



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."

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C 23rd/24th July, 2022

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15)

Dear Friends,

"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Ps 92:15). These words of the Psalmist are glad tidings, a true "gospel" that we can proclaim to all on this second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. They run counter to what the world thinks about this stage of life, but also to the attitude of grim resignation shown by some of us elderly people, who harbour few expectations for the future.

Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the "throw-away culture", which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from "them" and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly!

Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise. The more developed societies expend large sums on this stage of life without really helping people to understand and appreciate it; they offer healthcare plans to the elderly but not plans for living this age to the full. [1] This makes it hard to look to the future and discern what direction to take. On the one hand, we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot "still bring forth fruit".

Retirement and grown children make many of the things that used to occupy our time and energy no longer so pressing. The recognition that our strength is ebbing or the onset of sickness can undermine our certainties. The fast pace of the world – with which we struggle to keep up – seems to leave us no alternative but to implicitly accept the idea that we are useless. We can resonate with the heartfelt prayer of the Psalmist: "Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent" (71:9).

Yet that same psalm – which meditates on how the Lord has been present at every stage of our lives – urges us to persevere in hope. Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still (cf. vv. 14-20). We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!

For this reason, we ought to take care of ourselves and remain

active in our later years. This is also true from a spiritual standpoint: we ought to cultivate our interior life through the assiduous reading of the word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy. In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others: first of all by showing affectionate concern for our families, our children and grandchildren, but also for the poor and those who suffer, by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers. These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord. [2] Like "green olive trees in the house of God" (cf. Ps 52:10), we can become a blessing for those who live next to us.

Old age is no time to give up and lower the sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness: a new mission awaits us and bids us look to the future. "The special sensibility that those of us who are elderly have for the concerns, thoughts and the affections that make us human should once again become the vocation of many. It would be a sign of our love for the younger generations". [3] This would be our own contribution to the revolution of tenderness, [4] a spiritual and non-violent revolution in which I encourage you, dear grandparents and elderly persons, to take an active role.

Our world is passing through a time of trial and testing, beginning with the sudden, violent outbreak of the pandemic, and then by a war that is harming peace and development on a global scale. Nor is it a coincidence that war is returning to Europe at a time when the generation that experienced it in the last century is dying out. These great crises risk anaesthetizing us to the reality of other "epidemics" and other widespread forms of violence that menace the human family and our common home.

All this points to the need for a profound change, a conversion, that disarms hearts and leads us to see others as our brothers or sisters. We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren. We ourselves have grown in humanity by caring for others, and now we can be teachers of a way of life that is peaceful and attentive to those in greatest need. This attitude may be mistaken for weakness or resignation, yet it will be the meek, not the aggressive and the abusive, who will inherit the earth (cf. Mt 5:5).

One fruit that we are called to bring forth is protecting the world. "Our grandparents held us in their arms and carried us on their knees"; [5] now is the time for us to carry on our own knees – with practical assistance or with prayer alone – not only our own grandchildren but also the many frightened grandchildren whom we have not yet met and who may be fleeing from war or suffering its effects. Let us hold in our hearts – like Saint Joseph, who was a loving and attentive father – the little ones of Ukraine, of Afghanistan, of South Sudan...

Many of us have come to a sage and humble realization of what our world very much needs: the recognition that we are not

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

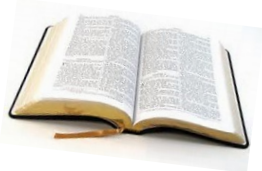
(Year C)

1st Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

2nd Reading: Colossians 2:12-14

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

[Daily Mass Readings](#)



What's on in the coming week at Stafford?

Mon 25th		
Tues 26th	8.30am	Morning Prayers with Communion
Wed 27th		
Thurs 28th	9.30am 7.00pm	School Anniversary Liturgy Christmas in July
Fri 29th	9.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayers with Communion Funeral Mass for Brian Davissen
Sat 30th	5.00pm	Mass
Sun 31st	9.00am	Mass

saved alone, and that happiness is a bread we break together. Let us bear witness to this before those who wrongly think that they can find personal fulfilment and success in conflict. Everyone, even the weakest among us, can do this. The very fact that we allow ourselves to be cared for – often by people who come from other countries – is itself a way of saying that living together in peace is not only possible, but necessary.

