



# 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."**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent – Year B 13th/14th March 2021**

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2021:



A big **"Thank you"** to our **retiring** Councillors from the team of 2020:

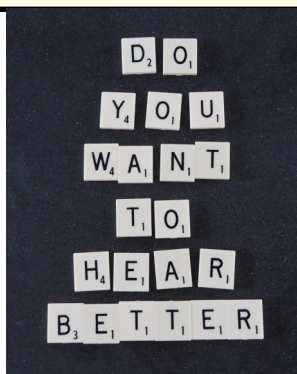
**Saju Mathew, Anne Thomas, Grace Cortes, Barbara Winkle and Christine Lindsay.**

A big **"welcome"** to our new Councillors. Our

current Parish Pastoral Council is: **Carol Barrett, Ben Campbell, Esther Decklam, Wesley Decklam, Nicholas Forster, Viviana Nicholls, Sonya Mangano, Helen Royan, Zara Savellon, Jules Tisdal and YawHan YawHan.**

They will be commissioned at Mass this weekend. Please share with them any thoughts you have about how the Parish will journey into the future after the turmoil of COVID.

**L**ISTEN EVERYWHERE is the programme we use in the church to help those who have difficulty hearing. If you have hearing aids, we first need to know if they use Bluetooth and/or T-Coil systems. Please read your manuals or contact your provider to find out and then we can 'plug you in.'



**A Kid's Idea:** One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in place the ones that have died, so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth, He does not make gown-ups, just babies. I think this is because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he does not have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to parents. I think it works out pretty good.

**THE END OF SILENCE** – (from **"The Big Issue**, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021) **by Grace Tame**

*Grace Tame refuses to be silenced. A survivor of sexual abuse, she was unable to speak out about her experience due to Tasmania's gag laws. She used her voice to push for legal change, to raise awareness and to advocate for survivors. Now she's Australian of the Year. Her voice is being heard, loud and clear.*

The literal definition of "silence" is the complete absence of sound. In the context of child sexual abuse, however, it is something far more complex and sinister.

It is the complete absence of truth. The deliberate sup-

pression of information. A weapon of mass psychological destruction; disempowerment, disengagement, distraction, division that fuels society's collective confusion.

On average it takes a survivor of child sexual abuse 23.9 years to speak about their experience. Such success of perpetrators at instilling fear and in the minds of their targets. Such is the reality of shame-induced silence.

Silence is the very reason why child sexual abuse still remains ubiquitous in our society.

He made me watch *The Graduate*. The film's soundtrack was almost always playing in my head. Thus it was 'The Sound of Silence' — haunting, unending — that both literally and figuratively underscored my experience of prolonged abuse at the hands of a paedophile.

I was 15. He was 58. The physical abuse went on for months. I have permanent, albeit invisible, scars on the inside of my body.

So too will the untraceable psychological last a lifetime.

Why didn't you just say 'no?' at the time. It is born of the false promise to an abuser with reason, they'll respect your boundaries, respect your reason, respect your meaning. Including "no".

Where we often go wrong in the discussion of child sexual abuse is in attempting to examine it through a rational lens. We assume that the traditional values of human decency are upheld and that the unwritten laws of social interaction apply. They don't.

I remember lying on my back once in a hotel room. He had just raped me. "You're in that," he said. He was right. The pain had become too much to hide. My usual methods of disassociation had failed me.

I didn't say anything, not that it would have helped. And in fact, he responded to himself: "No matter, we're going to do it again."

What you say and do in the face of abuse makes no difference. You learn to tolerate the pain once you realise it is inevitable, and that resistance only leads to more suffering. As a result, you resign yourself to helplessness. You resign to silence.

"Why didn't you tell anybody?"

Silence is both a form and function of the grooming that underpins prolonged sexual abuse. Grooming refers to the calculated implementation of six concurrent phases of psychological rewiring. These are: targeting you, gaining your trust, meeting your perceived needs, isolating you from your genuine supports, gradually



### Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33



introducing sex to normalise abuse, and maintaining control over you. The entire operation hinges on the last one.

