



# 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."*

**Second Sunday in Advent – Year C 4th/5th December, 2021**

## Congratulations to OLIVER VALENTINE

who, at 5pm Mass this weekend becomes fully initiated into the Church through celebrating his first Communion! We the church thank Leigh and Richard, his parents, and Emily and Joseph, his older siblings for their example and commitment to Oliver's faith.

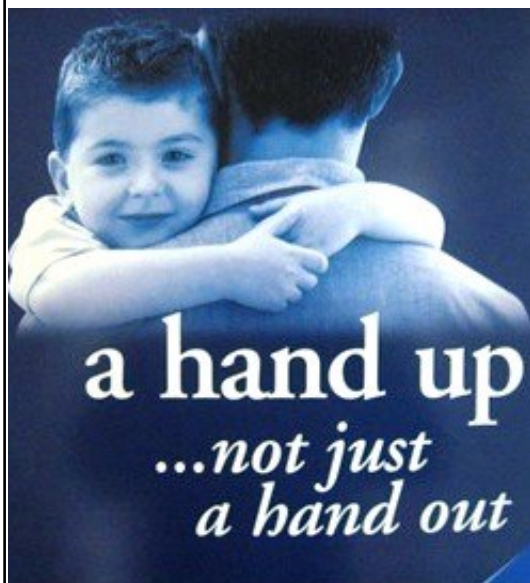


## Stafford St Vinnie's REPORT for this year: Some of the things mentioned at Mass last weekend:

- This year, we have been able to assist : **383 families in need**, including
- a total of 672 children.

With the help of your generous donations ... we have been able to **provide \$44,000 in financial aid**, in the form of Food Vouchers, Fuel cards and clothing vouchers.

We have **also assisted with** furniture, utility bills, rent and supplied essential white goods.



We were able to **help families prepare for the school year.**

Because of COVID, we have not been permitted to visit families in their homes, so we have had extensive telephone conversations with many of our families and arranged to

leave the needed vouchers in their letter boxes.

**During this Christmas season, we are conducting our Annual Appeal.** Please take an **Appeal envelope from the back of the Church** ...and you will be able to donate to our Appeal by returning the envelope at any Mass until Christmas. There is information on the envelope about different ways you can donate.

Some COVID rules have changed and therefore this year, you may make **donations for our Annual Food Appeal** (left under the Christmas tree **from this weekend until December 12th.**) These will be used to pack Christmas hampers for the families who are struggling. Small gift tags are available at the doors of the Church over the next few weeks to give you some idea of the items required.

## Blue Card changes for various ministries!

There were many ministries that fell into the category of needing a Blue Card. This was reviewed several months ago and it was welcome news to many in parish offices and for Local Safeguarding Representatives.

Only those ministries that work closely with children eg children's Liturgy of the Word, children's Sacramental Program and altar servers trainers now require a Blue Card.

Anyone that visits residents in aged care facilities will need a police check every three years. As these fall due, you will be contacted to renew the police check.

**Lost and Found** a Translink gocard was found in the church recently. If you have misplaced your card, we may have it here in the parish office.

**The Men's Group** are celebrating the end of year with lunch. They will be gathering on 17th December 12.00pm for Lunch at the Stafford Tavern as they have Guinness on tap which saves a trip to town! Please RSVP by 13th December via telephone 38634149 or 0408711496 or email [garysstationery@outlook.com](mailto:garysstationery@outlook.com).



**Anna's Group** is open to all widows in our community. They meet on the second Friday of the month for lunch at The Coffee Club at Flockton Village, Everton Park. This group was formed to support each other during a time of challenge in one's life. Those that have been widowed for some time share their ups and downs with those that might be adjusting to their new circumstances. Support, friendship and fellowship with a caffeine fix and a meal you haven't cooked is a great way to welcome the weekend.

Phone Dianne for further information 0407616637.

