



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 Ordinary Time – Year C 15/16 January, 2022

Reflection on the Readings

From ancient times the gospel readings at Epiphany, for the Baptism of the Lord, and today, along with most weekdays in between, formed a thematically coherent series of manifestations – they form the Epiphany cycle or season that we could call Epiphanytide. Today's gospel reading, the wedding at Cana, is unique to John; he calls it the "first sign given by Jesus" and observes that Jesus "manifested his glory" (clearly labelling it an epiphany) and "his disciples believed in him."

Many years ago, while attending school camps on the shore of a lake in our district, almost invariably students would ask me to turn the lake's water into wine. Then, upon my failure even to attempt inflicting so unkind a thing upon all the creatures therein, they would suggest I walk on it. The young cynics were inventively and indirectly expressing their incredulity at the gospel stories, but at the same time they betrayed a literalist approach to reading Scripture which actually does it violence. Many people nowadays seem incapable of accepting that truth and fact are not coterminous in literature, in other words, that something is not untrue, or is false, simply because it is not historically factual. Fiction does convey truth, or else storytelling is pointless. Not all events presented in biblical stories occurred exactly as told, but their reason for being told not about historicity. They often draw richly from other texts in a way that enters into conversation with the past, and casts new light on current concerns. A modern term for this process is *intertextuality*, but this also needs to consider elements current at the time of the first telling even though those elements never became texts. John the evangelist, in his peculiar style, draws heavily from the Hebrew Scriptures, but he appears to have done so via Targumim, interpretively elaborated translations from the Hebrew. Not all the Targumim survived or were even written. In addition, John threads material through his narrative units to weave a seamless whole.

Today's gospel is an excellent example of all this, with far more going on than a simplistic reading admits. Since space is short, presentation of the peculiarities of the story and their links elsewhere will be condensed. Firstly, this is the only wedding mentioned in John (the other gospels have several in parables) but in Revelation we are told "the wedding of the Lamb has come... Blessed are those called to the wedding supper

of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:7,9). Secondly, when the observation of "the mother of Jesus" (who, as with "the beloved disciple", John never names) that "they have no wine" prompts the seemingly blunt "What is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come" we are in fact being told that he is not (yet) the bridegroom. The bridegroom was to provide the feast's wine, but as this groom fails to do so Jesus then fulfils that role—a point made clear in the unwitting steward's comment to the bridegroom on the superiority of this newly drawn wine. But scholars also note connections to the next appearance of John the Baptist who in 3:29 likens Jesus to the bridegroom. Thirdly, the only other instances in the Greek of the noun for *water-jar* and the verb *draw* are found in the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (4:5-28, itself connected to Genesis 24 where Rebecca appears at a well as potential bride for prospective bridegroom Isaac); there Jesus does declare "the hour is coming, and is now here", and at the end of the episode a direct reference is made back to Cana and the first sign. There are in fact several verbal threads through these three units, but they also share in a promise of superabundance, of wine at Cana, of water at the Samaritan well, and in between is the Baptist's testimony to the Spirit given "without measure" (3:34).

When the scenes of the wedding and the well, and the Baptist's interlude, are read in conjunction we find a typically creative Johannine exposition of Jesus as the eschatological bridegroom, the promised of the ages, and none other than God himself who weds the newly redeemed bride.

Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Image: Unsplash.com



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



Daily Mass Readings

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

Mon 17th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 18th		
Wed 19th		
Thurs 20th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 21st	9.00am 10.30am	Mass Men's Group
Sat 22nd	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Sun 23rd	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom

The Queen Of Apostles Men's Group meets on the third Friday of the month. It is open to any senior gents in the parish - married, widowed, single, clergy, retired or working. They will meet on **Friday 21st January** at Café 63, **Stafford City** 10.30am. All Welcome. **Phone Gary McLean (ph 3863 4149) for more information.**

Music Practise Invitation to any interested parishioners to join the music ministry on Saturday 22nd January at 10am in the church. They will be learning the new Glory to God being introduced in February, and a few hymns that they will re-introducing this year. All welcome!



CAN YOU SPARE 4 HOURS PER WEEK TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED?

Aspleycare is a Parish based Emergency Relief group staffed by volunteers, who serve the Brisbane Northside community by responding to the needs of people in a Christian, neighbourly and practical way. Aspleycare provides emergency relief to people in need by advising of options available to them, as well as help with material (eg. food parcels) and/or financial aid to meet an immediate need.

Aspleycare is currently in need of volunteers. We urgently need volunteers who can assist on any day, Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 2.00pm. By offering your time and talents, you can assist and improve the lives of others within the greater community on the northside of Brisbane. There are a variety of

Being part of Aspleycare can be extremely rewarding. As well as being part of something that contributes to the lives of others, it can challenge and encourage you in your walk with Jesus. Aspleycare is located in the grounds of Our Lady and St Dymphna's Church, 479 Robinson Rd, Aspley.

To record your expression of interest please send your details via email to secretary@aspleycare.org.au or call 3862 7145.

COVID is restricting us in many ways. I'd like to restart "Childrens' Liturgy of the Word" a couple of times a month if possible. I need at least 4 volunteers who will lead the kids about once a month. The parish will help them with Blue Cards etc. Please email Fr Denis or ring the office if you are interested or have any questions. **By the way, parents** - every week under the "Liturgy and other types of Prayer Resources" section in the Friday email, there is **information to help the kids** with preparing to listen to this week's Gospel.



