



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."

Nativity of the Lord/ Holy Family – Year C 25th/26th December, 2021

Jesus is with us

Once a group of young people were discussing the meaning of Christmas. In the group was an older woman whom they tended to ignore. However, when finally she got a chance to speak, they were deeply moved by what she had to say. She spoke from the heart. She told them that she was dreading the approach of Christmas—she was an only child. Her parents were deceased. She has no aunts and uncles. No close relatives. She was the last of her family. She had friends with whom she exchanged cards and gifts at Christmas. But none of them ever thought of inviting her to their home on Christmas Day.

How did she spend Christmas Day? On her own, though she is by no means a recluse. After an early Mass she goes out to help in some voluntary work. Then she comes back, cooks dinner, and eats it on her own. She switches on the TV, but TV is no substitute for having someone with you. She cries frequently. Toward evening, she goes for a walk. But on Christmas evening it's lonely out of the doors too. The streets and parks are deserted. She goes to the local church but the doors are firmly locked. The loneliness closes in again.



But then came the best part of the story. She told how in the midst of her loneliness and tears she feels very close to Jesus. She feels close to His sufferings. She realises that in a very real sense He was an outsider at the first Christmas—there was no room for Him. She feels an inner happiness that is impossible to describe. Why? Because Jesus gives meaning to her loneliness. He came to share our lives, to help us carry our burdens, and to walk the road of life with us. That is the meaning of Christmas. For this woman many of the trimmings of Christmas were missing. But she had the essence. Jesus was with her.

Jesus is present with us too. Not as a vague memory of a person who lived long ago, but as a real life-giving presence that transforms us. He doesn't spare us all strife, all the uncertainty, all the suffering and all the doubt. He doesn't offer us a religion without the cross. Jesus comes to show us where the journey of life is leading, and accompanies us on that road. He gives us hope, meaning, love, support. He is among us and shares life with us. (Written by Sr Josita)

We wish all our parishioners and any visitors to our parish, a very Merry Christmas, filled with blessings. Fr Denis, Deb and Mark

Vinnies Christmas Appeal Update

Our local Vinnies Conference of Stafford has been able to assist with our generous help. Cash donations to date total \$7155. Which helped to provide the following...

72 Hampers
40 Families
107 Children
40 Gift cards



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.



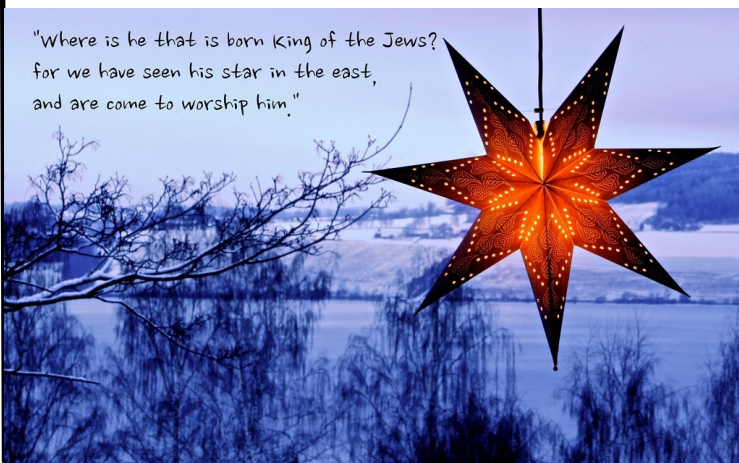
We thank the tireless efforts of Mr Minos, who painstakingly pieced together a shattered statue. Please come and visit the Contemplation Garden which is to the rear of the Parish Office. Rest a while and be at one with our Creator.

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

"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."



The Epiphany of the Lord (Year C)

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Daily Mass Readings



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

The full story of Christmas

From the Regional Director of Oceania

The liturgical life of the Church tells the story of what God is doing in the world. This may seem like a strange thing to say. Most of us grew up thinking that Mass was something we attended on Sunday because we had to. It seems to me that it takes a long time for us to see the connection between what we do on Sunday and what we do for the rest of the week.

Take Christmas, for example. What does the liturgical celebration of Christmas tell us about the world? It tells us the truth. It tells us that God so loved the world that he sent his only beloved Son. It tells us that God and the world and everything and everybody in it are united in love.

