



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 0427 663 118

Fifteenth
Sunday
In
Ordinary Time

16th July
2017

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

GOOD NEWS: Soil of my soul.

Parable comes from a Greek word which expressed the picture of parallel movements. Lay this storyline along the story of your own life and see if you are losing your direction. A parable is a story that makes you do your own thinking.

The parable of the sower and the different kinds of soil invites one into a self-examination about ‘what kind of soil do I present to the seeds of the Kingdom?’

Guides to the Holy Land point out a little horseshoe bay as the place where Jesus got into the boat and taught the people on the shore. One can easily picture him pointing to the farmer on the upland fields scattering the seed with generous abandon.

A first batch of seed fell on a pathway. After the previous year’s harvesting, people would walk through the field and some well-trodden paths would be quite hard. Remember that in the Palestinian agriculture of that period, the seed was scattered before the ground was ploughed. By the time the plough arrived to open up the soil, birds had stolen the seeds from the well-trodden paths.

The picture of the well-trodden paths suggests a life which is hardened now under well-trodden routine. All freshness and vitality have been snatched away. A dreadful form of mediocracy has descended. Nominally we may be dedicated to some religious body and we may be surrounded by proven practices of religion, but mediocracy will squeeze out the life-blood and sap from our lives. We might dutifully recite ten psalms each day and never experience a word of prayer.

We can ‘say Mass’ (what a horrible expression!) or attend Mass every day but never celebrate the Eucharist.

We might confess our sins in number and detail without ever celebrating the work of reconciliation.

We read and hear the gospel until we virtually know it by heart, but has it the power of the living word of God in our lives—incisive, challenging, consoling or uplifting our lives each day? When mediocracy leads us down the well-trodden path, then we are numbered among those who believe with their lips but their hearts are far away.

The comfortable lifestyle of our age breeds mediocracy. T.S. Eliot made this observation many years ago in “Choruses from the Rock”:

‘Our age is an age of moderate virtue
And of moderate vice
When men will not lay down the Cross
Because they will never assume it.’

What mediocre life needs is a thorough ploughing up to make it receptive to the seeds of the kingdom.

Some of the soil, which received the seed, looked good on the surface, but there were stones immediately underneath. It promised well but proved shallow. We make resolutions and begin well, but once the cost of commitment is called for, our enthusiasm begins to wane. It is the price of saying ‘yes’, of making a weekly commitment, of giving time to a person or a project, of digging deeper into our resources of generosity or stamina.

In some people the stone that blocks the root is a hard lump of unforgiveness in the heart. It is not easy nor pleasant to recognize the grudges and grievances that we have held on to under years of self-justification.

What happens when the roots hit such a rock? Perhaps we do nothing, just opt out and let the momentum die. Or we dig up these hard rocks so that the next sowing will be in fertile ground.

In between doing nothing and the removal of the rock is a compromise policy: we apply a little water regularly, enough to help the plant to survive. But will it be a strong enough to bear fruit? It is the policy of personal survival and you meet it in all sorts of minimum versions of Christianity. Duty is done, but where is the growing, blossoming, fruitful life.?

And then there are the thorns that choke growth: the worries of this world and the lure of riches. The Lord comes knocking on our door and we cannot let him in. the sign says “House Full”. There is no space left because

We are preoccupied. The fascination of material things, the temptations of the flesh, or the curiosities of meaningless pursuits divert the energies of the mind from God. We allow ourselves be diverted from the kingdom of heaven on earth. It is not the central pursuit of our lives. We are being choked.

Lay your life along the lines of this story. There is no limit to what might emerge in our thinking. A parable is a spring that never dries up, a story that never dies.

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

Congratulations! Many thanks to all who made the celebration of the Confirmations with Bishop Ken Howell on Thursday. Twenty-nine youngsters received the Sacrament and today at the 9.00am Mass they will receive their certificates.

Minister's Preparation—Tuesday 18th July 2017

At long last we have been able to set a date for parishioners who wish to begin the ministry of Reader or Communion Minister. This year we are trying an evening rather than a Saturday afternoon. If you have given your name or would like to be considered for one of the ministries, please make a date in your Diary. Tuesday 18th July starting at 6.30pm. At this session we will have the paperwork that you need to complete as a volunteer in the Archdiocese. I hope you will give this opportunity to exercise your vocation as a Baptised Catholic some thought and offer your services.

COMING SOON Parish Youth Group Last month, a number of adults attended a Compulsory Leadership Training session, and as a result we can announce that there will be a Parish youth Group beginning in the parish. The first meeting for the age group twelve years and above, will take place on **Sunday 27th August** in the Parish Centre at **1.00pm**.

