



# 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."*

**First Sunday in Lent – Year B 20th/21st 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 Overturn the Tables**

Inspired by the words of the encyclical *Laudato Si* and prepared by Alice Carwardine. For those registered for this program, please collect your book this weekend from the rear of the church. Cost of the book is \$4.



## Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

2nd Reading: St Paul 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10



To help parishioners with hearing difficulties the "Listen Everywhere" Wi-Fi audio streaming service has been installed in our church. Parishioners will access the assistive listening audio via a smart phone connected to their hearing aid or headsets.



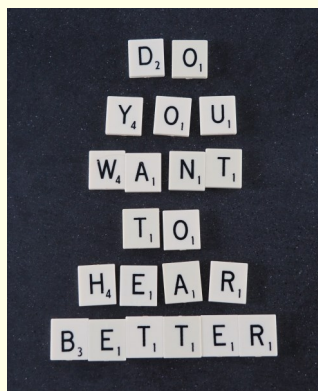
James Flaherty is preparing to launch the service and would appreciate some volunteers to help our parishioners connect to the assistive listening audio. If you know how to download an app to a phone via the

iOS or android app store and are prepared to help our hearing-impaired parishioners, please email James or Michael at the below addresses.

Contact James Flaherty at [jwbf@bigpond.com](mailto:jwbf@bigpond.com) or Michael Good at [ctgood@bigpond.com](mailto:ctgood@bigpond.com).

If at all possible, to give those interested plenty of time to learn how to help their fellow parishioners, it'd be very helpful if you could come to the church around 4.30pm OR 8.30am (depending on your Mass time) and James will step you through the set up process.

Those who are hard of hearing, or just want to hear better, should bring their smart phone and some headphones to either mass, and the team will set them up. We can have people 'on hand' over the next few weeks to help people set up or just remind them of how to connect. again There are small number of phones small number of phones that link to the system available at the church if people don't have a smart phone.



**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 contribu-

tions 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.

**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. Bookings need to be received by 26th February due to COVID-19 requirements. Their email address is [office@stclements.org.au](mailto:office@stclements.org.au) and include your name, address, and phone number. 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.

**The Care for Creation Group** registered for **Clean Up Australia Day, 2021**. Join us at 4.00pm, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March. We will meet at Keong Park, Quandeine St, clean the park, then 'emu bob' progressing along Appleby and Shand Streets to Roy Harvey Park



where we will clean up, and conclude. The event will run for a maximum of 90 minutes. Gloves and bags will be provided. Be sun safe, COVID safe and remember to hydrate.

Registration: We will have a QR code for you to digitally input your contact details. For those who do not have digital access, there will be paper registration as well. All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**The Care for Creation Group invite you to journey The Way of the Cross each Friday during Lent.** The pilgrimage which you might better recognise as The Stations of the Cross, will offer a chance to reflect on Christ's pain and sacrifice for mankind, and parallels to the suffering of Mother Earth. As we consider our journey to the glory of Resurrection, we are challenged to take personal action towards healing a suffering Earth. Join us at 9.30 am or 5.30pm each Friday, commencing 19<sup>th</sup> February.



**Lenten program groups**—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 next week. A zoom group is also an option to consider, so how you would be best to prepare

for Easter and journey through Lent? Debra



# Call to all Catholics

# LENT

MAKING A NEW BEGINNING WITH JESUS

ideas for kids

One idea to help make prayer a part of Lent for kids is to make a prayer chain. Just cut up some purple paper strips and each day write down the name of someone you want to pray for. Attach each new strip to the chain and watch it get longer and longer every day. **Pick up some purple paper as you leave mass.**



## PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE

Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. She was forced to flee the armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and her eight-month-old baby.

With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support, and learnt sewing skills to help her earn an income.

Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family. "Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia," Jamila says.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.



 **Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...." - Mark 1:14



**Stewardship**  
*a way of life*

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfil His plan for us.

### 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 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).

**STAMPS FOR MARIST MISSIONS:** Our stamp man is back on the job again and he'd like to thank those who have been saving stamps this year. We have gotten some good ones recently, including unpostmarked and lightly postmarked recent Australian, and should hopefully soon have enough to list on eBay. All stamps are welcome, so if you can help please leave them in the specially marked box to the left of the main Church entry. Thank you and God Bless !

### What's on this week at Stafford

<b>Mon 22nd</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Tues 23rd</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
<b>Wed 24th</b>	10.00am	English Language Classes
<b>Thurs 25th</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Fri 26th</b>	9.00am 9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Stations of The Cross Stations of The Cross
<b>Sat 27th</b>	5.00pm	Mass
<b>Sun 28th</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

### 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

Nicole Dyer, Pina Padayhag, 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

Sick & Shut-in



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

Mathews, Ketter & Rowbotham families,  
Angelo Di Mauro,  
Domenico & Francesca Antonaglia 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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