Maintaining control involves striking a perfect balance between causing pain and providing relief from it. These two opposing conditions keep you bound by cognitive dissonance. You become programmed to feel guilt at the thought of even questioning your abuser, let alone dobbing them in.

The pain they cause drives the belief that there is no hope or escape. Through overt displays of physical dominance and intimidation, combined with veiled but very real threats, the abuser instils crippling terror. This results in a total loss of self-esteem. This is the truth you live inwardly.

The relief the abuser provides drives a false confidence in you that tricks your conscious mind into believing you still have some control. This explains your appearance of security; why you hear yourself assuring your friends and family that nothing is wrong even though deep down you know it is. This is the lie you live outwardly.

All of this plays out behind closed doors, in carefully orchestrated silence.

What's more, predators benefit not only from the silence of their targets, but also from the silence of the wider community. They rely on collective discomfort to continue to operate uninterrupted. They fill the void with lies, taking whatever measures necessary to perpetuate the culture of victim-blaming, to re-traumatise us and discourage us from speaking out.

Impervious to guilt and embarrassment, they smugly charm and manipulate our families, friends, colleagues and even strangers. And thus, they groom all of us, not just their individual targets.

My abuser is a prime example: from openly bragging on Facebook about having the opportunity to abuse a 15-year-old, to participating in a 17-minute online interview in which he claimed to be the real victim.

He has even attempted to defend his possession of 28 multimedia files of child pornography by claiming they arrived mysteriously on his computer after downloading an illegal font.

The power predators stand to gain from our silence



does not end there.

When we do share survivor stories, but omit certain details with the intention of protecting ourselves from that which is "too disturbing", we are again ultimately empowering perpetrators instead. They are the only ones who benefit from softened, censored accounts. By minimising their behaviour we shield them from the shame which is so often then misdirected towards survivors.

Sadly, our current culture, and the systemic practices by which they are both driven and reinforced, continues to bolster the confidence of abusers. Legislation and policies such as victim gag-laws - which place no such restraints on perpetrators — send a dangerous message.

A message of tolerance of sexual abuse.

As Tanya Hosch, Indigenous leader, AFL executive and South Australian of the Year, told me: "We cannot solve a problem we don't talk about." Evil unspoken is evil endorsed.

Unsanitised history is our greatest learning resource. Unless people are confronted with the uncomfortable realities, they will not be moved to act.

But survivors have so much more to offer than their abuse stories. We have unique insights imbued with profound catalytic educative potential. Lived experience inspires and informs change.

It is important to understand that listening to survivors is one thing, but repeatedly expecting them to recount and relive their trauma without their consent is another. The latter is exploitation and commodification of pain - an unfortunate tendency of mass media.

To truly end the silence, we survivors must grant both ourselves and those around us permission to be vulnerable and to speak on our own terms, in our own time. We must continue empowering and encouraging each other to take a stand, and share the platform to normalise the conversation.

Open communication breeds understanding. Understanding is the foundation of education and progress. Don't be afraid to make mistakes in the process. Often, individuals are deterred from action because we believe we are unwelcome or unqualified. This is simply not true.

Fight the fear predators are desperate to hold over us. Lean into love. Listen, with a view to learn and grow.

We are all human. This issue is far too important to be politicised. We are all welcome at the table. When we heal as a community we heal as one.

I'm representing a community who've been silenced and stigmatised for such a long time.

Having been named Australian of the Year for my advocacy as a child sexual abuse survivor is a pivotal symbol of progress. We've been included among our nation's most inspirational, accomplished and respected change-makers, proving that every voice does matter. And our chorus is growing louder. We're all in this together.