FIRST EUCHARIST Preparations begin this month with a meeting for the parents of children in year four and above of the school. The session will be held in the Church on **Sunday 23rd July** after the 9.00am Mass. Would parents who wish to have their children in the Preparation collect a form from the sacristy and return it as soon as possible. We will need a copy of the Child's Birth Certificate and a copy of the child and parent's Baptismal Certificate. If the youngster has just received Confirmation in the parish this year, we have the documents on hand.

Cleaners for the Church WANTED We are in desperate need of more cleaners for the Church. Do you have a couple of hours a month to spare? If so please consider volunteering to clean the Church. Cleaning is usually done on Friday after Mass but if that is not suitable and you can arrange with Fr Roger or the Office for entry outside of this time then that is fine so long as the Church is cleaned towards the end of the week in time for weekend Masses. For more information or to volunteer please contact Pam on 3288 4594 or the office on 3818 0111.

White Elephant Stall/School Fete Once again we have been asked to hold the White Elephant Stall at the School Fete which is on Sunday 27th August, 2017. If you are having a clean out at home please think of us to donate your unwanted items to. But remember it must be sellable so if you wouldn't buy it then don't donate it. Also no items of clothing, electrical items or books. If you have books the P & F may take those as they will be running a book stall. Don't leave till the last minute the fete is only 6 weeks away.

Share the Dignity Once again we will be collecting Sanitary items for this worthwhile charity. 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.

Catholic Mission Thank you for your support of the annual Propagation of the Faith appeal last weekend. As you listen to the Gospel for this weekend, please know that your contributions to the recent Catholic Mission appeal are very much like the seeds that fall on soil and which will produce an abundant crop. On behalf of those who will share in the fruits of your generosity, thank you!

David McGovern, Director, Brisbane & Toowoomba Diocese

Humour "The Way, the Truth, and the Light" Three obstacles that you must surmount when sneaking into the house at night.

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)

July 16th –Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.” - MATTHEW 13:22 Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities that you have no time for God? Stewardship is a lifestyle to be lived every day. It effects all the decisions we make. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week. (Accessed from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts> on 30 June,2017)

LIVING AS A STEWARD – CREATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Christians see human achievements as ‘a sign of God’s greatness and the flowering of his own mysterious design.’ (Guadium et Spes, 34)

God

settled humankind upon earth to be its steward – “to cultivate and care for it” (Genesis 2:15). This human activity of cultivating and caring has a generic name: work. It is not a punishment for or a consequence of sin. . . God’s mandate to humankind to collaborate with him . . . comes before the Fall. Work is a fundamental aspect of the human vocation. It is necessary for human happiness and fulfillment. It is intrinsic to responsible stewardship of the world.

At my local supermarket, there is a checkout clerk who is always smiling. The clerk even smiles to those who are mean, abrupt, difficult, in a hurry, pressured. Why I asked? Well, because this is my vocation! I know many of these people are hurting. At least I can try to make their day a little better, and maybe they will go on to be nicer to someone else in turn – their kids, their spouse, someone else in traffic.

Questions:

Do you see your work as a vocation?

In what ways could you make your job more of a vocation?

We must be faithful in using the gifts that we receive from God. It is easy to be faithful and appreciate the spiritual gifts God shares with us . . . But I must also be faithful to what I would call my personal possession. Stewardship challenges us to ask whether anything we ‘own’ is really personal. Whatever we ‘own’ impacts our own lives and the lives of others. Our possessions call us to a sense of *accountability and responsibility*. Just as God is faithful to us in ways we never dreamed possible, we must be faithful to God by daring to see the face of God in others. Stewardship calls us to a new sense of *collaboration with God* where we are accountable and responsible. *Archbishop Thomas Murphy*

PARISH NOTICES

Dates for your Diary



(Vigil Sat 6.00pm Mass) Sun 7.30 & 9.00am Mass
 Mon 17th July Divine Mercy Prayer Group 6.00pm
 In English.
 Tues 18th July Ministers' Preparation 6.30pm
 Wed 19th July Rosary 6.30pm
 Sun 23rd July 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

16th July, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

Psalm Response: Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

23rd July, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43



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

Cleaning: 21.07.17 Pam & Mitch Dodrill

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.

Help with Church cleaning is desperately needed please phone Pam for more information or to offer your help.

We Pray for the Sick:

Audrey Congreve, Colin Jackson, Sr Helen Stanley, Breda O'Sullivan, 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, Jaiden Madasferi, Maureen Shackleton, Macey Ingram, Nada Payne, Carmel Vig, Sr Carmel, Marge & Tom Robin, Lillian Morrison, Hans & Ursula Rennett, Bill McCarthy, Mary Hesse. (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: 16-22 July

Pietro Gaiulo, Bill Appleman, Barbara Meredith, Doreen Leslie, Gail Scotney, Barry McGrath, Marjorie Larter, James O'Neill, Philomena Bolton.

Recently Deceased: Michael Quickfall

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.