



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."

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B 30th/31st October, 2021

**Please welcome Fr Joe McKay
as he celebrates Mass with our community
this weekend.**

The Catholic Origins of Halloween

Halloween's origins are, in fact, very Christian. Halloween falls on October 31 because of a Pope, and its observances are the result of medieval Catholic piety.

We've all heard the allegations: Halloween is a pagan rite dating back to some pre-Christian festival among the Celtic Druids that escaped church suppression. Even today modern pagans and witches continue to celebrate this ancient festival. If you let your kids go trick-or-treating, they will be worshipping the devil and pagan gods.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The origins of Halloween are, in fact, very Christian and rather American. Halloween falls on October 31 because of a pope, and its observances are the result of medieval Catholic piety.

It's true that the ancient Celts of Ireland and Britain celebrated a minor festival on October 31—as they did on the last day of most other months of the year. However, Halloween falls on the last day of October because the [Solemnity of All Saints](#), or "All Hallows," falls on November 1. The feast in honor of all the saints in heaven used to be celebrated on May 13, but Pope Gregory III (d. 741) moved it to November 1, the dedication day of All Saints Chapel in St. Peter's at Rome. Later, in the 840s, Pope Gregory IV commanded that All Saints be observed everywhere. And so the holy day spread to Ireland.

The day before was the feast's evening vigil, "All Hallows Even," or "Hallowe'en." In those days Halloween didn't have any special significance for Christians or for long-dead Celtic pagans.

In 998, St. Odilo, the abbot of the powerful monastery of Cluny in southern France, added a celebration on November 2. This was a day of prayer for the souls of all the faithful departed. This feast, called [All Souls Day](#), spread from France to the rest of Europe.

So now the Church had feasts for all those in heaven and all those in purgatory. What about those in the other place? It seems Irish Catholic peasants wondered about the unfortunate souls in hell. After all, if the souls in hell are left out when we celebrate those in heaven and purgatory, they might be unhappy enough to cause trouble. So it became customary to bang pots and pans on All Hallows Even to let the damned know they were not forgotten. Thus, in Ireland at least, all the dead came to be remembered—even if the clergy were not terribly sympathetic to Halloween and never allowed All Damned Day into the church calendar.

But that still isn't our celebration of Halloween. Our traditions on this holiday center on dressing up in fanciful costumes, which isn't Irish at all. Rather, this custom arose in France during the 14th and 15th centuries. Late medieval Europe was hit by repeated out-

breaks of the bubonic plague—the Black Death—and it lost about half its population. It is not surprising that Catholics became more concerned about the afterlife.

More Masses were said on [All Souls Day](#), and artistic representations were devised to remind everyone of their own mortality. We know these representations as the "danse macabre", or "dance of death," which was commonly painted on the walls of cemeteries and shows the devil leading a daisy chain of people—popes, kings, ladies, knights, monks, peasants, lepers, etc.—into the tomb. Sometimes the dance was presented on All Souls Day itself as a living tableau with people dressed up in the garb of various states of life.

But the French dressed up on All Souls, not Halloween; and the Irish, who had Halloween, did not dress up. How the two became mingled probably happened first in the British colonies of North America during the 1700s, when Irish and French Catholics began to intermarry. The Irish focus on Hell gave the French masquerades an even more macabre twist.



But as every young ghoul knows, dressing up isn't the point; the point is getting as many goodies as possible. Where on earth did "trick or treat" come in? "Treat or treat" is perhaps the oddest and most American addition to Halloween and is the unwilling contribution of English Catholics.

During the penal period of the 1500s to the 1700s in England, Catholics had no legal rights. They could not hold office and were subject to fines, jail and heavy taxes. It was a

capital offense to say Mass, and hundreds of priests were martyred.

I wonder if they make a Guy Fawkes Halloween mask...

Occasionally, English Catholics resisted, sometimes foolishly. One of the most foolish acts of resistance was a plot to blow up the Protestant King James I and his Parliament with gunpowder. This was supposed to trigger a Catholic uprising against the oppressors. The ill-conceived Gunpowder Plot was foiled on November 5, 1605, when the man guarding the gunpowder, a reckless convert named Guy Fawkes, was captured and arrested. He was hanged; the plot fizzled.

