



St Francis Xavier Parish

6 Church Street (GPO Box 450) Goodna, Qld. 4300

Office Hours: Monday - Wed 9.00am — 4.00pm

Friday 9.00am –4.00pm Closed Thursdays

Website: stfrancisxaviergoodna.org.au

Ph: 3818 0111 Fax 3818 1420 Email: goodna@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Clergy: Fr Roger Burns PP.

Parish Secretary: Mrs Marie Hodges

(Local Safeguarding Children Representative: Marie Hodges)

St Vincent De Paul: For Assistance Please call 3010 1096 - Weekdays only . Meetings:

Fortnightly on Tuesday 7.00pm. Call 0479 163 335

22nd Sunday
in Ordinary
Time

28th August
2016

Embracing the suburbs of Goodna, Bellbird Park, Camira, Carole Park, Collingwood Park, Ellen Grove. Gailes, Kruger, Redbank, Redbank Plains, Wacol and beyond.

THE RAGMAN.

Early before the dawn one Friday morning, I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking down the alleys of our city. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes both bright and new and he was calling out in a clear, tenor voice, "Rags! Rags! New rags for old! I'll take your tired rags!" Now this is wonder, I thought to myself, for the man stood six-feet-four, and his arms were like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and his eyes flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city? I followed him. My curiosity drove me. And I wasn't disappointed.

Soon the ragman was a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing and shedding a thousand tears. He knees and elbows made a sad X. Her shoulders shook. Her heart was breaking. The ragman stooped his cart. Quietly, he walked to the woman, stepping around her tin cans, dead toys and Pampers. "Give you rags," he said so gently, "and I'll give you another." He slipped the handkerchief from her eyes. She looked up and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new that it shone. She blinked from the gift to the giver.

Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing. He put her stained handkerchief to his own face and then he began to weep, to sob so grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking. Yet she was left without a tear. This is a wonder, I breathed to myself, and I followed the sobbing Ragman like a child who cannot turn away from mystery. "Rags! Rags! New rags for old".

In a little while, when the sky showed grey behind the rooftops, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage> A single line of blood ran down her cheek. Now the Ragman looked upon this child with pity, and he drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart. "Give me your rags," he said tracing his own line on her cheek, "and I'll give you mine." The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage, removed it and tied it to his own head. The bonnet he set on hers. And I gasped at what I saw: for with the bandage went the wound! Against his brow, ran a darker, more substantial bold-his own! "Rags! Rags I take old rags!" He cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman. The Ragman seemed more and more now to hurry.

"Are you going to work?" he asked a man who leaned against a telephone pole. The man shook his head. The Ragman pressed him. "Do you have a job?" "are you crazy?" sneered the other. He pulled away from the pole, revealing the right sleeve of his jacket-flat, the cuff stuffed into a pocket. He had no arm. "So," said the Ragman, "give me your jacket and I'll give you mine." Such quiet authority in his voice. The one-armed man took off his jacket. So did the Ragman- and I trembled at what I saw: for the Ragman's arm stayed in the sleeve, and when the other put it on, he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs, but the Ragman had only one. "Go to work," he said.

After that he found a drunk, lying unconscious beneath an army blanket, an old man, hunched, wizened, and sick. He took the blanket and wrapped it round himself, but for the drunk, he left new clothes.

And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman, though he was weeping uncontrollably and bleeding freely at the forehead, pulling his cart with one arm and stumbling for drunkenness, falling again and again, exhausted, old, sick-yet he went with terrible speed. On spider's legs he skittered through the alleys of the city, this mile and the next, until he came to its limits and then he rushed beyond. (Cont. p3)

Congratulations to our First Communicants. This weekend twenty-two of our young people will receive Holy communion for the first time. Please keep them in your prayers, that they may make this a regular part of their involvement in the Church.

Congratulations to Bishop Anthony Randazzo. Msgr Anthony Randazzo was a priest of the Brisbane Archdiocese who served at one time in St Mary's Ipswich. On Wednesday 14th August he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop in Sydney. He will be sadly missed in the Brisbane Archdiocese but appreciated by the people of Sydney.

Fundraising Event—Car Boot Sale Saturday 24th September 2016

Our Parish will be holding a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 24th September. Starting at 7am with a finish time of 1pm, gate will open for stalls at 6am. No cars allowed into the carpark after 7am.

One space is \$20. **We are looking for donations of good condition goods for the Parish stall**, if you have any please drop off to the Parish Office during Office hours. Please no electrical items or clothes. Any queries contact either Marie in the office on 3818 0111 or Agnes Fryars on 3271 2452

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult Enquiries

Recently we have had a few enquiries from adults who have expressed an interest in becoming Catholic. Therefore we are offering the opportunity for adults to attend Enquiry sessions on Wednesday 31st August at Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Cothill Road, Booval. There will be two sessions offered and you only need to attend one of these sessions. The times for the sessions are 3.30pm to 4.30pm and 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The session will focus on the process of the journey to becoming a member of the Catholic faith. If you know of anyone who has made such an enquiry or perhaps someone who is waiting for you to pop the question and plant a seed of faith please encourage them to attend. Please contact either Jane Donovan on 0419 792 799 or the Booval Parish office on 3281 2133.