*"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10)*



During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

### Third Sunday Of Advent (Year C)

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



### Daily Mass Readings

### Advent/Christmas items for sale

A new prayer reflection resource



**Advent prayer reflection books** are available now. Take a book and leave \$5 in the container.

**Columban Calendars** are here

too. We have limited stock so get in quick! Cost \$13



**Acrath Calendars**

**ACRATH 2022 CALENDAR**

are free to take— a donation would be appreciated. Limited supply of **Christian Christmas Cards** available \$3 (I'm hoping to get more in, demand outweighs supply— which is encouraging in many

ways!) Eftpos also available.

**Simbang Gabi 2021**, a Filipino tradition of 9day pre-Christmas celebration in joyful waiting and preparation for Jesus' birth in our hearts, will



be on **15 to 23 December 2021** at **Our Lady, Queen of Apostles church, 70 Appleby Rd. Stafford**

(6:45pm-Rosary; 7:00pm-Carols; 7:30pm-Holy Mass). We use the 'Check in Qld' app to attend. Further info: Jima 0432374239; Zara 0487435315

### Christmas Mass Times 2021

**Reconciliation Thursday 9th Dec 7pm**

**Christmas Eve 5pm and 8pm**

**Christmas Day 8am (no evening Mass)**

**Boxing Day (Sunday 26th) 9am**

**Bookings via Eventbrite - link on our website**



### St Veronica Welfare Committee's 2021 Christmas Gift Cards

Looking for a unique and truly special Christmas gift for your family and friends? This year, St Veronica Welfare Committee is offering three affordable and life-changing Christmas Gift Cards!

Located in West End, Brisbane, St Veronica Welfare Committee and Thrift Shop is a unique charity run entirely by unpaid volunteers, meaning the total amount of Christmas Gift Card funds is forwarded to the intended beneficiaries. Administrative expenses such as bank transfer costs, postage etc. are covered by our Thrift Shop sales and any additional profit is used to support special projects for education, health, water, women's self-help and employment groups in India, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and, since 2018, Ethiopia!

**\$10 Chickens:** this gift will be used to help purchase chickens for poor families in Sire, Nekemte, Ethiopia. Surplus eggs from each family's chickens will also be donated to the Bethany Fathers' feeding program, which provides meals for poor and malnourished children in the community.



**\$20 Blankets:** this gift will be used to purchase blankets and linen for victims of domestic violence in Siri Nidhan, Sri Lanka. In 2019, St Veronica's Welfare Committee helped raise funds to construct a temporary safe house (pictured above) in the Puttlam District, with the aim of providing a place of refuge for those escaping domestic violence. Construction is almost complete, with the remaining fit outs and furnishing work being carried out in late 2021. The blankets and linen will provide a warm and comforting welcome for the vulnerable women and children arriving at the safe house.



**\$30 Computers:** this gift will assist with the purchase of classroom computers and projectors for St Mary's Convent School in Mariapuram, India. The school is working to meet a government requirement that insists every classroom include a computer and projector. While government schools are provided with these items, independent schools such as St Mary's Convent School must find their own means of purchasing technical equipment, despite limited funds.



Gift cards can be purchased online at [www.stveronica.org.au](http://www.stveronica.org.au); email [admin@stveronica.org.au](mailto:admin@stveronica.org.au); phone (07) 3844 7423; or at our Thrift Shop located at 89 Hardgrave Rd, West End. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and receipts are issued.



## Our ADVENT preparation for CHRISTMAS Celebrating the Forgiveness of our Sins:

**Why not celebrate our common Sinfulness and that God never ceases to forgive and show us mercy? On Thursday**



**9th December, 7.00pm**, 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.

*"... the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.....But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. –*



*Apostle Paul to the Romans 5:5, 8*

**Jesus was never upset with sinners; he was only upset with people who did not think they were sinners!** (An article by Fr Richard Rohr)

**We must bear patiently not being good . . . and not being thought good. -- St. Francis of Assisi**

**Whoever is willing to serenely bear the trial of being displeasing to herself, that person is a pleasant place of shelter for Jesus. St. Thérèse of Lisieux**

**Christmas Eve 8pm** will be followed by supper, as we have done in the past—pre COVID. We are now allowed to bring and share home baked goodies, so consider making an extra batch of your best Christmas treats for Christmas Eve Supper.