Dear grandparents, dear elderly persons, we are called to be artisans of the revolution of tenderness in our world! Let us do so by learning to make ever more frequent and better use of the most valuable instrument at our disposal and, indeed, the one best suited to our age: prayer. "Let us too become, as it were, poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again take up those taught by the word of God". [6] Our trustful prayer can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts. We can be "the enduring 'chorus' of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life". [7]

The World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to proclaim once more, with joy, that the Church wants to celebrate together with all those whom the Lord – in the words of the Bible – has "filled with days". Let us celebrate it together! I ask you to make this Day known in your parishes and communities; to seek out those elderly persons who feel most alone, at home or in residences where they live. Let us make sure that no one feels alone on this day. Expecting a visit can transform those days when we think we have nothing to look forward to; from an initial encounter, a new friendship can emerge. Visiting the elderly who live alone is a work of mercy in our time!

Let us ask Our Lady, Mother of Tender Love, to make all of us arti-

sans of the revolution of tenderness, so that together we can set the world free from the spectre of loneliness and the demon of war.

To all of you, and to your loved ones, I send my blessing and the assurance of my closeness and affection. And I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me!

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 3 May 2022, Feast of the Apostles Philip and James

FRANCIS

Christmas in July on Thursday 28th July!

Get up! Stand up! Show up!



Taking our theme this year from NAIDOC Week and the liturgical year of Luke, ACU Biblical Scholar and QoA parishioner Ian Elmer will explore how Luke's nativity narrative challenged the social, religious and cultural structures of his day. Lukan Christianity was a multicultural community marginalized by the political and social structures of Empire. Luke story of the birth of Jesus speaks the challenges of modern Australian society, especially as we move towards a more just relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and nonindigenous Australians based on justice, equity, and the proper recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights.

We will be having supper afterwards, so please bring a plate of Christmas fare to share.

Queen of Apostles Parish School is celebrating 60 years of education during Queensland Catholic Education Week with a liturgy on **28th July** at 9.30am. Parishioners are invited to attend the liturgy which will be



held in our church. The school are really keen to extend an invitation to all our parishioners. An RSVP will assist them with seating requirements. They do not want to have you standing in your church! For those interested in attending this liturgy please RSVP Debra in the parish office by 10.00am on 25th July to reserve seats.

Vinnie's Winter Blanket Appeal -

Vinnie's would like to thank those who donated blankets or gave money towards buying them. We appreciate your help as always.



Stewardship
a way of life

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
Luke 11:9

Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given, and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Generosity is a gift that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.



Care for Creation

Laudato Si interactive event - 30 July 10am - 12 noon, The Parish Hall, 80 Turner Rd Kedron (corner Wayland St)

The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone Pope Francis, Laudato Si Chapter 2.

You are invited to share in a community forum where we can explore the message in Laudato Si and grow in knowledge so that we are better equipped to care for our Common Home.

Date: 30 July 9.30am - 12 noon

Venue: Kedron Parish Hall, 80 Turner Rd Kedron

Booking: Little Flower Parish Office, Kedron

Phone: 3357-6640

Email: kedron@bne.catholic.net.au

2022 Catholic Leadership Intensive

Equipping today's leaders for tomorrow's Church

Catholic Leadership Intensive

We have six members of our parish community embarking on the Catholic Leadership Intensive Program which continued this week and continues for another eight weeks. This is an impressive commitment of time and energy by those that have welcomed the invitation to attend. The focus of the course is to explore contemporary leadership practices integrated with scripture and the example set by Jesus and His followers. The first week was bursting with information about leadership. To share a thought from this week....

What does Catholic mean?

