



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."

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas (Year C) 22/23rd & 25th Dec, 2018

The Stranger

BY MICHAEL DARBY

Michael, 62, is a former army officer and Chinese interpreter, who now calls himself a "full-time poet". A lover of bush poetry and author of a 1000-page anthology of poems, he lives in Sydney.

*They were singing hymns and praying in that little country town
All thankful for the end of drought as the rain come tumbling down.
The little church was nearly full at the corner of the lane
When a stranger softly slipped inside to shelter from the rain.*

*He was small and he was shivering and each boot had sprung a leak
With sore feet and empty wallet he'd been tramping for a week.
They took up a collection for the homeless and the poor
But no one met the stranger who sat just inside the door.*

*He was small and he was shivering; he was hungry, he was thin
Caught out in the downpour he was soaked right to the skin.
Some of them gave generously and some of them gave more
But that didn't help the stranger dripping water on the floor.*

*They'd donated mounds of clothing, whatever they could spare
But no one asked the stranger if he had a coat to wear.
They were singing hymns and praying and their faith was wide and deep
But no one asked the stranger if he had a place to sleep.*

*They were singing hymns and smiling and their faith was very real
But no one asked the stranger when last he'd had a meal.
When they reached the benediction, the heavens paused the rain
And the lonely traveller prepared to face the road again.*

*The faithful clustered in the porch, their friends to meet and greet
But no one asked the stranger if he'd like a bite to eat.
The wind was whistling shrill and cold and the sky was leaden grey
The preacher shook the stranger's hand, but then was called away.*

*Not a word to the stranger did anybody say
They never learned the sorrows that had turned his steps their way.
They served refreshments in the hall and the mood was light and free
But no one asked the stranger if he'd like a cup of tea.*

*Not a word to the stranger did anybody speak
They'd never know the burdens that are carried by the weak.
When Jesus shall return to earth, will all the trumpets blare?
Or will He be a stranger, thin and worn from want of care?*

*They were singing hymns and praying in the little country town
All thankful for the end of the drought as the rain kept pouring down.
They were singing hymns and praying, the women and the men
But they hardly saw the stranger, for he wasn't one of them.*



This is our last newsletter until at least the week-end 19/20 January (unless we get lots of new "news"). (You'll have to listen to the homily!) 😊

Our Religious Goods Shop! You can buy some great items to express your faith and you can also order more expensive items such as bibles or other items. We accept Credit Cards (no cash out—sorry). Drop in straight after Mass and have a look. (Don't leave it too late though—our volunteers also have homes to go to.)



Pope Francis said that safeguarding children was the Church's top priority, and was more important than preserving its reputation or avoiding scandal. "Families should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home. Consequently, priority



must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors." He said, "Pastors and those in charge of religious communities should be available to meet with victims and their loved ones; such meetings are valuable opportunities for listening to those who have greatly suffered and for asking their forgiveness," he added. He revealed that "This experience reaffirmed my conviction that everything possible must be done to rid the Church of the scourge of the sexual abuse of minors and to open pathways of reconciliation and healing for those who were abused,"

Vinnie's Gifting Tree Appeal —
THANK YOU for all the donated



Food Items for food hampers made up by our Vinnie's volunteers. Because of your generosity we delivered **104 Hamper bags** locally and we have **\$11,100** to help give people a "hand up" over the next year. Financial donations can be **given any time using the envelopes** or the "poor boxes" at the back of the church.

NEXT MONTH'S READINGS

The Holy Family (YEAR C)

1st Reading: Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

2nd Reading: St John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52



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

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (YEAR C)

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Counters Roster: **Xmas Team** - Kev and Trish McGrory, Alan & Helen Gibney and Margaret Sheehan. **New Year Team** - Kev and Trish McGrory, Alan & Helen Gibney, Aileen Kyle and Len Cavanagh. The counting roster for 2019 is in Mary's room for those who don't have email.

If you find yourself available on 31st December, please come along to help.

The parish car park is for the use of those visiting the parish and school. We are aware that commuters are using our carpark, particularly midweek and taking a bus to the city. If you are wanting to use our carpark and leave the area, please advise the office. *(Many funerals these days are not advertised in the newspapers).*

The tradition of **Christmas Eve Supper** continues this year **after 9pm Mass**. Please **bring a plate** of goodies to share with each other and take the opportunity to welcome any visitors to our parish.

Jesus asks us to demonstrate our love for Him through our generosity to others. In our everyday lives, He calls us to share our gifts. "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25: 40) Please consider a gift in any amount given through your Will to strengthen our Parish. For more information about how you can leave a legacy to Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, call the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 or call the parish office.

Our Website—(www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au) how long since you checked it out? Have you discovered the "new" stuff?? E.g. On the Home page, you will find "Quick Links" which includes (besides a welcome letter to newcomers):

[Worship Times](#), [Newsletters](#), [Parish Location](#)

[Prayer & Reflection](#) (A new "two-minute homily every week (from Friday), Daily Prayer resources, etc)

[Sacramental Preparation](#) (What's needed, paperwork etc)

[Child & Vulnerable Adult Care](#) (info from Archdiocese re Child and Vulnerable Adult protection policies)

[Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals](#) (How to arrange etc)

[Parish Calendar](#), [Photo Gallery](#)

[Tennis Court Hire](#) (How to hire, etc)

[Forms & Downloads](#) (Paperwork of all kinds incl Direct Debit requests and Credit Card payments)

[Queen of Apostles Primary School](#)

CHRISTMAS LITURGY TIMES ETC

Christmas Eve:

6pm (Mass with adapted Liturgy of Word for children) 9pm (our "Midnight" Mass)

NOTE: There is NO morning Mass on the 24th.

