

PARISH NOTICES

Dates for your Diary



Sun 6th Dec. Second Sunday of Advent
 Mon 7th Dec. Divine Mercy Prayer Group
 IN ENGLISH. 6.00pm
 Wed 9th Dec. Rosary Group 6.30pm

Collections For Last Week

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

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.

6th December Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Pt 3:8-14; Lk 3:4-6;

Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

13th December Third Sunday of Advent

Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



Services times this week:

Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sunday 7.30am Mass
9.00am Mass
Benediction 4.30pm

Weekdays

Monday 9.00am Mass
 Tuesday 9.00am Mass
 Wednesday 9.00am Mass
 Thursday 9.00am Mass
 Friday 9.00am Mass
 Saturday 9.00am Mass
 Vigil 6.00pm Mass
 Sunday 7.30am & 9.00am Mass

Reconciliation Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

Cleaning: 11th Dec. Lulu Family

If you would like to help out on this roster, please contact Pam Dodrill on 3288 4594. (Roster approximately once every eight weeks)

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, John Doherty, William Ryan, Hudson McHardy, Hini Habchi, Jamie Teal, Jaiden Madasferi, Maureen Shackleton, Macey Ingham, Nada Payne, Carmel Vig, Rebecca Harbraken.

(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: 6th—12th December.

Evelyn Blundell, Christopher Moroney, Bill Lewis, Sergio Paris, Ula Burke, Patrick Molloy, Vincent Van Duc, Melchior Gruell, Paul zupanc, Margaret Watson, Margaret Meaney, Thomas Farrell, Denis Ralph, Allan Booth.

Recently Deceased

 Anne Everett , Kevin Galligan.

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 goodna@bne.catholic.net.au title it 'newsletter' and the next week you should receive the email.



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: stfrancisxavierparish.com

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

Parish Clergy: Fr Roger Burns PP. Fr Paul Chanh

Parish Secretary: Mrs Marie Hodges

St Vincent De Paul: For Assistance Please call 3010 1096 - Weekdays only . Meetings:
Fortnightly on Tuesday 7.00pm. Call 0479 163 335

Second Sunday of Advent

6th December
2015

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

ADVENT— A TIME OF WAITING

Advent is a time when we are invited to learn how to wait for the Lord who comes. The temptation is to eliminate Advent and move directly to Christmas. The moment that the Nativity draws near, it is time to begin partying. Christmas lights are turned on in our shopping malls and people greet each other with 'Happy Christmas' long before the Lord is born. We cannot wait. This is my excuse for not sending Christmas cards. Before the feast, I consider it too early, and after the feast everyone else considers it too late! Why must we wait? I am an impatient person, and I become very irritated waiting in queues, in shops, to check in at airports, or to board planes. On the eve of the Millennium, I was due to catch a plane from the Ivory coast to Angola. When I tried to check in I was told that it would be a little late. 'How late?'. 'Three days late.'

What can Advent teach us about waiting? First of all, we who are rich must open our eyes to the poor who have no option but to wait. We must share their patient vigil as they wait for a more just world, and their struggle to bring it about. We must try to liberate ourselves from the imperious desires of the rich, who sacrifice everyone for the instant satisfaction of their wishes. In Psalm 70, the poor cry out: 'But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer. O Lord, do not delay.' We struggle to diminish the length of their waiting.

Why does the Lord delay? Why do the poor still have to go on crying out for justice two thousand years after the coming of Christ? Why does not God bring about a world in which all of humanity may flourish now? Ever since Christ people have wandered around proclaiming that 'The end is nigh', and they have been proved wrong every time. Why must millions of people die of hunger in Darfur, suffer the impact of unjust trade and unpayable debt, and still the Lord tarries?

We do not know the answer to that but at the very least we must live with the urgency of the question. Any answer that looks like an explanation of vast suffering is likely to appear horrible, even blasphemous, as if so much human misery could be part of some monstrous divine plan. All that we can do in Advent is share in that clamouring of the poor for a better world and do all that we can do to hasten its coming.

Perhaps one tiny element of a response is in deepening our understanding of how God comes. One reason why our God takes so much time is because he is not a god. Our God is not a powerful, celestial superhuman, a sort of invisible President Bush on a cosmic scale, who might come from the outside. The coming of God is not like the cavalry galloping to our rescue. God comes from within, in our deepest interiority. He is as St Augustine said, closer to us than our jugular vein. God says in Jeremiah, 'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring forth from David' (23:5). God comes in our fertility and that cannot be forced. Pregnancy takes time.

During Advent, we practice patience as we wait and watch for the coming of the Lord. Like midwives gathered around the bed, we await the birth. But God's coming was not just in the birth of a child; it was the coming of a word. One might even say that it was the coming of a language.

It needed hundreds of years for English to evolve to the point at which Shakespeare might write *Hamlet*. The language had to be formed by poets and lawyers, preachers, philosophers and peasants, by nurses and grave diggers, before it was ready. English society had undergone a profound transformation before English could be fertile with Shakespeare's words.

In a similar way it needed thousands of years before there was a language in which God's Word could be spoken in the form of Jesus. We needed all those experiences of liberation and exile, of the building and demolition of kingdoms. We needed innumerable prophets and scribes and poets struggling to find words before Jesus could be born as the Word. The Word of God does not come down from heaven like a celestial Esperanto. It wells up from within human language.

