



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."

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B 24th/25th July, 2021

Reflection on the readings

Today, when account of the feeding of five thousand would have been next in our serial reading of Mark's Gospel, the Lectionary turns instead to John's version. This was done so that the Bread of Life discourse (John 6:22-69) would have a place in the Sunday cycle; it is read over the next four Sundays (as well as in six pericopes on the weekdays of the third week of Easter). Today it is accompanied by the Old Testament antecedent of the feeding from twenty barley loaves at the command of Elisha the prophet. John alone links the feeding to Elisha's story by specifying the use of barley loaves, but all four gospels share with it the references to having some left over after the multitude has eaten. These details in John's Gospel appear to belong to a subplot in which John the Baptist is likened to, but greater than, the prophet Elijah, and Jesus is in some ways likened to, but far greater than, Elijah's successor, Elisha.



When the accounts are all compared, the most notable difference is that Elisha

simply commands the food be given to the people: there is no giving thanks (or blessing) or breaking. On this point, something about John's narrative needs to be clarified: too often people say it lacks reference to breaking the loaves, and then creative explanations for this are invented. The simple fact is that John's text alone uses a Greek verb that better translates as *apportion*, covering *both* breaking *and* giving, a verb that corresponds to one not uncommonly used in Aramaic. Keeping that matter in mind, we should also note that there is no evidence in Hebrew Scripture for a ritual of taking, blessing over and breaking before distributing. In fact there is no reference to praying over food at all, and only one command for blessing (or giving thanks) after eating: Deuteronomy 8:10. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (11:23-24) and the feedings in the four Gospels and the Last Supper accounts in three are among the earliest witnesses to such a ritual, a fact that has led some to believe that it was invented by Jesus. However, similar descriptions are found among the Dead Sea Scrolls from the century before Christ, and in later but still ancient Jewish literature, the Talmud. These three groups of sources together point to a general Jewish meal ritual as having developed much later than the formulation of the core Hebrew Scriptures.

Delving further into our feeding accounts, other interesting features emerge, too many to cover fully here. Among them we should note that the references to sitting are not direct translations: the Greek refers to *reclining*. People in the Holy Land by the time of Christ had adopted elements of the Graeco-Roman formal meals, including the posture of reclining. This terminology that belongs to formal meals, such as the Passover (for which the original posture was standing), is strangely out of place in the outdoor setting of our feeding stories. Other features in the broader contexts of each of our feeding accounts also point to the influence of images from the shepherd psalm, Psalm 23(22). A key one is the grass (which Mark even emphasises was green) upon which they recline. Put together, the many curiosities indicate that these accounts are not simple historical reports; they are multilayered, stylised literary devices. A connection to the Last Supper is found in the literary links of bread, ritual, and the posture of reclining, but a connection to the Eucharist is also made obvious in John's Bread of Life discourse following the feeding. In earliest Christian art, too, the images more commonly used to indicate the Eucharist are not depictions of the Last Supper, but emblems of the loaves and fishes, or of baskets of the leftover bread fragments. Even the institution narrative of our Eucharistic Prayer I borrows the reference to Jesus looking upward before blessing from the Synoptic Gospels' accounts of this feeding.

This overlapping of the feedings and the Eucharist sometimes unsettles people who think it confuses ordinary meals with the sacred one. Perhaps a clue can be taken from the second reading (Eph 4:1-6), where we are urged to preserve the Body's unity in the Spirit by bonds of peace. The meal of the Eucharist is not for anyone; it is for members only. In its celebration the members of the Body remember and express who and what they are—even exchanging the sign of peace with other members of the Body before receiving it in sacramental form. The refreshed and strengthened Body, the Church, may then in each of its members engage in its work in the world, which is directed to everybody.

Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B Image: Unsplash.com

The Peter's Pence Collection

We will be supporting Peter's Pence this weekend as a leaving collection. It gives Catholics in Australia an opportunity to join in communion with the Catholic faithful throughout the world in support of the charitable works of the Holy See. The Peter's Pence Collection is an annual collection of the Catholic Church around the world. The collection allows the Holy Father to respond to the most needy throughout the world, to offer timely, effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

1st Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Gospel: John 6:24-35

[Daily Mass Readings](#)



"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" JOHN 6:9



Stewardship
a way of life

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. Nothing is impossible with God. All of our gifts, big or small, were given to us for a reason. No gift is too small or insignificant!

WE NEED YOUR HELP - AND ACTION

We need you to help us ensure the euthanasia Bill is defeated. We need your action - **NOW**.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Pray all Queenslanders might respect Church teaching that life is sacred from conception until natural death and that our MPs support a fully funded palliative care system, negating the need for assisted suicide.
2. Arrange a meeting with YOUR local Member of Parliament

To find who they are

CLICK HERE
OR TYPE IN

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/members/current/list>

3. Please also email your views to YOUR local Member of Parliament

CLICK HERE
OR TYPE IN

https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2105_ocp_qld

Please stand with the Queensland Bishops and medical experts in opposing this legislation.

Dying with dignity already exists - it lies in being able to access high quality palliative care statewide.

Give the Gift of Faith. Your generosity towards Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish can go on forever when you include our parish endowment fund in your Will. With endowment funds, the principal is kept intact and the distributions to the parish come from growth and earnings. This provides a steady stream of income to parish ministries forever. For more information on naming Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Endowment Fund in your Will, please call the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 or the parish office.



Lever Arch Folders free to anyone that can use them. I have been archiving this week and have several folders that are surplus to our needs. They will be available on the weekend, take what you can use. I'll leave them in Mary's Room. Debra

I don't usually share much about my day with you...

This week I had a call from a Social Worker at a local hospital. She was calling on behalf of a patient in her Palliative Care Ward. He is in his mid thirties, he is Catholic and he is in love! He wants to marry his partner, she is also Catholic. Palliative Care doesn't always give you a time frame to work within and I love a challenge! I made several phone calls and was on a huge learning curve regarding the possibilities for this couple in love. Finding a priest on a Wednesday was the first challenge. I advised the Social Worker of some of the hurdles of this request but she was a champion to the cause. She made phone calls and started the legal process. The sacrament of marriage is their preference. We now have a priest who is committed to the cause. It is still a work in progress as we go to print. Social Worker, Priest and a few Parish secretaries are all keen to fulfil their wish to be married. Please keep this couple in your prayers as they prepare for marriage. Debra



Sunnybank Catholics donate iPads to help everyone check in for Mass

SUNNYBANK parish priest Fr Enoch Iheme was "amazed by the generosity" of local Catholics who donated four iPads in the days before the QLD Check-In app became mandatory at churches across the state.

The donated iPads came from John Thomas, who is assistant principal religious education at St Thomas More College, and local Catholic Michael San.

Fr Iheme said the iPads made life a lot easier for the COVID marshals at the parish and meant the parish could save on a lot of paper. He said it had saved the parish money too. Many parishioners do not have smartphones either and he said using the iPads meant they could check-in by the app too.

Fr Iheme said parishioners had adjusted well to using the app and he said it had been a "good development".



Excerpt from The Catholic Leader July Edition



Care for Creation

Did you know about the Tarkine Rainforest Tasmania?

Nestled in the North-West corner of Tasmania, Australia's island state is the greatest expanse of temperate rainforest, and the second largest in the world, the Tarkine is an intriguing experience.

Unlike many places in the world the Tarkine remains as a hidden treasure and a forgotten wilderness. This expanse of uninterrupted 477,000 hectares of Tarkine wilderness holds ancient relics both plants and animals dating back millennia. Not only is it home to the largest temperate rainforest in Australia and second in the world, but is alive with unique creatures and habitats not found anywhere else. This pristine wilderness is under threat from an international mining company that currently has plans for expansion through the rainforest. The Australian government faces the difficulty of finding balance between short term employment and the responsibility of protecting unique environment.



Our government is guided by the voice of the people. Our responsibility is to have an informed opinion and to exercise that civic voice.

Here are some links to help you gather information.