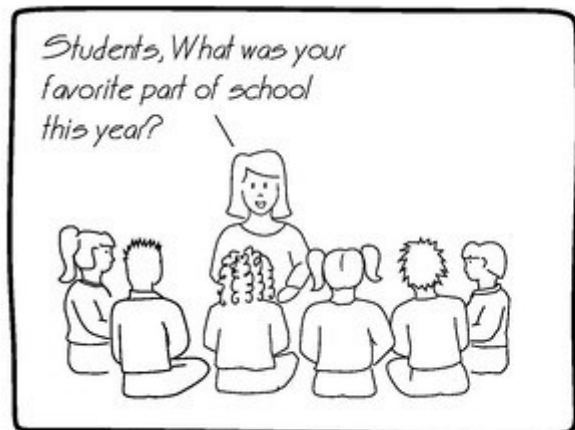
We would like to see a few more of you offering to do the COVID SAFE Food handling course, so this doesn't fall to the same faces for each time we want to gather together for fun and frivolity and food and maybe wine!

- ♦ The link for the course is below.
- ♦ The course is free
- ♦ The course takes around 20-30 minutes

Please consider doing this next time you hear the rain and can't do the washing or mowing! Donate 20 minutes to doing the course. We'd love to see more people sharing the hospitality ministry. We have rooms in our church named after Mary and Martha. We need more Mary and Martha's, I'm also looking for Mario's, Martin's and I'm looking for YOU! <https://covidSAFEwork.tafegld.edu.au/course/126/covid-safe-work-training-for-dining-in>



**Happy Holidays** to all our school students and staff at our parish school and to all in education and learning. Enjoy your break!



## What's in the diary this week at Stafford?

<b>Mon 6th</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Tues 7th</b>	8.30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
<b>Wed 8th</b>	1.00pm	Vinnies hamper preparation
<b>Thurs 9th</b>	8.30am	Mass
<b>Fri 10th</b>	9.00am 12.00pm	Mass Anna's Group
<b>Sat 11th</b>	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
<b>Sun 5th</b>	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](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 Local Safeguarding Representative:

**Helen Royan Phone 0407 372 540**

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: 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:*



Jo Haines, Sr Patricia Coyle, Nola Costello, Wayne Roggero, Carolyn Bohl, Noel Cavanagh, Margaret Blumke, Timothy Willson, Graham Evans, Fr Paul Glynn, Bruce Willson, Veronica Nicholson, Don Allerta, 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:* Joan Low, Glen Stevens, David Connors, Marcelle Zarrouk, Mary 'Monica' Harland, Peter Glasby, Francisco Ali-viano, May Smith, Patrick Sommerville, Peter O'Donnell, Jim Henry, Tom Lynch,

*And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:* Georgina Wilson and all deceased parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.

### Live Stream Mass via Zoom

Time: This is a recurring meeting  
Meet anytime

<https://zoom.us/j/93315882077?pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2tWUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 933 1588 2077

**Passcode:** eucharist7

One tap mobile

+61370182005,,93315882077#,,,,

\*5210026787# Australia

Dial by your location

+61 3 7018 2005 Australia

+61 8 7150 1149 Australia

Meeting ID: 933 1588 2077

Passcode: 5210026787

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/j/abFRoDf0fS>



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

- Men of God join ministry – new deacons ready to serve God
- Archbishops Coleridge speaks of Advent's first call to us
- A time to pray – Pope Francis' prayer intention for December
- Thinking shifts on safeguarding of the vulnerable
- Brisbane women from religious communities want people working together within the Church
- God sustains Dinh and Phien Nguyen through 70 years of marriage
- How parents pass their religion on to the next generation