Waiting for the coming of God is not then mere passivity. We do not only wait with the poor, we share their struggle. Also we must try to find ways of talking which are hospitable to the lives of the poor. We must evolve a consciousness, a way of seeing things, which does not shut them out. We must be attentive to the experience of the poor, so that together we gestate a language in which their hopes may find an expression. Then indeed we may have words into which the Word of God may come and find a home.

Timothy Radcliffe OP—Just one Year A Global Treasury of Prayer and Worship.



Jubilee of Mercy

Today in St Peter's, Pope Francis will strike three times with his pastoral staff, the Jubilee Door of Mercy, to mark the beginning of the Jubilee of Mercy year.

In St Stephen's Cathedral, Archbishop Mark will do the same at the Cathedral Jubilee Door of Mercy. It is through this door that pilgrims are invited to enter the Cathedral on their journey through the year.

Archbishop Mark writes: *'In recent times, we have seen merciless brutality as the innocent have been slaughtered. At such a time and in such a world, the Year of Mercy looks more necessary than ever—not just a gift but an urgent duty.'*

This Year is not necessarily about adding more to parish life. It is more about viewing everything in parish life through the lens of mercy—first the mercy that God constantly offers us and then the mercy that marks the lives of Christians as we seek to become "merciful like the Father" (Theme of the Jubilee Year).'

Christmas Carols in the Church On Wednesday the 16th December we will be having Christmas Carols in the Church at 7.00pm. Please come along and join in the joy of Christmas in the form of Carols and some supper after in the Parish Centre.

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.

Could we **PLEASE** have some volunteers from each of our Masses to sell the tickets at \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. As the Church's own insurance company, CCI provides support to the Catholic Church and its community. As part of their commitment to serve, CCI provides support to the Catholic Church and its community: For more information call **1300 655 003** or visit **www.catholicinsurance.org.au**

Children's Liturgy During the month of December there will be no Children's Liturgy due to Makerita having a well earned break. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Makerita for everything she does for the Parish and hope she enjoys her time with her family in W.A.

Thankyou to Christine Freeman for offering to do the flowers in the Church whilst Makerita is away.

Improvements continue! Many thanks to the workers who last Saturday gave of their time and skills in replacing the rotten timbers about the garden beds near the Presbytery. We were fortunate in being able to salvage the timbers from improvements around the school grounds. Many thanks to Mrs Lawson for allowing us to reuse the timbers.

Blessing of the buildings in the School. Last week, we were graced with the Archbishop's presence as he blessed the renovated school Library and the two multi purpose classrooms near the Prep. The children performed to their usual high standard concluding with an African Blessing for the Archbishop. The buildings add to the beauty of the school and will be greatly appreciated by the staff and pupils alike.

School Watch Once again you are asked to keep an eye on the school during the holidays. There will be some work being undertaken on the Tomasi Block near the Church. Building work is always attractive to those who want to take advantage of scaffolding etc. If you see anything suspicious please contact the Police first.

Storm Damage last Sunday



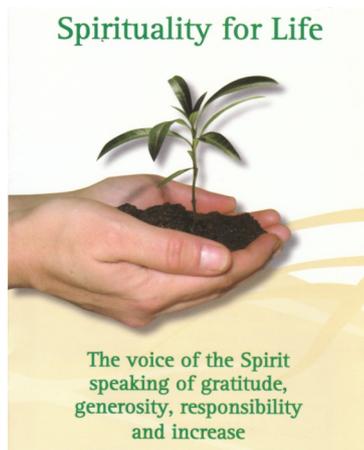
Unfortunately we were caught up in the damaging storm last Sunday night.

A couple of trees were badly damaged, one had to be removed and the large tree in front of the Presbytery had to be cropped.

Another reminder to us that there are always unseen costs attached to the upkeep of the parish.

Last week's collection was only eighty percent of what we need to scrape by. Please remember this and if it is possible, increase your giving to the parish.

If you would like to know how you can obtain collection envelopes or make payment by Direct Debit or Credit Card please contact the Office.



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 6, 2015

2nd Sunday of Advent

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” (Philippians 1:9-10)
 Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

Accessed on 13th November 2015, from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>).

THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

In the lives of disciples, something else must come before the practice of stewardship. They need a flash of insight – a certain way of *seeing* – by which they view the world and their relationship to it in a fresh, new light. “The world is charged with the grandeur of God,” Gerald Manley Hopkins exclaims; more than anything else, it may be the grandeur in all that is that sets people of the path of Christian stewardship.

Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response.

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Serve one another through love, bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 5:13, 6:2).

What is it that makes people grateful for Gods’ gifts – to see life in a whole new way?

For some it is a recovery from illness.

For others the birth of a baby, or the death of a loved one.

Others see God’s generous gifts in the beauty of the world that surrounds us, from the smallest flowers to the grandest vistas.

For me it is the amazing vastness of the universe – big almost beyond human comprehension. The power in the stars, the emptiness of the black void, the almost eternalness of the past and future of the universe.

I, with my life span (if I’m lucky) of 75 years, fade into insignificance in the face of all this. But God’s love for me, in creating me and all the universe, gives significance – and purpose to my life.

Christian Stewardship helps me connect my gratefulness for what God has created with my question about why I’m here: to be the good steward of God’s gifts, cultivate them for the Kingdom, and share them with others.

Questions:

Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ?

Then how will you become more aware that God has given you all you have?

Then how will you use the gifts God has given you to build up the Kingdom?

Then how will you share the gifts that God has given you?

My own experience with a long hospitalization made me aware – in way that I never dreamed possible - that God is the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all we have and are and will be. I am not the independent person without the need of others. I do not have all the resources the resources that enable me to have a quality experience of life.

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy