



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."

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C 22/23 January, 2022

Reflection on the Readings

The Lectionary takes us back to the very beginning of Luke's gospel, to the introductory address to "your Excellency" Theophilus – *friend or lover of God*, or even *beloved of God*. We cannot know whether Theophilus, an actual name, was an actual person or is a polite reference to the reader. It does not hurt for preachers to think of each listener as the friend of God.

This Sunday each year begins a programmatic reading of our Lord's public ministry that lasts until the end of November, with of course a detour for Lent and Easter. Matthew and Mark both testify to Jesus proclaiming at the beginning "The Kingdom of Heaven/God is near". Luke takes us back to Nazareth instead, to the Synagogue where Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 to announce the year of favour, a passage understood to point to Leviticus 25:10-13 that describes the Jubilee. We must wait until next Sunday to hear of the following reaction to his teaching on it. Matthew and Mark have a similar scene set in "his own country", but much later in the story. Only Luke has it in this precise form and place, and it needs to be understood as an expansive equivalent of Matthew's and Mark's opening proclamation "The Kingdom of Heaven/God is near"; here Jesus says, in effect, this prophecy is even now being fulfilled.

The episode is read annually at the Chrism Mass in conjunction with the Isaiah pericope that otherwise appears only in Advent in Year B. Instead duplicating that combination today the Lectionary gives us Nehemiah's account of the reaffirmation of the covenant during the post-exilic restoration of Jerusalem – which is actually the subject of the full passage from Isaiah 61. The reaffirmation was conducted by Ezra the priest reading the Law, its contents then being made clear, or translated and interpreted so all could understand. He did as Jesus would do in the synagogue – as we are to do in our liturgies with the homily breaking open the readings it follows.

Jesus declared Isaiah's passage was being fulfilled there and then. He had no legal authority to declare the nationwide Jubilee, so we must interpret it as already indicating another kind, or as pertaining to another realm. The Jubilee practice reset property ownership and debt. Since on entering the Holy Land all were made equal sharers in the land within their tribes, how is it that later some have more land than others, or that some were even dispossessed? No society and economic system is perfect, and complexities in primarily agricultural societies gradually lead to the shift of the originally shared wealth, some losing direct access to land, be-

coming labourers for others. The Jubilee cancels spiralling debt and restores land distribution. One can imagine just how disagreeable such a proposal may be to those who are wealthy, especially if so not by nefarious means but through the inheritance of wealth accumulated over the generations courtesy of an imperfect economy. But the Jubilee proclaimed by Jesus is not imposed from on high; it emerges with the Kingdom from the grass roots level, freely enacted by the people who seek the Kingdom.

Each society and economy has its flaws, and produces its own inequalities, so the Jubilee work will never end, even as we strive constantly to redress them. There will always be dispossessed, to whom the active missionary work of mercy must be directed. This does not mean simply giving things in temporary assistance, which maintains the status quo, but striving to improve the situation itself. In this "year of Luke" there will be many reminders of his particular concern for the dispossessed and the fringe-dwellers, and so while a true reset of land ownership will never be achieved, we in Australia need to be particularly attentive to the dispossession of this land's first nations peoples.



A jarring note arises from the use of Nehemiah: the restoration was exclusionary; it cast off those who had impure ancestry and rebuffed the welcoming Samaritans thus setting up centuries of animosity between the two peoples. The Second Temple period it inaugurated was by no means universally exclusivist, and Christianity emerged

from or was shaped by inclusivist strands. As our gospels make clear, perhaps Luke most clearly, the mission of Jesus is to all.

Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C *Image: Unsplash.com*

"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..." (NEHEMIAH 8:10)



Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1st Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

2nd Reading: Corinthians 12:31-13;13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30



Daily Mass Readings

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

Mon 24th	8.30am	Mass
Tues 25th	8.30am	Morning Prayer of the church with Communion
Wed 26th	8.00am	Mass for Australia Day
Thurs 27th	8.30am	Mass
Fri 28th	9.00am	Mass
Sat 29th	5.00pm	Mass with Livestream Zoom
Sun 30th	9.00am	Mass with Livestream Zoom

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE ORDINATION OF OUR NEW BISHOP?? (Please ring/email the office or Fr Denis by **Tuesday 9am**. If more than two apply, we'll draw two "from the hat" and let you know.)



THE MOST REVEREND MARK COLERIDGE
Archbishop of Brisbane

invites

ONE or TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM YOUR PARISH
to the Episcopal Ordination of
BISHOP-ELECT TIMOTHY JOHN NORTON SVD
as Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane

TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 2022 AT 10.30AM

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN
277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane

RSVP: Friday, 28 January, 2022

Vinnies Hamper request - If you received any unwanted toiletries for both men & women at Christmas, could you please consider donating them to Vinnie's for pamper packs. There is a basket at the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

COVID is restricting us in many ways. I'd like to restart "Children's 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.

Your support is needed



You can provide vital relief to communities impacted by natural disasters, such as the volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga, along with the current COVID-19 crisis in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. With your support, our partners on the ground can respond immediately when crises strike.



Tonga has been cut off from the rest of the world following a violent underwater volcano eruption on 15 January that triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the Pacific island nation in ash.

There are reports that some coastal communities in Fiji and Vanuatu have been damaged by large waves and tsunami warnings were also issued across the Pacific, Australia, US and Japan.

We are currently working to restore communications with our local partners to assess the situation on the ground and determine the most urgent needs. The volcanic ash is hampering emergency flights into the country and the damage to telecommunications infrastructure has made it difficult to get in contact with affected communities.

There are fears that the volcanic ash and saltwater inundation from the tsunami waves may contaminate drinking water and threaten the health and safety of vulnerable communities.

Your urgent support is needed today to help communities affected by this disaster.

DONATE NOW

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

'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!



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.

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 meet at Café 63, Stafford City 10.30am. All Welcome. Contact Gary McLean 3863 4149 for more information.

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



Care for Creation

Welcome to another year of sharing our journey of 'ecological conversion' as we learn to live the message of Laudato Si.

The festive season is a time of celebration and increased consumption, which often means more waste. Plastic waste is of huge concern to all of creation; scientists have recently found micro plastics embedded deep in the Arctic ice, no part of our planet escapes.

We all need to play our part in reducing our plastic consumption and responsibly dealing with the plastics that we use. Here is a helpful link to guide you

[How to reduce plastic waste | 20 tips to save the planet - FutureLearn](#)



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:

Caitlyn, Andrew & Lucas Lengkeek, Peter Muir, 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 and Norm Ward.

We pray for those recently deceased: Fr Ellis Clifford, Wally Kusnierz, Norman Hall, Brian Wellman, Maurice Drake

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Domenico Antonaglia, Francesca Antonaglia, Angelo Di Mauro, John Blumke, and all deceased parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.

Australia Day Prayer

Lord our God today we acknowledge you as the Great Spirit of this land that rests under the Southern Cross.

We thank you for this ancient land with its unique animals, birds and flowers.

Help us to enjoy not only its beauty and antiquity but the potential and responsibility we share as a young nation in Asia.

Bless all Australians,

Amen.



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>



THE
CATHOLIC
LEADER

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

\$4 each



Wear a mask!