*If you or someone you know needs support, you can contact the National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service on 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732), Lifeline 131114 or Beyond Blue 1300 224 636.*

### Easter Triduum Mass Times

Reconciliation 2nd Rite Tuesday 30th March 6.30pm

Holy Thursday 1st April 7pm Service

Good Friday 2nd April 10am Stations of the Cross

Good Friday 2nd April 3pm Service

Easter Vigil 7pm Easter Sunday 9am







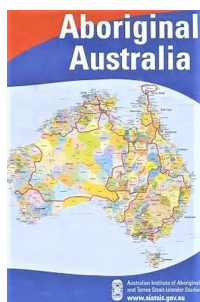
**Our LENTEN preparation for EAST-ER: Celebrating the Forgiveness of our Sins:**

**Why not celebrate our common Sinfulness and that God never ceases to forgive and show us mer-**

**cy?** On **TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm**, we will celebrate the Second Rite of Penance. **How to do that??** All those who wish to celebrate are asked to consider their sins, (spend some time reflecting on “***why*** do I do these things”) and **write them and your answer down on a piece of paper** BEFORE coming to church that night (DO NOT include your name!!). The basic structure of the Second Rite is: Introduction, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Penance and concluding rite. During the Liturgy of Penance, you will process forward, hand your **OPEN sheet** of paper to Father, receive Absolution and return to your place.

### Social Justice Group News

Following the recent release of the Brisbane Archdiocese Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the Queen of Apostles Social Justice Group has started work on drafting a RAP for our Parish. The RAP will provide opportunities to renew and deepen relations between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and those of other heritages, with the aim that this will lead communities on a new path of trust and respect, (**See the NOTICEBOARD outside for a large map of the various language, social or nation groups of Indigenous Australia**).



**Arsad (Indonesia)** is educating his village about sanitation and hygiene and helping them save for a toilet in every house. Your **donation to Caritas** is helping him. And his community to ‘Be More.’ 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.

**The Care for Creation Group** invite you to journey **The Way of the Cross** each Friday during **Lent**. Join us at 9.30 am or 5.30pm each Friday, commencing 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> March** at Café 63, **Stafford City** 10.30am. All Welcome - Catholic or not. **Phone Alan Keating (ph 0412 670 679) for more information.**



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” - JOHN 3:16



**Stewardship**  
*a way of life*

**O**f all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

**Easter Roster—Help needed! Where will you be this Easter?** We will be needing all the usual roles filled for the Easter Triduum. Please email Debra in the office with your availability. Please state which roles you are available to fill and which days ie Reader Good Friday. We will also need ushers, marshals and AV streaming experts!



**Weekend rosters have been finalised for the next period from 21st Mar to 2nd May. There are some copies of the roster in Mary's room. Rosters were also emailed out this week.**

**P**roject compassion Envelopes - If you have been using these envelopes since Adam was a boy—you may be using them incorrectly! If you are new to using these envelopes—take note! There is a receipt attached to the envelope. **Tear this receipt off.** Place inside the envelope or discard if you aren't wanting a tax invoice. **Do not leave it attached to the envelope.** It makes my job of counting the monies extremely hard as the receipt is torn when opening the envelope. Your receipt may be missed altogether as its stuck to the front of the envelope. Please help make this job a little easier. Thanks Debra

### What's on this week at Stafford

<b>Mon 15th</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Tues 16th</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer with Communion
<b>Wed 17th</b>		English Language Classes are having a break
<b>Thurs 18th</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Fri 19th</b>	9.00am 9.30am 10.30am 5.30pm	Mass Stations of The Cross Men's group Stations of The Cross
<b>Sat 20th</b>	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
<b>Sun 21st</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

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

*Eddie Nicholson, Barbara Cavanagh,  
John Blumke, 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.*

### We pray for those recently deceased including:

*Noel Davis, Shirley Coe,  
Barry Thompson,  
Michael Daley, Maria Vieira,  
Irene Johnson, Bruce Oxenham,  
Jo T'Erheegde,  
Jose Elmer Torib and Colin  
Kenny*

### 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

Fay Barrett, Gordon Jardine, Isaac and Brendan Camille, Bob Devine, 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

### 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

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Meeting ID: 818 0853 2313

Passcode: 698241838



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### The Catholic Leader March 2021 newspaper is now available for \$4.

This month's issue explores the theme of evangelisation, and includes:

- Editorial: How journalists evangelise
- Evangelisation in the Archdiocese of Brisbane
- Archbishop Mark Coleridge's monthly column
- Family and friends honour young woman who died at 19
- Meet Matt Hayden's evangelisation coach
- Senior Living Advertising Feature