



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 0479 163 335

**Second
Sunday
Of Advent**

**4th December
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: Desert Sunday

The second Sunday of Advent might well be called Desert Sunday. In all three years of the Lectionary this Sunday is dominated by the challenging voice from the wilderness, John the Baptist. Matthew's presentation of the Baptist is sparing: bare as the desert itself. Nothing is said of his background. In due course he appeared. That's all. And his message is straight from the shoulder. No attempt to woo an audience or to sell himself: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

Repent ... sort out your life ... clear up your vision ... reassess your values in life. And then do something about improving.

In the ru-up to Christmas we need a desert day.

A desert day to counteract the commercial pressures and the sentimental hype that make Christmas the season of materialism, gluttony, drunkenness and shallow entertainment. Take a sharp look at today's Sunday newspapers to see what they are saying about Christmas. What values are reflected there? The religious meaning of Christmas?

I've never been to the real desert. I rely on what others have written and I try to imagine the experience of living there. I fancy that the sheer struggle for survival would so dominate every other consideration that you'd quickly sort out the wheat from the chaff of life: the essential from the unnecessary: the things that last from the things that pass away.

I think that if you had companions in the desert you'd very quickly see through all the masks and pretences of life. You would know the sincere friends from the insincere. Others would see through you too. And You'd probably see yourself with stunning clarity for the first time ever.

I asked an Australian sister what her first experience of a northern winter and Advent meant to her. The discomfort of coldness and damp were too obvious to mention. She spoke of her new experience of light in the contrasts of winter twilight. And of the stark shape of trees as never seen before. And the sharp contour of housetop, hilltop and horizon.

Desert days ... winter twilights ... experiences that invite the mind to reflect on the essential thrust and shape of life, stripped of its adornments and masks.

Top sort out the wheat from the chaff. To repent. To prepare a way for the Lord who daily reaches out to come into our hearts.

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

Most reflection offered about Advent are set in the Northern hemisphere where the day are short darkness prevails and the cold winds of winter surround people. The starkness of winter encourages people to stay at home and look forward to warmer times. Here in Australia, the brightness of summer and the heat of the day,. Makes it difficult to relate to hymns which speak of the 'bleak mid winter' or scenes of snow on Christmas cards. The season does not matter, what does is what it is all about: the coming of God as Man to reveal for us the way to the kingdom, and the promise of an eternal brightness at the end of time.

SVDP Christmas Collection. Because of the Annual Peter's Pence collection which is to be taken this weekend, the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will be taken at all Masses in Church **weekend of 10/11 December**. Your donation will help the Saint Vincent De Paul conference to serve the needy in the parish this Christmas.

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 Scholl 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 this 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 small fridge and a Dish-washer which are for sale. Watch out for details as to when these will be available or contact the parish office if you are interested.



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 also need cleaners for the Church of a Friday and someone to clean the toilets on a Monday morning.

Position Vacant Boonah Catholic Parish invites application for the part-time position of **Parish Secretary.**

(4 hours a week, 1 day (preferably Tuesdays but negotiable))

Full position description is available from the Boonah Parish Office Ph. 07 5463 1057 or Email

Boonah@bne.catholic.net.au To apply for this position, please email or send your current resume and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the position to Boonah@bne.catholic.net.au or to the Parish Priest, PO Box 20, Boonah, QLD 4310. Applications should include the name of two (2) referees one of which preferably should be a Parish Priest.

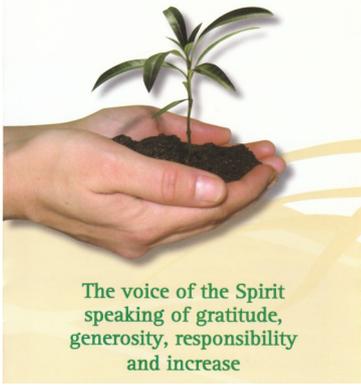
Commencement date is ASAP. Applications close on 16th December 2016

Christmas Carols and Sausage Sizzle 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.

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. As part of their commitment to serve, CCI provides support to the Catholic Church and its community:

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)

4th December 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” Matthew 3:10 Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given

us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season? (Accessed on 25th November 2016 from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts>)

THE CALL – THE CALL OF STEWARDSHIP

Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, one is challenged to go further in accepting and loving God’s will. Being a disciple is not just something else to do . . . it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion. – *A Disciple’s Response. A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*

As Vatican II remarks, all Christians are “bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech,” that new life of faith which begins in baptism and is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in confirmation.” (Ad Gentes, 11)

There is a woman I know who I see receiving communion at Mass every week. She positively glows! I didn’t know who she was, so I asked a fellow parishioner about her. While she has all the ‘attributes’ of our lives – a family, a job, a mortgage – my fellow parishioner told me she has stripped her life of all unnecessary encumbrances.

Though prosperous, she doesn’t work to get rich, she works to make a living and because she has found a job she likes. Though involved in our parish and the community, she doesn’t do it for public acclaim, but because she cares about helping others. Though she is a boss at work, a parent and spouse at home, an elder sister in her family, her direction of those for whom she has responsibility is merely to share wisdom, provide guidance, and support others.

She has found happiness in the ultimate paradoxes: that totally giving over control of one’s life to God is the truest liberation, that giving up your life brings eternal life!

Questions:

How is stewardship a part of being a disciple?

What does it mean to you to be a steward of the Church?

Do you see your baptism as creating a responsibility to follow Jesus?

Stewardship means I am not in control. It means the gifts I take for granted will not always be mine. It means that when it comes down to the basic gifts of life, love, faith, and relationships, what I possess and who I am makes little or no difference. *Archbishop Thomas Murphy.*

