



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

24th Sunday

in

Ordinary Time

17th September

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: From Vengeance to Forgiveness.

The bible traces a development from wild, primitive vengeance to the fullness of Christian forgiveness.

In the early pages of Geneses we come across Lamech, who threatens all and sundry that his policy is to wreak unmitigated revenge on any foe: 'Sevenfold vengeance is taken for Cain, but seventy-sevenfold for Lamech.' (*Gen 4:24*)

Moses represents a great breakthrough in setting the standard of no more than equal vengeance: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

While the standard was a great advance in civil relationships, it did not do far enough for the kingdom of Jesus. So in the sermon on the mount he set forth the kingdom ideal: 'you have heard how it was said: "Eye for eye and tooth for tooth." But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance ... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' (*Mt 5:35,43*) But there was still room for misunderstanding and limitation of the ideal. Peter needed clarification. "Forgiveness, Master, right! But how often? Seven times?" Surely seven, the holy number, will be the definition of heroic virtue. Nobody could be expected to offer more.

'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

The wheel of thought has turns full circle from the vengeance of Lamech. Primitive lust for revenge has been replaced by divine compassion now living in our hearts. Divine love will not be stopped by any obstacle, it will not be poisoned by and infection of hatred.

How well Peter absorbed the message may be seen in these noble words: 'Never pay back one wrong with another, or an angry works with another one: instead pay back with a blessing ... No one can hurt you if you are determined to do only what is right; if you have to suffer for being good, you will count it as a blessing.' (*1Pet 3:9, 13-14*)

Christianity is a movement of divine power sweeping through the world. The same power of the Spirit which filled Jesus is the power of the kingdom upon earth. It is determined to do good and refuses to be infected with the poison of another's evil. It gives one the will to keep on loving even in the face of hurt or wrong. Forgiving means the sort of giving that never ceases, no matter what rebuffs it faces.

St Paul describes what a kingdom-person is like: 'Since God loves you, you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.' (*Col 2:13-13*) Paul puts his finger on the two secrets of forgiveness: the appreciation of God's compassion towards us and the humble remembrance of our own faults. St John Chrysostom preached that there is nothing that makes the soul so truly gentle and compassionate, as the continuous remembrance of our own sins.

Compassion makes one realise that the wrong-doer is in pain even if he does not consciously recognize it. He needs our pity and understanding far more than out bitterness. If somebody treats you roughly, you can be sure that you are not his only victim. There is bitterness and hurt inside his soul and the last thing he needs now is another enemy: his own self-hatred is an enemy that accompanies him morning, noon and night. Compassion moves us to pity instead of bitterness. They say to understand all is to forgive.

The other source of forgiveness is an appreciation of God's compassion towards us. We cannot too often repeat the psalm: 'The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.'

Christian charity is more than a natural human response to a situation. Christy is a supernatural virtue: that means that it is a gift from God. The charity which can overcome evil is the gift of God's Spirit living with in us.

In the Our Father we pray for such a deep experience of God's forgiveness in our own lives that we will be enabled to pass on forgiveness to those who have offended us. When we find it very hard to forgive somebody we must humbly acknowledge that we have reached the limits of our own powers. Our only recourse then is to prayer, to invite God to take our understanding and our will. We should ask God: "How do you love this erring child of

Yours, Lord?" For God surely does love the sinner. And we should pray that we might be agents of this creative love of the Father, the redeeming love of the Son, and the sanctifying love of the Holy Spirit.

O divine Creator, love your straying child through me.

O divine Redeemer, reach out your saving hand through me.

O divine Spirit, take me and use me to renew this person who has hurt me.

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

Announcement of new Parish priest. Last Friday, Archbishop Mark wrote to the parish announcing the appointment of Fr Vu Dinh Tuong as the next Parish Priest of Goodna. Fr Tuong will take up his appointment on 1st January 2018. We hope he will be able to visit the parish before then and meet some of the people. I am sure that he will have the support of the parishioners. Please keep him in your prayers.

Towards the Marriage Vote Archbishop Mark has produced a two page reflection of the Same-Sex Marriage plebiscite. The papers for the vote were due to be posted out on September 12th. The Archbishop has stated the Church's teaching and his own views. It is up to each one of us to respond by voting. If Catholics and other concerned people do not vote, the danger is that a small minority of the country could impose on all their different view. A copy of the reflection is enclosed in the newsletter.

Conflict in North Korea. Negotiations and sanctions may make a difference, but the hearts of people may remain unchanged. When ever there is a conflict, there is a tendency to support our own view and consider any other view as wrong.