Christmas Day:

8am **only** (No 5.30pm Mass on Christmas Day)

Thurs 27th, Fri 28th—Masses as per usual.

Weekend 29/30th Dec:

Sat 5pm, Sun 7am & 9am only.

(No Sunday 5.30pm Mass)

NEW YEAR'S EVE:

Mon 31st Dec: 6pm Vigil for the Feast of the "Mary, Mother of God" and New Years Eve.

NOTE: There is NO Monday morning Mass on the 31st.

Tues 1st Jan, Wed 2nd Jan: No Mass or other Liturgy.

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th - Mass as per usual.

Sat/Sun 5th/6th January onwards: Mass and Liturgy times will return to normal.

Roster for Christmas and New Year Masses

Have been prepared. The roster will be emailed out and a few copies will be in Mary's room. Thank you all for your help in preparing this roster.

7am Mass Singer Volunteers—Especially if there is no Cantor, could you gather together to help us all sing please? Maybe behind the organ?? If you have time, you could practise the "response" for the Responsorial Psalm.





"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

CATHEDRAL GUIDES & WELCOMERS

Cathedral Guides & Welcomers invite you to an information session on **Thursday 7 February 2019 at 10.30am** to discover the delights of volunteering with the Cathedral Guides & Welcomers. If you enjoy meeting people; love your Cathedral and revel in good art and juicy history, the rewards of becoming a volunteer with the Cathedral Guides and Welcomers is beyond measure. A comprehensive training program is offered. If this ministry appeals to you, please contact the Cathedral on 3324 3030 or email deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au, by Friday 25 January 2019.



Are you planning a trip to Sydney in January?
Why not stay at Mary MacKillop Place,
in the heart of North Sydney!
30 minutes from the Airport
Close to Ferries, Trains, Sydney Harbour foreshore, Opera House and more!

For Accommodation Enquiries
Call: (02)89124800



COLLECTIONS


Date	9th Dec	16th Dec
1st Collection	\$494.00	\$378.0
2nd Collection	\$797.50	\$659.50
Loose	\$687.20	\$808.30
DD 1st (Nov)	\$2183.50	
DD 2nd (Nov)	\$7844.40	

Tennis Courts for Hire with lights

CHEAP RATES!

Bookings available through the office Monday to Thursday




Holy Cross
FUNERALS

*The only funeral service owned and operated by
the Catholic Church*

Ph: (07) 3293 0555 Web: www.holycrossfunerals.com

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Office

Address: 70 Appleby Road, Stafford 4053

Parish E-mail: 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 Hrs: Mon, Tues, Thur: 9.00am—3.30pm

Office Telephone: 3356 7155

Parish Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Representative :Cath D'Hage

Parish School "Queen of Apostles"

Address: 10 Thuruna Street, Stafford 4053

School email: pstafford@bne.catholic.edu.au

School Team: Principal: Nigel Bird

APA: Anne-Marie Maw

APRE: Kirsten Karey

School Secretaries: Thuruna St: Vera Fitzgerald

Chuter St: (Mon) Jacqui Collett

Chuter St: (Tues-Fri) Mary-Anne Coppolecchia

School Office Hrs: 8.00am - 4.00pm

Telephone (Thuruna St:) 3352 9200

Telephone (Chuter St:) 3326 0400

FUTURE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mon	24th	6pm 9pm	Christmas Eve Family Mass Christmas Eve Late Mass with Supper
Tues	25th	8.00am	Christmas Day Mass
Wed	26th		Boxing Day
Thurs	27th	8.30am	Mass
Fri	28th	9.00am	Mass
Sat	29th	4.00pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation (until no one is waiting) Mass
Sun	30th	7.00am 9.00am	Mass Mass No Mass Tonight

BAPTISMS in this Parish occur at

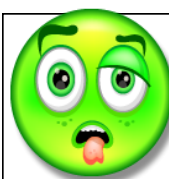
10.30am on the Third Sunday of each Month (except during Lent).

For BAPTISM PREPARATION please contact the Parish Office (3356 7155).



ANOINTING OF THE SICK - immediately

after Mass : 3rd Sun of Month (ex Oct).



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 four names each week will be deleted. If their illness continues, let's know and we'll add them to the start of the list.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Our Sick: John Blumke, Mary Law, Nora Stevens, Peter Muir, Pam Ward, Jim Graham, Donna Geddes, Dominic Waters, Anne Gallagher, Julia Geatches and Michael Donaldson,

Our Recently Deceased: Keith Kyle, Maria Terre, John Forestal, Garry Maynard, Bonnie Lennox and Pat Neilson.

Those We Remember: Matthews, Ketter, Rowbotham and Sheehan families, Eddie Nicholson, John O'Shea, Michael O'Donnell, Ron Rynders, Molly Vlug, Des O'Brien, Angela Robertson, Cliff Devereaux, John Goldby, Ken Barker, Roy and Olive O'Sullivan 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 Catholic Leader: Keeping faith with you Still only \$2

*'Lights of Christmas' attracting thousands to CBD

*Federal Government moves to protect religious freedom in 2019 under new legislative proposals

*Aspleycare offers Christmas help to those in need despite federal funding cuts thanks to sponsors and community support

*Pro-Life organisation Cherish Life has stood up for the rights of the unborn, naming and shaming MPs who voted in support of the abortion bill

*Queensland parents who pleaded guilty to treating their child with medicinal cannabis have been let off with fines but no convictions, spurring on the debate about the drug

*More dementia support found across Brisbane at the Memory Café

*Sister of Mercy Angela Mary Doyle sits down to talk with Donna Lynch about life, faith and the Mater

*All Marty Dowlan wanted was to hear his father say 'I love you, son', and found the words in a remarkable story of faith and family

