



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 Advent – Year C 18th/19th December, 2021

Congratulations to RAHEL OLIVER who, at 5.00pm Mass this weekend will be fully initiated into the Church through celebrating her first Communion! We the church thank her parents, Patrick and Michelle for their example and commitment to Evelyn's faith. Thanks also to big brother, Daniel for his example.



When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

(by Howard Thurman)

When the Song of the Angels is Stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)



Stewardship
a way of life

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Christmas Mass Times 2021
BOOKINGS CLOSE 9am Mon 20th

Christmas Eve 5pm and 8pm

Christmas Day 8am (no evening Mass)

Boxing Day (Sunday 26th) 9am

Bookings via Eventbrite -
the link can be found on our website

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?
for we have seen his star in the east,
and are come to worship him."



Carers, we're here for you

If you provide support for a loved one (*it doesn't matter how old you are or your relationship*) **there is help for you.**

For more information about how to access Carer Gateway services in your local area, call 1800 422 737 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm). "Wellways" Australia is your first point of contact for all Australian Government funded Carer Gateway services. Visit the, online: carergateway.gov.au ; facebook.com/carergateway ; [youtube.com](https://youtube.com/carergateway): Carer Gateway — There are brochures and other information at the back of the church today and in the pamphlet rack in future.



Our Parish laments the loss of so many of our community.

We have 'lost' 48% of our "mass-goers" since the start of COVID. However it's just not about numbers even though those people are important to us. What are the **FOUR PILLARS FOR A HEALTHY PARISH?**

- 1) **WORD**—Listening to God's Word and living it
- 2) **WORSHIP** — Celebrating the Sacraments (especially Eucharist) together.
- 3) **COMMUNITY** — Being with other people in our Parish Community—(Jesus: "May they be one....")
- 4) **WITNESS/SERVICE** — Meeting Christ together in hungry, thirsty, victims of violence and injustice etc

ALL these take place at our **celebration of Mass** and this celebration is at **the heart of being 'missional'**, being servants. As our parish vision states: "To follow the example of Jesus by serving others."

Jesus says to us: "you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

(Year C)

1st Reading: Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

2nd Reading: St John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Daily Mass Readings



Advent/Christmas items for sale

Columban Calendars are here.

We are expecting to receive more calendars this week. They make a lovely gift. Cost \$13. Eftpos also available.



Care for Creation

The new Contemplation Garden is almost complete.

December rain has ensured that the recent plantings are thriving. We are delighted to see the repurposed plants looking refreshed, many thanks to our groundsman Mark for his great work. This week our refurbished statue of Our Lady,

Queen of Apostles was safely installed. We thank the tireless efforts of Mr Minos, who painstakingly pieced together a shattered statue. Please come and visit the Contemplation Garden which is to the rear of the Parish Office. Rest a while and be at one with our Creator.



Christmas Challenge

Have you ever considered your 'Christmas Season Carbon footprint'? Take some time to calculate the extra electricity and fuel you consume during the festive season. Think about the carbon expended in the production of your gifts. Is it possible to reduce your Christmas Carbon Footprint? Consider repurposing and up-cycling as a part of your gift preparation. Purchase a 'life giving gift' through charities such as ChildFund Australia www.childfund.org.au or Leprosy Mission Australia www.shop.leprosymission.org.au

Or perhaps you would like to offset your Christmas Carbon Footprint by planting trees in Australia?

www.greenfleet.com.au or
www.goneutral.com.au



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; email 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.

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.tafeqld.edu.au/course/126/covid-safe-work-training-for-dining-in>



Thank you to those that have taken the time to do the course in recent weeks. It is much appreciated.

Give a gift with global impact

A Global Gift is a unique gift - **it can change lives!**

Choose from beautiful artworks created by children from Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Philippines, who have poured their hearts into bringing the spirit of Christmas to you.



Your donation will bring joy and hope around the world to those experiencing poverty and injustice including children whose artworks are featured.

Maria is a young mother living in a small village in northern Tanzania; a region affected by long-term food and water insecurity.

For years, Maria struggled to earn an income and provide enough food to feed her family. Unable to read, write or count, her opportunities to make a living were limited. Her small farm often produced poor harvests due to water scar-

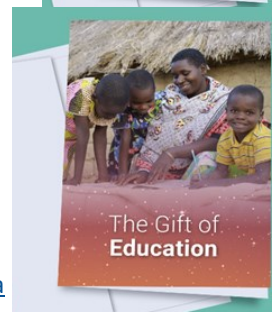
city, and Maria was forced to travel long distances to collect water.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Maria was able to join the A+ program and participate in training about sustainable farming, literacy and numeracy, gender awareness, hygiene and sanitation.



With her newfound knowledge and skills, Maria is now able to produce enough food to feed her family, earn a sustainable income, and has even become a leader in her community.

When you support a mother like Maria, it has the power to not only uplift her family, but her entire community. This Christmas, give the gift that keeps on giving for generations to come.



[Christmas Appeal](#) | [Caritas Australia](#)

What's on this week at Stafford?

Mon 20th	8.30am 7.00pm	Mass Simbang Gabi
Tues 21st	8.30am 7.00pm	Liturgy of the Word with Communion Simbang Gabi
Wed 22nd	7.00pm	Simbang Gabi
Thurs 23rd	8.30am 7.00pm	Mass Simbang Gabi
Fri 24th	5.00pm 8.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Mass with livestream Christmas Eve Late Mass with livestream No morning mass
Sat 25th	8.00am	Christmas Mass with Livestream Zoom No evening mass
Sun 26th	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Mon 27th	N/A	No Mass
Thurs 30th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 31st	6.00pm	Vigil Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God / NYE



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:

Winsome Rusterholz, Mark Robertson, 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, Alison Drake, Bob Devine, Jose Pitts, Luca de Pascalis de Moraes, Rose Ann Takas, Nicki Goodman, Caitlyn Lengkeek, Fay Barrett, Norm Ward,



We pray for those recently deceased: Brian Wellman, Maurice Drake, John David Robinson, Joan Low, Glen Stevens, David Connors, Marcelle Zarrouk, Mary 'Monica' Harland,

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bruce Oxenham, 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/u/abFRoDf0fS>



The Christmas issue of The Catholic Leader is available now for \$4.

Information about our featured articles in this special Christmas issue can be found on page three of this newsletter.

Happy Christmas from all of the team at The Catholic Leader.

