



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 1800 846 643 - Weekdays only .

Meetings: Fortnightly on Tuesday 7.00pm. Call 0427 663 118

**First Sunday
Of
Advent**

**3rd December
2017**

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

GOOD NEWS: *Watch and Pray*

Once upon a time, God, infinite, eternal and all powerful one, came down to meet us on the dusty roads of human life. In the flesh, Jesus Christ, god walked with us through our light and darkness, our joys and sorrows, our solitude and relationships. Scripture writers called it the 'fullness of time'. Things would never be the same again.

In Jesus Christ, God spoke to us in the human language that we can understand. His life warmly portrays god's love and concern for us. And yet the story is not complete. The journey stretches on until we fully share in Christ's glorification. That will be at the completion of life's journey. For the moment we are people on the way.

Advent opens the church's year by picking up the theme of our journey towards Christ who is coming back to meet us. We are not like wandering nomads who have no sure purpose or definite direction. We have the pilgrim's destiny with God. We travel forward on a road of unknown length until Christ will come again.

The focus of the first Sunday of Advent is on the Second Coming of Christ. The parable of the doorkeeper speaks of the master who will come back to the servants. The message for the servant is two-fold: 'Be on your guard and stay awake'... watch and pray.

One task of the doorkeeper's employment is to keep out unwanted visitors and intruders. Here the parable is a moral warning not to open our doors to the ways of sin. Each passing day we are to watch with the vigilant eye of the sentry to prevent any intrusions of the enemy.

The unexamined life is a city with no sentries on its walls. Anybody who is serious about living a spiritual life is advised to undertake a daily reflection on our situation. This means more than counting up the number of our faults. It involves an honesty about what motivates us in the things we do.

We are sometimes surprised when we recognize that some exemplary deeds are done out of very subtle, selfish motivation. We may be doing the right things only to be praised or at least recognized as virtuous, to impress others, or as a part of a self-seeking bargain with God. In daily reflection we guard against the intrusions of selfishness in our motivation.

The second task of the doorkeeper is to open promptly to all who have the right to enter. Applied to the spiritual life, this means a spirit of prayerfulness or sensitivity to God. The sensitive soul is awake with all the longing of the lover for the approaching footsteps of the beloved. But what is he like, this God-who-comes? In today's first reading Isaiah uses three very appealing names for God ... our Father, our Redeemer and the potter.

God is the Father who has created us with the potential to share in the divine life. God is the Redeemer who continues to pay the price of liberating us from slavery to incomplete forms of life. he offers us life to the full. And God is the potter who is ever crafting our lives anew. The present clay may be messy and, in our view, without meaningful form or beauty. But the divine craftsman can mould and fashion an amazing masterpiece in the twinkling of an eye.

God who is coming back the road to meet us wants to lift us up as his children, wants to liberate us and fashion us anew.

Do not think of the Second coming as so distant and unknown as to be irrelevant to the hurly-burly

of today's living. If we are spiritually vigilant and alert the future will draw us forwards towards God. Our hope will energize us by supporting us when we are weak and encouraging us to persevere.

Our lives are on a journey towards God who is reaching back to us this day and every day. So, be on you guard lest the ways of sin enslave your thoughts. And watch in prayer, vigilant and alert to the daily visitations of the Spirit to your soul.

The Master of our souls is coming. Watch and pray.

Silvester O'Flynn O.F.M. Cap—The Good News of Mark's Year.

Advent Fair at the Cathedral of St. Stephen: St Stephen's Cathedral Choir is holding their annual fundraising event ADVENT FAIR on SUNDAY, 3rd December, the 1st Sunday of Advent, from 9 a.m. in between masses, at the Cathedral Precinct.

Call For Donations of Useable Beds and Other Furniture.

The St Vincent de Paul society gives food, clothing and furniture free of charge to people in the community who ask for assistance because they are struggling to provide for their families. At this time we are asking for your kind donation of quality furniture, especially beds to help us meet an increasing number of requests.

For a collection from your home, please phone 1800 846 643.

Alternatively, you can deliver your donation during opening hours to:

- Ipswich—272 Brisbane Street Ipswich, Ph. 3812 2450
- Sumner Park—9 Jijaws Street, Sumner Park, Ph. 3279 1030

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal Weekend of 9th/10th December. Your donation will help the St Vincent De Paul conference to serve the needy in the parish this Christmas.

St Vincent de Paul NO Interest Loan Scheme

- Do you know somebody who is receiving a Centrelink payment or low income?
- Do they need a new household appliance or medical equipment?
- Have they lived at their current address for at least 3 months?

WELL, why not tell them about the St Vincent de Paul Society of QLD NO Interest Loans Programs. LOANS can be up to \$1200, with repayments as low as \$30 per fortnight and never pay interest.

