



## **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](http://stfrancisxaviergoodna.org.au)

Ph: 3818 0111 Fax 3818 1420 Email: [goodna@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto: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

**Third  
Sunday  
Of Advent**

**11th December  
2016**

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

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL.**

**THIRD RETIRING COLLECTION TAKEN AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND.**

**GOOD NEWS:** The greatness of John.

John the Baptist was a great saint. Jesus praised him highly: of all the children born of women, no one greater had appeared.

John was no bending reed who would sway with every passing breeze or popular fancy. Nor was he one to count the influence of political patronage. People flocked to him because they recognized him as a prophet, that is a man of God whose message came from heaven. It was centuries since they had a real prophet, a sure spokesman of God's will.

What did Jesus recognize in this rugged cousin? He could see the saint in him: the willingness to let go of self whenever God called him forward.

The story of John's life might easily have been the recipe for neurotic loneliness rather than sanctity. He was born an only child to aged parents. In so far as we can piece his life together, he went at an early age into the wilderness (*Lk 1:80*). This probably means that as a young boy he was sent to the Essene monastery near the Dead Sea.

John seems to have left this monastery to start his own ministry. His life was penitential and his message harsh: a ministry which might attract followers but not close friends. Again loneliness was his lot.

Once Jesus appeared on the scene, John handed over to him, utterly unselfish. "Look, there is the Lamb of God ... follow him." the motto of his life is given us by the evangelist John: "He must grow greater and I must grow smaller." (*Jn 3:30*) Again utterly unselfishness.

It was his unselfishness that gave him the moral courage to confront Herod over his scandalous marital affairs. The reward for his courage was a dark cell in the forbidding mountain fortress, Machaerus. Here he discovered a new depth of loneliness in the absence of his familiar companions ... the free wind, the fresh water, the pure honey and open sky.

Was there anything else that God might strip him of before he must lay his head on the block?

Yes, there was. John had to endure his very dreams being shattered.

Jesus, the one he had handed over to, was not producing the promised axe or threshing flail. The dramatic day of judgement which John had visualized was not coming about. It was John himself who was left threshing in the maelstrom of faith's dimness. So he reached out for help and sent messengers to Jesus. Jesus was confident that John's great sanctity would carry him through the storm of faith. His answer is gentle and calculated to draw John's mind back to the light of God's goodness. Works of healing are being performed: news of God is being proclaimed. 'Blessed is the one who does not lose faith in me.'

John, so highly praised as a man of God, measured up to the challenge. We can be sure that he let his own dreams die in order to be changed by God. "he must grow greater and I must grow smaller."

Silvester O'Flynn O.F.M Cap—the Good News of Matthew's Year.

**Christmas Carols and Sausage Sizzle** This coming **Thursday 15th December** we will be holding Christmas Carols in the Church at 6-30pm with a Sausage Sizzle and drinks for sale starting around 5.00pm. There will be practice for Carols on Tuesday 13th at 6-30pm.

**Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Audit** In June of this year the Archdioceses hired the services of an external company to audit a number of Parishes and we were one of those Parishes. A report on the results of all the Parishes was released to us this week. As a result a recommendation was all Ministers must hold a Blue Card and that they must sign The Code of Ethical Behaviour. We are very good in this area but still have a little way to go to be fully compliant. If you are a Minister in any of our Ministries and still do not have a Blue Card then can you please contact the office? Code of Ethical Behaviour Forms are in the Sacristy for those Ministers who are yet to sign please sign one and leave with Fr Roger or call into the Office as soon as possible.

### **Training Day for Ministers regarding Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.**

One of the requirements laid down in the Archdiocesan Policy, is that all ministers should attend a training session. The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer Mr Troy Tornabene has given us a number of dates when he is available to lead the training. If you have not attended a training session to date you will be expected to enrol in the next session.

### **Work in the School during the holidays.**

During the Christmas break a number of projects will be undertaken in and around the school. These include renewing the fencing on the oval and turfing the central section of the oval. Removal of asbestos from the Library and the Tomasi wing near the church. During this work there will probably be fencing and warning signs. Would all parents please ensure that your children are supervised at all times. There should be no children or adults wandering around the church or in the school grounds.

**Garage Sale.** During the working Bee last Saturday, a number of items were identified "FOR SALE". These include metal framed chairs and some plastic chairs which will be going for \$1.00 each. Also with the renovation of the Centre kitchen we have a Dish-washer and microwave for sale. Please contact the parish office if you are interested in any of the above items.



**Your help required.** A number of ministers have ceased to serve in the past few months. To lessen the load on the roster, we are looking for new readers, Special Ministers for during Mass and Special Ministers to the housebound. Can you please help? There will be a training session in the new year possibly on a Saturday.

We are in desperate need of cleaners for the Church of a Friday and someone to clean the toilets on a Monday morning.

**Christmas Raffle: Catholic Church Insurances** have once again donated a Christmas Hamper to our Parish for us to raffle with all proceeds raised going directly to our Parish. Tickets are \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. Drawn Sunday 18th Dec.

As the Church's own insurance company, CCI provides support to the Catholic Church and its community.

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For more information call **1300 655 003** or visit **[www.catholicinsurance.org.au](http://www.catholicinsurance.org.au)**

**A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols Wednesday, 14 December 7.00pm** St Stephen's Cathedral is pleased to announce the traditional carol service containing your favourite carols to sing, as well as Advent & Christmas music for massed choir. The service will be led by members of different choirs of the Cathedral—the Cathedral Choir, the Schola, and the Chorale. Free admission, retiring collection. Car parking available in the Cathedral car park (entry via Charlotte Street). Enquiries [cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au) telephone 3324 3030.