November 5, Guy Fawkes Day, became a great celebration in England, and so it remains. During the penal periods, bands of revelers would put on masks and visit local Catholics in the dead of night, demanding beer and cakes for their celebration: trick or treat!

Guy Fawkes Day arrived in the American colonies with the first English settlers. But by the time of the American Revolution, old King James and Guy Fawkes had pretty much been forgotten. Trick or treat, though, was too much fun to give up, so eventually it moved to October 31, the day of the Irish-French masquerade. And in America, trick or treat wasn't limited to Catholics.

The mixture of various immigrant traditions we know as Halloween had become a fixture in the United States by the early 1800s. To this day, it remains unknown in Europe, even in the countries from which some of the customs originated.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

2nd Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34



Daily Mass Readings

But what about witches? Well, they are one of the last additions. The greeting card industry added them in the late 1800s. Halloween was already "ghoulish," so why not give witches a place on greeting cards? The Halloween card failed (although it has seen a recent resurgence in popularity), but the witches stayed.

So too, in the late 1800s, ill-informed folklorists introduced the jack-o'-lantern. They thought that Halloween was Druidic and pagan in origin. Lamps made from turnips (not pumpkins) had been part of ancient Celtic harvest festivals, so they were translated to the American Halloween celebration.

The next time someone claims that Halloween is a cruel trick to lure your children into devil worship, I suggest you tell them the real origin of All Hallows Eve and invite them to discover its Christian significance, along with the two greater and more important Catholic festivals that follow it.

Father Augustine Thompson, O.P., is an associate professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia. BA, MA, The Johns Hopkins University; BA (Philosophy), MDiv, Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology; PhD, University of California, Berkeley; STM, Order of Preachers, 2007.

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And for the kids click the links for some activities to celebrate the Feast of All Saints



Please find your Paper chain

Litany of Saints [here](#)

Please find your Saint in the making bunting [here](#)



GO ON AN INTENTIONAL ADVENT THIS YEAR



Looking for a way to engage with the Advent season? Get in early and order your \$5 copy of *New Life in Christ*, a new 28-day reflection resource. Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day will include a

scripture reading and a reflection. Place your order with Debra by phone or email.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC VIEW ON VACCINATION?

You can learn more about Pope Francis's recent encouragement to all to get vaccinated with approved

Covid-19 vaccines in the link below. Pope Francis referred to it as 'an act of love.' <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-francis-appeal-covid-19-vaccines-act-of-love.html>

The Archdiocese of Brisbane supports COVID-19 vaccination except for those people with a valid medical exemption from their health professional.

For our vulnerable parishioners, rest assured that Fr Denis, Debra and Mark are all fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

Do you like a cuppa after Mass?

To make this happen on a regular basis we need more volunteers to complete the COVID SAFE

TRAINING COURSE produced by TAFE QLD. This is a free course and is done online. The course will take around 30 minutes to complete. A certificate is issued at the completion of the course. Send the certificate to me, for our records and you will be able to assist in the preparation and service of morning tea and supper. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me and I will endeavour to assist you. The link to the course is here. Debra

<https://covidwork.tafesqld.edu.au/course/126/covid-safe-work-training-for-dining-in>

Break Open the Word for 2022 is available for pre-order now.

The cost is \$24 and I will be placing the order **next week** to allow time for delivery and labelling of each book. To place your order simply contact me by phone or email to add your name to the order form. Payment can be made using this link. Thank you, Debra



[Break Open the Word Payment](#)

Parish archive will begin again next Tuesday.

Every one is most welcome to join in the working bee of sorting our parish archives of photos and other relics.



I'd like to hear from any and all who are keen to join in the fun—which day is best for you? Tuesday or Wednesday?? Please give me a call or email. Debra

How Do I Live My Christianity From Day To Day?

Are you looking for an opportunity to deepen your ongoing spirituality? Were you baptised at birth? Have you been through the RCIA programme? Have you always been a churchgoer or have you at some stage in your life turned away from your faith? Whatever your age or background, the Cursillo Movement offers such an opportunity.

"The Cursillo Movement...." you may ask! For those of you who have never heard of Cursillo, it is a worldwide lay movement supported by the Church. Begun in Spain, Cursillo de Christianidad, means "a short course in Christianity" which offers a way to develop in our love, knowledge and experience of faith.

