Friday afternoon at 5.30pm. Please also book online for Stations of the Cross following the

instructions above. We would prefer pre registration so we can prepare sufficient booklets for attendees.

World Day of Prayer is at St Clement's Anglican Church, Eudunda Street, Stafford this year on **5 March** with morning tea at 9.45am and Service starting at 10.30am. COVID requires names, telephone numbers, email addresses 1 week prior to this event. Please ring Toni 0431 705 or Cynthia 0404 923 930 or Debra in our church office for registration or transport. A poster in our church noticeboard has details too. Vanuatu is the nation with the theme "Build on a Strong Foundation".

Lenten program groups are usually formed to assist those doing the program to make a commitment to continuing on the Lenten journey. It can also enrich the journey as the sharing and reflecting within a group can broaden your vision and appreciation for the scripture and testimony in the program.



I have had some interest in forming a group this year, preferably a morning group. However, there is flexibility and perhaps there is enough interest to form two groups. Bear in mind that the group would all need to be following the same program.

I will take names and times of anyone interested in joining or forming a group for either program and hopefully connect you all to each other early next week. A zoom group is also an option to consider, so starting thinking about how you would be best to prepare for Easter and journey through Lent. Debra



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"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."
- 1 Corinthians 10:31



Stewardship
a way of life

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

The Queen Of Apostles Men's Group meets on the third Friday of the month. It is open to any senior gents in the parish - married, widowed, single, clergy, retired or working. They will meet on **Friday 18th February** at Café 63, Stafford City 10.30am. All Welcome - Catholic or not. **Phone Gary McLean (ph 3863 4149) for more information.**



Congratulations to the Mosely/Scott families. Alana Mosely (cantor Louise Scott's daughter) and her husband Ben recently welcomed baby Elowen into their family. Elowen will be baptised at 11am after Sunday mass at Corpus Christi, Nundah, on the 21st February. We welcome all parishioners to help invite Elowen into the church. To help with COVID attendance records, please RSVP at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YMT8HLC>. If you wish to join in attending the 9.30am Sunday mass prior to the baptism, please book your attendance via <https://www.banyonundahcatholic.org.au/mass-times/> (bookings open Monday 15th).



What's on this week at Stafford

Mon 15th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 16th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
Wed 17th	7.00am 10.00am	Mass with distribution of ashes English Language Classes
Thurs 18th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 19th	9.00am 9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Stations of The Cross Stations of The Cross
Sat 20th	5.00pm	Mass
Sun 21st	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

Pina Padayhag, 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 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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