The usual definition is Universal.

**This week we were given a variation,
simply translates to...**

Everyone is Welcome!

Ladies would you like to take time out to Reflect and Recharge?

Treat yourself to some quality time with God at **The Women of The Way Retreat**. 26th to 28th August. Come to **Reflect, Recharge, Renew and Reignite your faith**. Theme: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Where: Watson Park Convention Centre, 337 Old Gympie Rd Dakabin. For brochure or info phone **Rosa Montegrando** ph 0400755516 email wowqld@gmail.com Registrations close 31st July.

Adult Faith Opportunities

Going Deeper

An online series exploring the heart of the Catholic faith

Going Deeper - Two options

Going Deeper is a **ten-session online series** about the loving relationship with God at the heart of the Catholic faith. It explores different aspects of what it means to live a Catholic life. Together we dive beneath the teachings and practices and instead ponder, 'what is this all for?'

There's so much to know about the Catholic faith that it's easy to get caught up in catechising ourselves while we forget about what it means to implement the faith in our daily lives. In this new Catholic podcast, join Shane Dwyer (Associate Director Adult Formation, Evangelisation Brisbane) and a special monthly guest in an organic discussion about Catholicism, theology and life. If you're interested in learning more, experiencing more or just getting some perspective on Catholicism, tune in for a weekly chat!

The **Going Deeper Podcast** can be found on all mainstream podcasting services or head to:

<https://goingdeeperpodcast.buzzsprout.com/>

Refreshed & Renewed Online Retreat (Australasia) 28-30 July 2022

Catholics across Australasia want to answer the Church's call to mission. But with the demands of parish work and a global pandemic, it's easy to feel discouraged and burnt out. It breaks our heart that many Catholics feel like they're just trying to survive, especially when God desires more for us. That's why DR Australasia and Parousia are hosting *Refreshed and Renewed*, an online retreat featuring Dr. Edward Sri, Fr. James Mallon, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Steve Ray, and many more — where you will encounter Jesus through prayer, be re-energized by amazing talks, and experience the Holy Spirit renew your heart.

Registration includes 30-day on-demand access to all the retreat content following the event. So, register today! <https://brushfire.com/divinerenovationministry-au/refreshedandrenewed/530036/details>



Refreshed & Renewed

ONLINE RETREAT • 28-30 JULY 2022

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: Nigel Bird
APRE: Megan Conroy
APLE: Leonie McCormack
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.

There are celebrations of this Sacrament on the **third weekend of the Month** (ex April 23/24th)



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:

Cynthia Oxenham, John Mahony, Nicki Goodman, Helen Mullins, Janice Itong, Shaun Donaldson, Miguela Savellon, Trevor Cavanagh, Kevin Tyack, Editha Weyh, Winsome Rusterholz, Mark Robertson, Jo Haines, Sr Patricia Coyle, Carolyn Bohl, Noel Cavanagh, & Norm Ward.

We pray for those recently deceased:

Brian Davissen, Don Muir, Audrey Tanwan, Kevin Wildermuth, Tom Donohoe, John Thornton, Shane Dyson Flynn, Katrina Roberts, Titing Padayhag, Mary Backstrom,

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joyce Davis, John Hodby, Maud Menezes, Michael O'Donnell, Matthews, Robotham, Ketter and Horne families, and all deceased parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.



PRAYER FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

*Lord, You send out Your Spirit
to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.
Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfilment the good work
that You have begun in them.
Amen.*



This is now a

monthly

publication

available from

the first

weekend of the

month.

The July edition
will be available
this weekend!

\$4 each

THE
CATHOLIC
LEADER

Live Stream Mass via Zoom

Time: This is a recurring meeting
Meet anytime

[https://zoom.us/j/93315882077?
pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2t
WUT09](https://zoom.us/j/93315882077?pwd=Vko3TIQ0TnFUUHRva2xnRTlmY2tWUT09)

Meeting ID: 933 1588 2077

Passcode: eucharist7

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Passcode: 5210026787

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