

Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish—Stafford A Parish of the Brisbane North West Deanery Vision: "To follow the example of Jesus in word, deed and service." The ASCENSION of the LORD 11^{th-12st} May 2024

Fr Joe's Reflection - The Ascension of the Lord The Ascension of the Lord and Us!

This Sunday we commemorate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. We celebrate that Jesus assumed fully into his divine glory. For forty days after the Resurrection, the Risen Lord eat, drank and taught the Apostles, but his glory was veiled by his humanity. In the Ascension, Jesus enters fully into his Kingdom and is now seated at the right-hand of Father. Through Jesus all of humanity is invited into the heavenly realm.

The traditional site for the Ascension is on the Mount of Olives described in the by Prophet Zechariah (Zech 14) as the place where the Lord will stand, transforming the world, and be acknowledged as King of the earth.

The ancient view of heaven was that it was beyond the sphere of the stars and that heaven was up! What is expressed in the Bible is that Jesus has now taken up his role as King. He however, is not absent from this world. The veil between heaven and earth is very thin. *The Kingdom of God is near*!

The Ascension is part of a two way process. Not only is humanity beginning its journey of entering heaven, through Christ, but the divine transformation of the earthly world is to continue through the Holy Spirit. We are

Fr Joe McKay OFM

being invited to participate in the *theosis* (divinisation) of the created order, begun in Christ and continued through the action of the Holy Spirit. *Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven*.

In Eucharist we stand in the presence of Christ. Jesus is not absent. We are reminded he shares with us his Body and Blood. We are connected beyond the veil separating heaven and earth. We and all of creation are being perfected and formed into an image of Christ Crucified.

In the Ascension Christ places on us, his disciples, a renewed responsibility. We are not called to watch from the side-lines God's transformation of the world. We are called to be participants in Christ's work. To proclaim the Good News in word and service. This is not a political, economic or activist project but the work of faith, hope and love.





Please email the parish office at stafford@bne.catholic.net.au

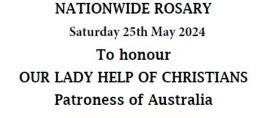


"EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED" by Rick Dalmau

The Ascension of Jesus and the Trinity's leadership of all creation in our Christian story. To quote Susana Moreira from the Laudato Si' Movement from her article, *Celebrating Ascension Sunday in the context of Laudato Si' Week*, "What does it mean to be Christ's witnesses to the earth's remotest ends? The disciples felt a bit lost and "were still staring into the sky as he went (Acts 1:10). Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky?" So a new challenge arises for the disciples (read 'us'): to look at the Earth again, but this time with a renewed gaze that will be empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit." <u>https://laudatosimovement.org/news/celebrating-ascension-sunday-in-the-context-of-laudato-si-week/</u> Looking at Laudato Si' week themes in the Australian context, we are encouraged by the Australian Bishops office of Justice, Ecology and Peace to renew our commitment to respond to the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor by tapping into the ecological wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia and Indigenous Peoples everywhere.

https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2024/04/30/laudato-si-week-2/

Focussing in even more locally on country we can listen to local Elders Stories from Moreton Bay Libraries: <u>https://</u> ourstory.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/nodes/view/28514?keywords=





To be held at Parish: <u>Our Lady, Queen of Apostles</u> Address: <u>70 Appleby Road, Stafford 4053</u>

From 2:00pm to 4:00pm EST

Come on Australia, let us stand together in strength and unity to pray the Rosary all as one and ask our Holy Mother for protection and guidance in these troubled times. You can invite family and friends from other countries to join on this day via ZOOM LINK and MEETING ID for logging in: <u>https://bit.ly/437MVSU</u> OR ENTER

Meeting ID: 443 363 1440 and Passcode: eucharist via the Zoom app

RSVP by signing up at the back of the church or call (3356 7155) or email (stafford@bne.catholic.net.au) for catering purposes, thanks:)



Brisbane Cursillo Movement

Ladies, do you find it hard to live a Christian life in our evermore secular society? Can Christianity live and grow here in our world now? The Cursillo

Movement believes so. What a Cursillo offers is an encounter with Christ, and it is through this encounter that you are offered a method to deepen your spirituality, so it can be lived and shared in any area of life in an ongoing manner. Cursillo is a movement of the Catholic Church that uses a three-day live-out experience to share its message and method with you.

We will be holding our weekend at Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish, Springfield Lakes, Qld Friday May 17 to Sunday May 19, 2024. For more information or an application form contact



RCIA

A NEW WAY

Sunday 26 May | 1-4pm Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre Charlotte St, Brisbane City



In person and livestream options available

Scan code to register or visit www.tinyurl.com/RCIA-FD24

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Stafford parish offers a program called the **RCIA**, Right of Christian Initiation of Adults, that helps people learn about the Catholic faith and their relationship with God. The program is for newcomers to the Christian faith, members of other Christian churches that would like to become Catholic and baptized Catholics who have not received confirmation or holy communion but would like to become full members of the church. If you or anyone you know would like more information, contact the parish office by telephone or email.



IGNITE HIGH PROGRAM

Stafford Parish and Franciscans will help subsidise a group of young people from our parish to attend the Conference. The Early Bird full price is \$305pp.

If interested please contact Fr Joe McKay by 9th June

See igniteconference.com.au for further details

SACRAMENTS of CONFIRMATION and FIRST COMMUNION		
QR code	or	link below for Enrolment
Stafford Parish Sacramental Program Enrolment Form		
Closing date to register:		For more info, pls email:
THURSDAY, 13th June		qoasacs@hotmail.com



Further information on our website: https://bit.ly/3VHHQ62



zoom

Meeting ID: 443 363 1440 and Passcode: eucharist via the Zoom app.