If we go to Mass on Christmas and praise and thank God for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, we have done a good thing. It celebrates a great truth about our lives and history as human beings. By Boxing Day, maybe, we forget this most basic truth of our lives. This is why we repeat liturgical actions, and the repetition helps us remember and more deeply live into this deep story of our lives.

Even if we do remember what happened in Bethlehem, we have not necessarily absorbed the full story of Christmas. This is that God not only came and embraced us once over two thousand years ago, but the same loving God is still embracing us. The liturgy tells the story of what God is doing all the time. It is an eternal truth.

I have had a minor light bulb moment recently. Sometimes we have major light bulb moments, but this is only a minor

As Columbans, we, like all Christians, see sharing the Gospel of Jesus as the best thing we can do with our lives. We believe that the Spirit has invited us to go overseas and share the Gospel of Jesus with people there. What happens to us in this process is that we learn that the Gospel of Jesus can be lived in multiple ways. We also come to see that there are many more challenges to living the Gospel than we ever imagined.

Kevin, from his living in Taiwan and China, came to see the importance of culture. That we cannot understand each other, that we have different foods and different customs, are all challenges if we wish to live in communion with the people of other cultures. The commandments, love God and love your neighbour, may sound great but cultural differences are obstacles to living this way. On the other hand, if we take time and make an effort, we can grow to like the food and speak something of the language.

Living interculturally is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Again, the liturgy tells us this truth. In The Preface for Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation 2, this is stated clearly. "By your Spirit, you move human hearts ... and peoples seek to meet together". The liturgy tells the story of God's action in the world. God is working in our hearts and minds to bring us together. What else would a God of love do? When we try to overcome the barriers of culture, when we strive to understand someone else from another culture, when we feel empathy and compassion for those from other countries, we are not doing this alone. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. The Spirit is working in the other person and in us so that we can come together in friendship and mutual understanding. The Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son, and the Spirit has the same effect on us. We are brought together, and this is the source of our hope for our divided world.

The coming of Jesus into the world is the source of all the communion that our hearts long for. May each of us receive the joy and the peace that are his gifts to us not only now but always.

Fr Trevor Trotter
Regional Director of Oceania
rdoceania@columban.org.au



COVID-19 UPDATE - Please wear a mask

Please Visit responsibly, with the opening of State borders, COVID-19 has become more prevalent in south East Queensland. We need to be extra vigilant to protect the health and safety of our community.

In light of this, even though Places of Worship have not been specifically named, I strongly advise that parishes reinstate the wearing of masks when possible. A proactive approach to wearing masks will keep our churches safer for visitors. Please let your parishioners aware that it is strongly advised they wear masks in Church and at indoor events at parish sites.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Bishop Ken Howell



The Lord
is my
Shepherd:

*I shall
not want*

**DECEMBER 31ST
ST MARY'S CHURCH
GATTON**

**PRAYER, PRAISE AND
REFLECTION FROM 8PM
MASS FROM 11PM
SUPPER TO FOLLOW
AS WE WELCOME 2022**

BOOKINGS PREFERRED



For bookings and more information, please phone Chris 0407 132 700

Christmas Eve 5pm and 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.

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

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until Monday 10th January. Fr Denis

will be around during this time. However, he has many commitments that require him to be away from the office at times. Please email or leave a message on the answering machine. If your matter is urgent, follow the prompts on the phone to connect with Fr Denis. The next newsletter will be published for the weekend of 15/16 Jan.



Divine Mercy prayer group will be recommencing in 2022. All welcome to join them on the first Friday of the month at 6pm.

What's on in the coming week's at Stafford?

Mon 27th	N/A	No Mass
Tues 28th		
Wed 29th		
Thurs 30th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 31st	6.00pm	Vigil Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God / New Year's Eve
Sat 1st	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Sun 2nd	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Mon 3rd	N/A	No Mass
Thurs 6th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 7th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 8th	6.00pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Sun 9th	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom

**Normal mass times resume from
Thursday 6th January.
Unless otherwise advised.**

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:

Neville Lamb, Editha Weyh, 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: Norman Hall, 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: Michael O'Donnell, 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.



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

Phone: 07 3293 0555

Email: info@holycrossfunerals.com

An Outreach of the Catholic Church

Funerals with 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/93315882077?pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2tWUT09>



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



The Catholic Leader team wishes you and your loved ones a safe and holy Christmas. This will be our final edition of The Weekly Round-Up for the year and we look forward to sharing more weekly news with you in January.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER