

# PARISH NOTICES

## Dates for your Diary



Sun 28th Feb. Third Sunday of Lent  
 Mon 29th Feb. Divine Mercy Prayer Group  
 IN ENGLISH. 6.00pm  
 Wed 2nd Mar. Rosary 6.30pm  
 Thurs 3rd Mar. Parish Pastoral Council 7.00pm  
 Fri 4th Mar. Stations of the Cross 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.

## 28th Feb Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7, Rom 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-22 (Year A)

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

## 6th Mar Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 (Year A)



### 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 Vigil 6.00pm  
 Sunday 7.30am & 9.00am

**Reconciliation** Sat 5.00 – 5.30pm

### Cleaning: 4th Mar. Maria and 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.

### 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 Habraken, Sr Carmel, Wendy Marshall.  
 (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: 28 February—5 March

Mary Waterson, Jim Lennon, Julietta Uela, David Leslie, Duncan Smith, Sr Eileen O'Sullivan RSM, James Sullivan, Marjorie Sim, Olga Milling, Graham Harper, Fr Brian Horton, Moira Hanley, Edward Klaptocz, Mary Powell, Pane Dupuy, Brian Bell, Norman Davies, Francis Wallace, Terri-Ann Keen.

### Recently Deceased: Luamo Leo Toleafoa

## 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: [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. 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

**3rd Sunday in**

**Lent**

**28th February**

**2016**

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



### **Good News: Rising Thoughts!**

Every story in John's gospel is an invitation to believe. At the end of the gospel he writes: 'these signs are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.'

John's style of writing is an invitation to raise up our thoughts and perspective to ever higher levels.

He writes like a skylark, circling over the one area but on ever higher levels of song. He begins the story with a very ordinary request for a drink of water and his song rises up through higher levels of thirst unto the belief that the Spirit of God is to be found poured into our inner souls.

In the woman's relationship with Jesus there is an ascending scale in the manner in which she addresses him.

Jesus is introduced to us in human frailty, tired and thirsty, dependent on the favour of another. The woman first calls him a Jew, but her tone of contempt is softened by a certain curiosity in her voice: 'What are you doing asking me a Samaritan for a drink?'

Soon she is growing in respect and she calls him 'Sir'. Then there is room for the question whether there is a greater man than Jacob, who gave them that well. At this stage she recognises that he, the beggar initially, is really the one who has something to give. So she begs the living water of him.

When her own life is revealed, she recognises that she is in the presence of a prophet, one who reveals God. Eventually she raises the possibility that he is the Messiah, the Christ, the promised, Anointed One. The answer of Jesus, 'I am he', is heavily weighted with the memory of God's name as revealed to Moses: 'I am'.

The titles have ascended from the initial mixture of contempt and curiosity to divine mystery. The woman's response is partial faith: 'I wonder if he is the Christ.' But even this partial faith is enough to make her want to share it with others. At the end of the story the people say of Jesus: 'he really is the saviour of the world.'

Elsewhere in the gospel John draws up our thoughts around the idea of wind (when speaking with Nicodemus), bread, light and life. His style suggests a simple way of contemplative prayer, a ladder ascending from earth to heaven.

Take some common, everyday object like bread, a stone, a flower, a leaf, a tree, a newspaper, an old shoe ... Anything. Let it tell its own story to you. Savour its properties in touch, colour, smell, shape, usefulness, fragility or solidity. Bring it to Jesus. Listen to him explain how this object of creation is his: for everything that exists is a word of the creating Father; and every word is contained in the Word. Invite Jesus to develop a parable especially for your life around this object.

'The kingdom of heaven is like ...this stone ... old Shoe'

John the skylark of heaven who sings over one small area, but rises ever higher on the warm current of air. If you learn from him how to let your thoughts rise up in contemplation you will discover the meaning of Jesus' words:

"The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of water inside him, welling up to eternal life."

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.** Today, our catechumens who were enrolled in the elect will face their first scrutiny during the 9.00am Mass. Please keep them in your prayers, their names are: Simon Couch, Scott Donaldson, Kayla Seery, Andrew Scully and Riko Vangalo.

**Children in Non-Catholic Schools and Sacramental Preparation** Children in year three and above are eligible for the reception of the Sacraments. If you have a child in a Non-catholic school and would like them to take part in the preparation this year, there are booklets available in the sacristy, with the dates of sessions. Enrolment form will be available on Sunday 13th March, and the first session for parents and candidates is on April 17th.

**Unexpected Parish Costs** As most house owners know there is always the possibility of costs arising which are unplanned. This month two such costs have arisen with regards to security of the Church and Presbytery. Early in the month, the alarm in the Church failed after a surge. The system we were told was out of date and required replacing to solve the problem. Last week, when we made enquiries regarding the expected changes in telephones and internet, we were again informed that our alarm system in the Parish Office, Presbytery and Parish Centre would not be compatible with the NBN. Recommendation, replace the system with a new version.

The total cost of updating the two systems is in excess of \$4,000. This again means that we ask you to consider your contributions to the collections at Mass. To remain with income not exceeding expenditure, we require \$2,500 a week income. Rarely do we reach that total, and as a result, we have not funds in hand to meet demands which suddenly appear.

With regards to the Parish Centre, at least two of the air-conditioners need replacing. We are looking into the costs for this and will inform you in due time as to what expense we are facing.

**Lenten practices** With Lent lasting six weeks or forty days, it is easy to let it pass without making an effort to do some thing. It is meant to be a time of reflection and recollection, the main element required is space. Choosing a time and place each day where you can be alone with God, to possibly open his Word and read a little scripture, to read the newspaper and identify a number of issues which you want to lift to God in prayer., all these are useful ways of entering into the Lenten experience.

On Fridays, there are Stations of the Cross, and there will be a Service of Reconciliation when we celebrate the Sacrament of Mercy at some time. Don't put off until you feel like it, that may never happen. Make a resolution to begin and don't forget to ask God for his help in keeping your resolution.

**Help Wanted** With Easter fast approaching we are in need of the little battery operated tea candles are you able to help us locate some. Usually these little candles can be found in the cheap shops but I need helpers to locate and purchase if possible. At the moment we do not have enough to hand out at the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass. Thank you in advance Marie.

**Lost Baby Bottles** Over the last couple of weeks some baby bottles with milk in them have been left at the back of the Church. If you have accidentally left a bottle behind it is in the Sacristy please collect.

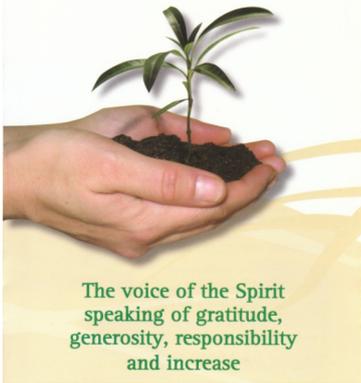
**Queensland Irish Choir** Invite you to their latest concert *Song for Ireland* on Sunday 20th March 2016, at The Brisbane German Club (416 Vulture Street, East Brisbane). Starting at 2-00pm –4-00pm Cost is \$15. Bookings: Jennifer Dunbar 07 3399 3129 or Mob: 0447 744 788. Email: [jennifer.dunbar@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifer.dunbar@hotmail.com).

**Correction of Sacramental Prep Dates:** The dates for sessions for the Sacramental Prep Programme have been corrected with regards to the sessions on Sunday 1st May—see notice board of church.

**Humour** Fr John had been advised by his doctor to lose 30 pounds or risk serious health consequences. The good pastor took his new diet seriously, even changing his driving route to the church building to avoid his favourite bakery. One morning, however, he arrived for Bible study carrying a gigantic devil's food cake. The class chuckled and chided him, but the good Father's smile remained cherubic.

"This is a very special cake," he explained. "I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious cakes, let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery.' And sure enough," he continued, "the eighth time around the block, there it was!"

## Spirituality for Life



*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)

### 3rd Sunday of Lent

*“He said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.’” (Luke 13:7)*

Are you like the barren fig tree? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return

with increase. Accessed on 18th February 2016, from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>).

## Welcoming Refugees and Asylum Seekers

A continuation of the information given last week.

### **Realities**

It appears that it will be some time before these 12,000 people arrive in Australia (though were small groups arriving near Christmas last year). Moreover, there has been discussion that full resettlement of all 12,000 new arrivals will extend beyond this financial year and well into the next financial year. Due to the reality of large Syrian and Iraqi populations in Sydney and Melbourne there is no doubt that a majority of new arrivals will be settled to make their way to these capitals due to these Australian connections. It is potentially the case that most regional areas in Australia will not see this cohort of new arrivals and that these new arrivals will be settled in areas close to capital cities that have the required settlement services and resources.

### **The support that parishes may be able to provide**

Given the realities above, there are still several ways in which parishes can harness the goodwill and generosity of their own parishioners, Catholics or other Christian Churches who wish to welcome refugees, if the opportunity did arise in the future to do so,

- ◆ Talk to your local parish priest about approaching local parishioners who have the energy and commitment to start a group who could welcome newly arrived refugees, temporary safe haven refugee visa holders or asylum seekers in the parish, if they were called to do so.
- ◆ Discuss how this group will function as a refugee welcome group, keeping in mind that the key is ‘preparedness and patience’ considering the reality that the parish may or may not meet up with newly arrived permanent or temporary refugee families, or asylum seekers in the near future.
- ◆ When coming together, this group might reflect on the Gospel’s teaching of our Christian duty to welcome the stranger.
- ◆ Identify parish resources such as schooling, free English classes, tutoring, St Vincent de Paul’s etc.
- ◆ While housing is the responsibility of settlement agencies and are provided through a recognised external housing provider, identify housing that might be made available to refugees already in Australia who are currently on temporary Safe haven Visas or asylum seekers who have had their cases finally determined and are waiting to be returned to their home country these persons have no ability to access government supported services in this regard).
- ◆ Encourage people to register as volunteers to provide English conversation, orient people to local community services, and negotiate transport.
- ◆ Convene discussion groups involving leaders of other faiths to help people to understand that Australia is a country that welcomes people of different faiths.
- ◆ Create a welcoming parish environment.

**The task is there, what we need is people to take up the challenge. ARE YOU ABLE?**