<https://discoverthetarkine.com.au/the-tarkine/>

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jun/06/where-mining-meets-rainforest-the-battle-for-tasmanias-tarkine>

https://www.bobbrown.org.au/help_save_the_tarkine

Tennis Courts for Hire with lights

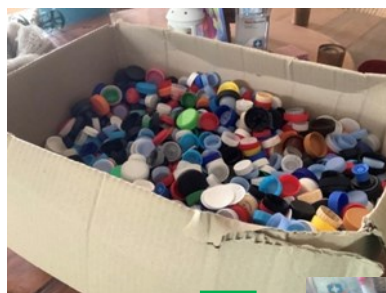
CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday



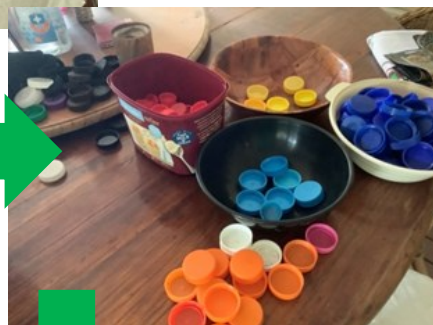
Milk Bottle Top Recycling Update:

Thank you for the great response to milk bottle top collection, we have made significant start in our effort to reduce plastic from landfill. We are collecting the **LDPE #2** or **HDPE #4** caps for the Ocean Crusaders oceancrusaders.org/recycling/ repurposing program.



The caps are manufactured into blocks that can be used like giant Lego blocks to build garden walls, sheds, benches etc. **It is important that the caps are caps, foam insert removed and colour sorted.**

To help you with this we have placed colour coded milk containers on a trolley at the back of the church. Your support in sorting the caps at the collection point means we can more efficiently pass them onto Ocean Crusaders.



We inherited a box of caps and were so glad to save them from Land Fill.....it took quite some time to transform the chaos to meet the requirements!



What's on this week at Stafford

Mon 26th		Mass
Tues 27th	8.30am	Morning Prayer with communion
Wed 28th		
Thurs 29th		Mass
Fri 30th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 31st	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Sun 1st	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom

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 Local Safeguarding Representative:

Helen Royan Phone 0407 372 540

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: Ben Campbell
APA: Leanne Murray
APRE: Kym Waters
Phone (Thuruna St:) 3352 9200
Phone (Chuter St:) 3326 0400

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.



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.

Let Us Pray

We pray for those who are unwell:

Jim Henry, Brian Wellman, Luca de Pascalis de Moraes, Ari Vargas, Rose Ann Takas, Nicki Goodman, , Caitlyn Lengkeek, Elizabeth Martin, Crad Smith, Sr Dorothy, Glenda Honan, Fay Barrett, Norm Ward, Isaac and Brendan Camille, Bob Devine and Nicole Dyer.

We pray for those recently deceased: Kathy Brady, Rene Ulcoq, Weny Bargayo Joan French (Mother of Alison Golden), Jean Tisdall, Sr Elizabeth Pointing RSM, Esme Whitby, (John's mum), Veronica Burns, Marguerite Moloney, Raymond Labid, Bon Bargayo, Pam Ward, Peter Rogers, Sr Margaret Mines RSC, Joan Goldby, John Dove, Maria Calini, and

those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Joyce Davis, Elsie Ketter, Lynette Matthews, and all deceased parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed be-



The caring staff at Holy Cross Funerals assist families at the death of their loved ones, to ensure that the Funeral Services are conducted with dignity and compassion.

For however you choose to say goodbye.

*Burials *Cremations *Repatriations

*Pre-Arrangements *Funeral Bonds

Find us on

www.holycrossfunerals.com

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Email: info@holycrossfunerals.com

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Funerals with Faith

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

Passcode: 698241838



The Catholic Leader JULY issue is available now for \$4. Featured in this month's issue:

- ♦ Church continues fight for a fair minimum wage.
- ♦ More than 10 months after Beirut blast: 'We are bleeding, help is needed'.
- ♦ Centacare welcomes Xavier and InFocus.
- ♦ Youngcare welcomes 40-year-old Luke home from aged care.
- ♦ More churches burnt down in western Canada.