As Christians we are called to invite God into all that affects us, for good or evil. He is the only one who can change hearts. If everyone affected by the conflict turned to heaven for help, rather than relying on their own power and might, I am sure that we would see changes. Let us try to daily, lift up all involved to the Father in prayer, and allow his will to be done in all things.

Retirement farewell for Fr Brian Fitzpatrick

Fr Brian is retiring at the end of September.

Everyone is invited to attend his farewell at the parish of St James Coorparoo, 165 Old Cleveland Rd, Coorparoo.

Next Sunday 24th September with 9am Mass, and celebration afterwards in St James Hall.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass Couples celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary (or longer) and their family and friends, are invited to the annual Mass with Bishop Brian V. Finnigan at the Cathedral of St Stephen. The Mass will be celebrated on **Saturday 7th October**, commencing 10.00am. Light refreshments will be served in the Hanly Room, following the Mass and for catering purposes you are asked to RSVP to cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au or telephone 3324 3030 by Friday 29 September. The Cathedral car park will be available.

Youth Group starts this weekend 1.00pm Sunday 17th September in the Parish Centre.

Your gift is the answer to someone's prayer

Thank you!

It's a great joy to see the support coming in from generous people like you all across the Archdiocese. You are helping to grow those ministries that are central to the Church's mission of mercy.

On behalf of all those who will benefit from your generosity, we hope that your life is enriched, knowing your gift is far greater than your donation.

Your prayers and your gifts are a shining light to others.

A special thank you to those who were able to make an ongoing commitment at this time - your faith in the future of the Church will bear fruit for many.



2017 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
Our Church - Our Mission - Our Responsibility

There is still time to give a last minute gift:

Give now 07 3324 3200 or catholiccampaign.com.au

menAlive Catholic Man Breakfast Series

Where: -Tattersalls Club, 215 Queen St, Brisbane

When: - Thursday 5 October, 7am to 9am

Guest Speaker: - Mr Richard Rymarz is a leader in Catholic education and his most recent books *Creating an Authentic Catholic School and Religious Education in Australian Catholic Schools* are highly regarded.

Cost: - \$45 per person (\$450 per table of ten)

Transport: - Walking distance from Central Station or \$10 parking at Queen St Parking or Wintergarden (Tickets validated at Tattersalls)

Bookings: - email details to des@menalive.org.au

Humour Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

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 response-able for all these varied graces of God, put it out at the service of others.” (1 Peter 4:10)

September 17, 2017 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s” - ROMANS 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He wants you to use the gifts He has given you. “Accessed from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts> on 2nd September, 2017)

JESUS WAY – THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

In Jesus’ teaching and life, self-emptying is fundamental. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather in setting aside self, He is filled with the Father’s will, . . . The Beatitudes and the rest of the Sermon on the Mount prescribe the life-style of a Christian disciple. Although (the lifestyle of a Christian disciple) does not suit worldly tastes, the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God.

Stewardship – A Disciple’s Response. A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship.

How blest are the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.

Blest too are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those who are persecuted for holiness sake, the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are they when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

(Matthew 5, 3-11)

My parents were great examples of giving – they gave of themselves to each other, and they gave of themselves to others: me and my brothers and sisters, their parents, our parish, the poor in the community. However, my folks claimed none of the credit. They said they were just following the example of Jesus and the call of Jesus; and this is how they wanted us to live as well.

Questions:

How did your parents (or other family members) set an example for you of Jesus’ giving?

To what extent are we called to live as Jesus did?

To give up everything we own and preach the Gospel?

To give up our lives?

To confront those who are obstacles to belief in God?

To be a disciple of Jesus is to embark on a spiritual journey which asks every person to walk with the Lord, to imitate the pattern of Jesus’ life, to follow His example of service to others. It involves the willingness to take up the cross, to endure the difficult, to be willing to give up one’s life for others, only to discover the rich paradox of reward which comes from discipleship. *Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy USA Catholics: are we our Brothers’ and Sisters’ Keepers? (from Chicago Studies, April 1991, Volume 30 #1)*

PARISH NOTICES

Dates for your Diary



(Vigil Sat 6.00pm Mass) Sun 7.30 & 9.00am Mass
Mon 18 Sept. Divine Mercy Prayer Group 6.00pm
 In English.
Wed 20 Sept. Rosary 6.30pm
Sat 23 Sept. Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sun 24 Sep 23rd 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.

17th Sep 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Psalm Response: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

24th Sep 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24; Mt 20:1-16



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: 22/9/2017 Pam & Mitch

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, Valerie Chew, Robert Combes. Barbara Wakelin, Marianne Bergel. (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: 17-23 Sept.

Betty Douglas, Bernard Carr, Melile Purcell, Frances Elmore, Julia Thaggard, Roderick Burns, Neil Cansdale, Dorothy O'Dwyer.

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.