Happy New Year to you all from the Stafford Vinnie's Conference.



If you received any unwanted toiletries for both men & women at Christmas, could you please consider donating them to Vinnie's. Bring them and leave them in the box at the back of the church so we can make up pamper packs for the people we visit.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ways in which we keep socially connected at Stafford Parish - join us!

The Anna's Group is open to all widows.

They meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at the Coffee Club in Flockton Village at 12pm. Ladies meet for lunch and be a support for each other. Good food and good conversation is guaranteed!!!

Contact Dianne 0407616637 for further information.



Latte Ladies are a group of parishioners who gather for coffee and conversation on a regular basis. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9.45am at

Mocha Bella Café, North West Plaza, Flockton Street, Everton Park. All Welcome. Contact Truce 3359 2267 for more information.

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Morning Tea/Supper after mass on the weekend where we invite you to stay awhile to enjoy each other's company.

SYNOD 2021-2023 -

CONSULTATION PHASE STILL OPEN

On Sunday, October 17, dioceses around the world launched local preparations for the Synod of Bishops. The Catholic Church in Australia is inviting the People of God to make submissions via an online portal that is now open. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. This is not to be confused with the Australian Plenary Council which is running concurrently with the Synod. The Plenary Council focus is on the Church in Australia. The Synod is focussed on the Church globally.



The three dimensions of the Synod are **Communion, Participation and Mission**. These three dimensions are profoundly interrelated. They are the pillars of a Synodal Church. There is no hierarchy between them. Rather, each one enriches and orients the other two.

All group and individual submissions will be focused on one of the three dimensions. Participation can be via a small group discernment process utilising the **Listening and Discernment Adult Guide** or individually with the **Individual Reflection Guide**.

To access copies of the **Listening and Discernment Adult Guide** and **Individual Reflection Guide** please visit <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

The Synod Listening and Discernment group process is very similar to what was used in the Archdiocese of Brisbane during the Plenary Council Listening and Discernment phase. Therefore any parish that facilitated the group Plenary Council sessions will be familiar with the flow of the Synod consultation process. The recommended time for each group Listening and Discernment process is 1.5hrs.

For those wanting to participate in the consultation period as an individual can do so with the **Individual Reflection Guide**. This guide is based on Lectio Divina. The Individual Reflection Guide is made to be used with the **Questions for Reflection**. The recommended time for each Individual Reflection process is 30mins.

The submission process

Individuals and groups are asked to submit their summarised reflections directly to the National Centre for Pastoral Research via the website: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

[UPDATED]

The consultation period with local churches has now been extended to allow more voices to be heard in the synod process. Submissions are currently open until Sunday 27 February 2022.

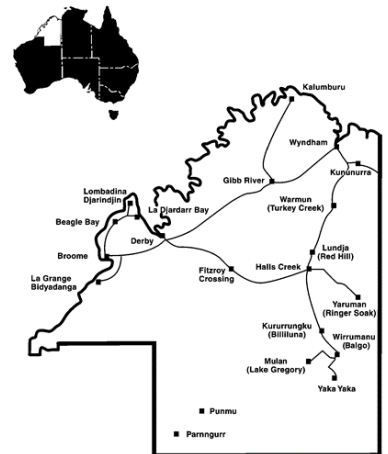
To see a detailed timeline for the Synod journey please visit https://www.catholic.org.au/images/Synod_of_Bishops_Plenary_Council_Timeline.pdf

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED WA Kimberley Region

Are you looking for a unique experience to: learn more about indigenous culture; contribute to the wider community, and grow personally. We need people to volunteer in the remote community of Kalumburu Mission.

The Kimberley region is home to some of Australia's oldest indigenous communities and picturesque landscapes. Various roles at the Mission include: food preparation, office duties, ground maintenance, maintaining vehicles, room bookings/preparation.

Assistance can be provided with flights. Accommodation & meals are included.



If you would be interested to offer your skills and learn more about the local culture, please see the contact details below (couples or singles welcome).

For further information please contact:

Diocese of Broome Chancery

T: 08-9192-1060

E: volunteers@broomedioocese.org

W: www.broomedioocese.org (click on the volunteer tab at the top of the page)



'Who Gives a Crap' paper is in stock

in the parish office. We have a limited supply of toilet paper, paper towel and tissues. I've noticed some of the shops look like the locusts have been! If you are caught short, pop in next week or see Fr Denis after Mass for VIP shopping!



Stewardship *a way of life* "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 CORINTHIANS 12:7)

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan? How are you helping to build God's kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you. Take time to discern your charisms (gifts from the Holy Spirit). Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires for each of us.

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 un-

well: Kevin Tyack, 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 Al-lerta, Alison Drake, Bob Devine, Jose Pitts, Fay Barrett, Norm Ward,



We pray for those recently deceased: Fr Ellis Clifford, Wally Kusnierz, Norman Hall, Brian Well-man, Maurice Drake, John David Robinson, Joan Low,

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Blumke, 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?](https://zoom.us/j/93315882077?pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2tWUT09)
[pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlm](https://zoom.us/j/93315882077?pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2tWUT09)
[Y2tWUT09](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?](https://zoom.us/j/93315882077?pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2tWUT09)



THE
CATHOLIC
LEADER

Still some copies of
our Christmas edition
available from the
rear of the church

\$4 each



Wear a mask!