**Rosary** this Wednesday will be the last Rosary for the year. After Rosary there will be a little party in the pergola of the Church.

**Bit of Trivia** The text of **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** comes from Charles Wesley; its widely used melody is taken from Felix Mendelssohn, who was born into a Jewish family and brought up a Lutheran.

## Spirituality for Life



The voice of the Spirit speaking of gratitude, generosity, responsibility and increase



*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)

December 11, 2016 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” James 5:8*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to

be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was. (Accessed on 7th December 2016 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

## THE CALL – THE DISCIPLE’S VOCATION

The vocations of all Christians do have elements in common. One of these is the call to be a disciple. In fact, we might say that to be disciples – to follow Christ and try to live His life as our own – is the common vocation of Christians; discipleship in this sense is Christian life.

*Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response. A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship.*

**W**hat are you looking for? Jesus asks (two of John’s disciples). Rabbi, they say, Where are you staying? Come and you will see. They spend the day with him, enthralled by his words and by the power of his personality . . . The next day, encountering Philip, Jesus says ‘Follow Me.’ (See John 1:35-50.)

I realized that when my parents and my family, my teachers and my mentors, my pastor and my parish leaders, were calling me to do better, to share my gifts with others, to live as Christ lived, it was actually God calling me through all these people. I was being constantly called and constantly challenged to follow Christ in big and small ways. But this realization helped me to feel joyful about what had earlier seemed burdensome and difficult. I was being called just like James and John, Peter and Andrew, Mary and Martha, Paul, St. Francis, and Mother Teresa!

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### Questions:

Have you ever heard/felt ‘the call’ of Jesus?

What was happening when you heard it?

How did you know it was Jesus’ calling?

How did you respond?

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*When we begin with the far greater challenge of being a disciple of Jesus, stewardship becomes a response that is part and parcel of who we are and what we believe. Stewardship formation and education must begin with a radical call to be disciples of Jesus.*

*Archbishop Thomas Murphy.*

# PARISH NOTICES

## Dates for your Diary



Sun 11th Dec. Second Sunday of Advent  
 Mon 12th Dec. Divine Mercy prayer Group 6.00pm  
 In English.  
 Wed 14th Dec. Rosary Group 6.30pm  
 Thurs 15th Dec. Carol Service  
 Sun 19th Dec. Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Collections For Last Week

First ☺ ☐  
 Second ☹ ↓  
 ☺ ↑ = Income up on last week.  
 ☹ ↓ = Income down  
 ☺ ☐ = Income steady.

**Welcome to our Community!** Have you moved into our parish lately? We would love to hear from you. Please give the Parish Office a call on 3818 0111. If you call at the information point after Mass, a member of the Parish Council will give you a welcome and information pack. We hope that you will enjoy your time in the parish and join in our activities.



**For the Sick and housebound.** If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit from a priest or to receive Holy Communion, please let the parish office know and a visit can be arranged.

## Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



### Services times this week:

Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm  
 Sunday 7.30am Mass  
 9.00am Mass

### Weekdays

Monday No Mass  
 Tuesday 9.00am Mass  
 Wednesday 9.00am Mass  
 Thursday 9.00am Mass  
 Friday 9.00am Mass  
 Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass  
 Sunday 7.30am & 9.00am

**Reconciliation** Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

### Cleaning: 16.12.16 Laulu Family

If you would like to help out on this roster, please contact Pam Dodrill on 3288 4594. (Roster approximately once every eight weeks) The current Roster is available from the Sacristy. If you cannot honour your commitment please let Pam know.

### We Pray for the Sick:

Audrey Congreve, Colin Jackson, Sr Helen Stanley, Breda O'Sullivan, Ellen Parker, Rose Logan, Edna May Tourney, Keith Auld, Kathy McMonagle, Kevin Ward, Matthew Berwick, John Ward, Allan Peterson, Kathleen Doherty. Rachel Scriben, Stan Brown, Carmon Z, Nancy McCarrick, Kath McGrath, Maria Vink, Claire Curry, Phil O'Dwyer, William Ryan, Hudson McHardy, Hini Habchi, Jamie Teal, Jaiden Madasferi, Maureen Shackleton, Macey Ingham, Nada Payne, Carmel Vig, Rebecca Habraken, Sr Carmel, Wendy Marshall, Eileen Monaghan, Marge & Tom Robin, Lillian Morrison, Kath Gurdon, Frank Assange. (Some names have been removed from this list, so please contact us if you need these names back on. If you know someone who can come off the sick list please contact us)

### Anniversaries: 11 -17 Dec.

Margaret Meaney, Thomas Farrell, Denis Ralph, Allan Booth, Dulcie Neden, Doreen Toothill, Marie Thomas, Edna Stewart, Cecilia and Daniel Gorman, Father Ron Illidge.

### Recently Deceased: Michael Wagner.

## LOOP SYSTEM



The church Sound System at St Francis Xavier's is fitted with a Loop System. If you wear a hearing-aid set the control to the "T" setting to obtain a clear sound.

**A gift in your Will** can provide support for the many ministries of your Parish and ensure a legacy of faith for future generations. A gift in your will is a wonderful way to express your Catholic faith. After you have provided for your loved ones, please consider a lasting memory to your parish. Booklets available from Parish Office.



### Newsletters by Email.

If you would like this newsletter sent to you by email each week, simply send an email to good-na@bne.catholic.net.au title it 'newsletter' and the next week you should receive the email.