If you would like more information on how to apply, please call SVDP Call Centre on 1800 846 643

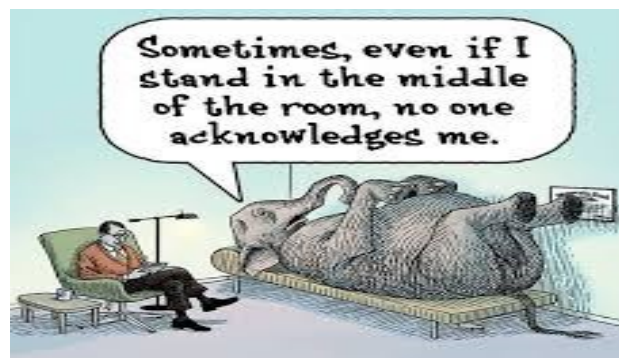
Holy Land Pilgrimage April 2018

The 14 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be led by **Fr. Joseph Vattaparambil CMI** departing on **8th of April, 2018.**

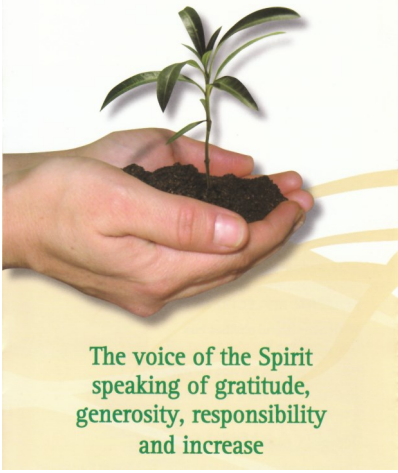
Featuring Petra, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Jericho, Masada, Mt Carmel, Mt Tabor, Mt Nebo & Jerusalem, for an **all-inclusive early-bird offer of \$5,190.** To avail the early bird offer you can reserve your seats with an initial deposit of \$500. **This offer ends on 15th of December, 2017.** For further details or any queries please feel free to **call Magi Pilgrimages on 03 8562 2246.**

Fr Rogers' Farewell Sunday 17th December after the 9.00am Mass in the Parish Centre. Please bring a plate of food to share, bring your own drinks. Tea and Coffee will be supplied.

Fr Rogers' last Mass here in the Parish will be the 9-00am on Sunday 31st December. Fr Tuong will be saying Mass Monday 1st January at 9.00am.



Spirituality for Life



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

3rd December 2017 First Sunday of Advent

“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” - MARK 13:33“ We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you. Accessed from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts> on 22nd November, 2017)

Working Bee: Part of getting ready for the Christmas celebrations involves a little work around the site.

Work to be undertaken includes:

- A tidy up of the back sacristy.
- Some trimming in the Garden.
- Painting of the front and back decks of the Parish Centre.
- Washing of walls in toilets.

Date of the clean up: Saturday 16th December.

Starting Time: 8.00am

Please meet outside the Centre for instructions and a safety briefing. Recently we had a review of Workplace Health and Safety and we were given specific instruction concerning Working Bees.

All volunteers must be over eighteen years of age.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Carol Service: Tuesday 12th December 6.30pm

Penitential Service: Wednesday 20th December 6.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9th & 16th December 5.00pm—5.30pm
(No Confessions on Sat 23rd December.)

Christmas Eve: 24th December
Carols 6.00pm Mass 6.30pm

Please note the Christmas Eve Mass does not count as a Sunday Mass for that weekend.

Christmas Day: 7.30 & 9.00am Mass

26th December: No Mass

PARISH NOTICES

Dates for your Diary



Church Repairs 3rd Collection this weekend
Vigil Sat 6.00pm Mass) Sun 7.30 & 9.00am Mass
Mon 4th Dec. Divine Mercy Prayer Group 6.00pm
In English.
Wed 6th Dec. Rosary 6.30pm
Sun 10th December Second 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.



3 December First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Psalm Response: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

10th December Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8



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 Mass

Cleaning: 08.12.17 Madeline and Anna

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, Macey Ingram, Nada Payne, Carmel Vig, Sr Carmel, Marge & Tom Robin, Lillian Morrison, Hans & Ursula Rennett, Bill McCarthy, Valerie Chew, Jim Wakling, Barbara Wakelin, Marianne Bergel, Jarrod Owens, Michelle Owens, Ellen Spicer, Hope Spicer. (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: 3 December—9 December

Audrey McCoy, Josephine Hurray, Don Stubbs, John McElroy Jnr, Ethel Whiteman, Maria Hoang Thi Hanh, Evelyn Blundell, Bill Lewis, Ula Burke, Patrick Molloy, Vincent Hoang Van Duc, Melchior Gruell, Margaret Watson.

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.