These sessions are also open to anyone in the Parish who would like to know more about the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Share the Dignity Once again we will be collecting Sanitary items for this worthwhile charity, this time we will also accept monetary donations.

We will be doing this throughout August so there will be two containers for the collection one in the Pergola and one in the foyer, if you are donating money please put it in an enveloped marked "Share the Dignity" would be safest to put this envelope in one of the collection plates during Mass.

Marian Valley Canungra—All are invited to celebrate a Special Birthday of Our Lady, at Marian Valley, Canungra on **Saturday 3rd September 2016** commencing 10am with Exposition, Rosary, Reconciliation, Holy Mass (lunch Avail). Eucharistic Procession and Divine Mercy Chaplet—Mass Celebrant: Most Rev Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, bishop of the diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. For those not wishing to drive a bus will leave St Francis Xavier Church at 8.15am. Fare \$20—bookings and info Ann 3282 0321.

Thanksgiving Mass—You are invited to a Thanksgiving Mass for **St Teresa of Calcutta** to be held at the Cathedral of St Stephen on **Saturday 10 September commencing at 11.30am**. Light refreshments will be served following Mass. Cathedral car park will be available.

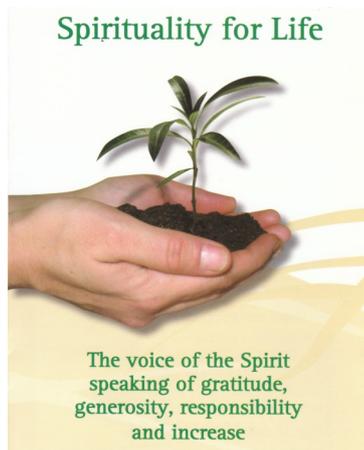
Humour 18 year old, Dan was walking home from a Halloween party at his friends house, when he heard a thumping noise behind him.

THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP. When Dan turned around he saw it was a coffin behind him.

Dan started walking quicker but the THUMPS were still right behind him. Soon Dan was running, the coffin started running to.

Now Dan was running faster than he had ever ran in his life but the coffin was still right behind him!

"HELP!" Dan screamed! He ran into his house and tried to slam the door but the coffin caught the door and started following him up the steps THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, Dan ran into the bathroom and grabbed the first thing he saw, cough drops, and threw them at the coffin....and of course the coffin' stopped.



Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it out at the service of others.”
 (1 Peter 4:10)

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” Luke 14:13-14 We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in

return – a raffle ticket, a dinner, or a chance to play golf. Yet, as Christian stewards we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven. (Accessed on 11th August 2016 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

The Ragman continued:

I wept to see the change in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps even to discover what drove him so.

The little old Ragman-he finally came to a landfill. He came to the garbage pits. And then I wanted to help him in what he did, but I hung back, hiding. He climbed a hill. With tormented labour he cleared a little space on the hill. Then he sighed. He lay down. He pillowed his head on a handkerchief and a jacket. He covered his bones with an army blanket. And then he died.

Oh, how I cried to witness that death! I slumped in a junked car and wailed and mourned as one who has no hope because I had come to love the Ragman. I sobbed myself to sleep.

I did not know-how could I know?-that I slept through Friday night and Saturday and its night too. But then on Sunday, I was awakened by a violent light.

Light-pure, hard, demanding light slammed against my sleeping face and I blinked and I looked and I saw the last and first wonder of all. There was the Ragman folding the blanket most carefully, a scar on his forehead but alive! And, besides that, so healthy.

There was no sign of sorrow or of age, and all the rags he had gathered shined for cleanliness.

Well, I lowered my head and, trembling for all that I had seen, I myself got out of the junk car and walked to the Ragman. I told him my name with shame, for I was a sorry figure next to him. Then I stripped myself of everything and I said to him with yearning in my voice, “Dress me. Make me new again!”

He dressed me, my Lord. He put new rags on me and I am a wonder beside him.

The Ragman! The Ragman! The Christ!.

Walter Wangerin, Jr.

(© A world of Stories for preachers and teachers—ed. William J Bausch Twenty-third Publications)



29 ORDINATIONS IN THE LAST 8 YEARS

The seminarians at Holy Spirit Seminary are truly humbled by the support that you give during the Annual Catholic Campaign.

The gifts you put toward the Campaign each September directly benefit the Holy Spirit Seminary, training the priests of the future to be missionaries of mercy.

Pope Francis says that, **“Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.”** Thanks to your prayers and your financial support, Holy Spirit Seminary in Banyo is preparing 15 more young men for the priesthood.

Give now 07 3324 3200 or catholiccampaign.com.au