To learn more about Cursillo, keep reading future newsletters.



The Music ministry held a team building and planning meeting last weekend. They welcomed a new member to the fold—Josie. Josie will share her wonderful gift as a cantor/vocalist with our community in Mass. There was a great sense of friendship and the room was brimming with talent! Maree and Michael put on a lovely morning tea. Discussions were centred around Christmas Masses and introducing some new hymns and reintroducing some oldies too. I spoke to the group about the importance of Copyright. I think we all left feeling like we had achieved something and had deepened our appreciation of each person's talents.

Change in COVID Mask Requirements for Choir/Cantors

In line with current government restrictions, the Archdiocese will ease some of the current mask requirements for choirs and cantors. Please note that effective immediately, the cantor(s) and choir members may remove their masks to sing as long as they can maintain at least 1.5 metres physical distance.

Reminder regarding Mask Requirements

Generally masks must be worn indoors if you are standing and moving around **and** you cannot maintain 1.5 metres physical distance from people who are not in your household.

Advice regarding Mass and other liturgies;

- masks should be worn while entering and leaving the Place of Worship
- masks should be worn while processing to receive Communion
- readers may remove their mask at the microphone
- masks are not required while seated or kneeling while at your pew

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should wear a mask while distributing communion (as they would be standing and less than 1.5m apart)

Information Day for potential Cathedral Guides and Welcomers

The guides and welcomers' group at The Cathedral of St. Stephen warmly invite you to attend an Information Day on becoming a tour guide and/or a welcomer at the Cathedral.

When: Saturday 27th November 2021 from 10 am to 2pm. Refreshments provided

Where: Hanly room, Francis Rush Centre, Cathedral of St. Stephen, Elizabeth St.

The Information day is open to anyone, eg: retired people who may be missing the sense of community and camaraderie which working life brings, teachers perhaps who may be retiring at the end of the year, or anyone with some spare time on their hands who desires becoming part of a friendly and supportive team of Cathedral guides and welcomers.

We look forward to welcoming you. Please register your interest with Carmel Devery at the Cathedral Office on 07 3324 3006 or by emailing deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au

Is God's will in your Will?

Including the church in your Will teaches others about giving back to God for the blessings He has given you. With your wishes expressed in a Will, the ministries of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish can be blessed. Your gift can also impact our parish in perpetuity by supporting our parish endowment fund. Contact the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 for more information or call the parish office.



"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." (Mark 12:33)



Of all the gifts that God gives us, the one He wants the most is our heart. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it's more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

What's in the diary this week at Stafford?

Mon 1st		
Tues 2nd	8.30am 10.00am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion Parish Archive Gathering
Wed 3rd	10.00am	Funeral mass for Glenn Stevens
Thurs 4th		
Fri 5th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 6th	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Sun 7th	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:

Carolyn Bohl, Noel Cavanagh, Margaret Blumke, Timothy Wilson, Graham Evans, Fr Paul Glynn, Bruce Willson, Veronica Nicholson, Don Al-lerta, Maurice & Alison Drake, Bob Devine, Jose Pitts, Brian Wellman, Luca de Pascalis de Moraes, Rose Ann Takas, Nicki Goodman, Caitlyn Lengkeek, Fay Barrett, Norm Ward,

We pray for those recently deceased: Glenn Stevens, David Connors, Marcelle Zarrouk, Mary 'Monica' Harland, Peter Glasby, Francisco Aliviano, May Smith, Patrick Sommerville, Peter O'Donnell, Jim Henry, Tom Lynch,

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Colette Horn, Hariett Katter and all deceased parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dis-possessed because of their faith.



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

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

- ♦ Queensland legalises euthanasia in dire change for the state
- ♦ Brisbane Oratory celebrates its first priestly ordination
- ♦ Former Queensland Rugby Union CEO says guardian angel brought him to Braille House
- ♦ Granddaughter of war medic returns vestments to Church
- ♦ Stanthorpe parish priest Fr Lino Valente remembered
- ♦ Holland Park remembers 60 years of St Joachim Church
- ♦ Aussie Christians open up on Jesus in new book by Greg Sheridan
- ♦ Helen and helpers lead little ones to God's way

