



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

Second Sunday
Of
Advent

10th December
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: *A Cry from the Wilderness*

In Ireland this Sunday is dedicated to temperance. Appropriately John the Baptist challenges our preparations for Christmas. We have reached the stage when one must state the obvious about keeping Christ in Christmas. These are weeks when people are bombarded with consumeristic pressure, the hectic round of parties, the frantic search for presents (as if my present can ever be an adequate substitute for my presence). Even Sundays are absorbed into the shopping spree.

You can read in the newspapers how well-known personalities will spend Christmas. How few, if any, will delve into the significance of the coming of a Saviour. For many it will be a nostalgic trip across the fields of childhood. Christmas is quickly reduced to sentimentality once we fail to keep Christ at the centre of it.

It is sad when Christmas reverts to being no more than the pagan festival which breaks up the darkness of winter: if we did not have Christmas we would have to invent some excuse for a break. I have great sympathy with true paganism which attempts to relate to the invisible spirit within all forms of life. The trouble with paganism is its inability to celebrate goodness and beauty. Pagan celebrations all too easily turn into orgies of undisciplined behavior, ugliness and violence.

Modern paganism celebrates in orgies of eating and drinking: orgies of spending beyond all sensible family budgeting: orgies of TV addiction which, like a vampire, sucks the vitality out of people and makes passive zombies. It is a wise decision to dedicate this Sunday to temperance.

John the Baptist strides into our liturgy and he challenges our preparation for Christmas. He is clad in the traditional garb of the prophet, hairy and unkempt. There is a primitive wildness about him, from beyond the edges of civilization, he is uncompromising and challenging. He has never been to a supermarket or department store for he depends upon primitive providence for his locusts, wild honey, berries and roots. He will never be a guest on the popular TV chat show for his very presence would tear apart the hypocrisy of the system. He dared to speak of sin.

But what a stunning affect it had on people! "All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him." As they listened to him each one got in touch with his/her primitive self which had long been hidden under the expectations of etiquette of civilisation.

This voice that cried out from the wild called up their own untamed forces, showed up their inner contradictions (like Paul's 'I fail to carry out the things I want to do and I find myself doing the things I hate') and made sense of the shadows which accompany every light.

It is from the dark, untamed areas within us that monsters of life come up ... like the temper which goes beyond control, the sexual hunger which expresses our incompleteness, brutal aggression, the crippling fear of failure, the dark terror of loneliness, the choking parasite of envy. In the preaching of the Baptist people found the courage to be honest: so they confessed their sins. And that was good news.

We must stand out today with John the Baptist at the edge of civilization lest we be totally sucked into the currents of a modern, pagan Christmas.

Paganism knows not the Saviour. It cannot cope with our primitive wilderness. So it drags people down into orgies which grow out of these untamed energies.

The good news of Christianity begins with the Baptist's call to recognize these unredeemed areas in us and to admit our need of a Saviour. We will appreciate the cure only when we admit the disease.

Who then will be able to celebrate Christmas? Only those who, in Advent, admit their primitive, untamed areas ... their sinfulness. They will appreciate God's gift of Saviour.

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

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

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 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

School Watch Once again you are asked to keep an eye on the school during the holidays. If you see anything suspicious please contact the Police.

Cleaners for the Church We are in need of more cleaners for the Church as some of our volunteers have had to give up the cleaning so we now have a shortage.

Cleaning is usually done on a Friday after the 9-00am Mass and usually 2 people, so maybe you and a friend please phone Pam Dodrill on 3288 4594.

Message from Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Instead of his usual Advent Pastoral Letter, Archbishop Mark has distributed a message concerning the future after the Same Sex Marriage Bill was passed in Parliament. A copy of the letter is included in this week's newsletter.

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

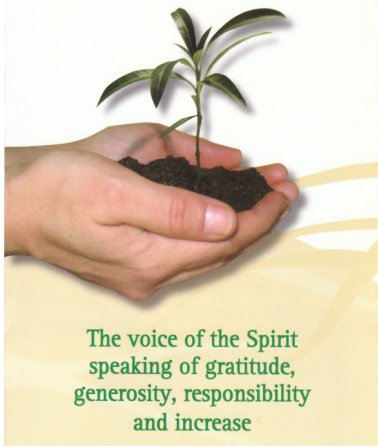
does not count as a Sunday Mass for that weekend.

Christmas Day: 7.30 & 9.00am Mass

26th December: No Mass

Please don't forget the working bee this coming Saturday at 8.00am.

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)

10th December 2017 Second Sunday of Advent

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - MARK 1:3 We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too. Accessed from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts> on 30thNovember,2017)

THE CALL – RESPONDING TO THE CALL

Jesus’ call is urgent. He does not tell people to follow him at some time in the future but here and now – at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances. There can be no delay.

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

Jesus told (the rich young man), “If you seek perfection, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven. Afterward come back and follow me.” Hearing these words, the young man went away sad, for his possessions were many. (Matthew 19, 21-22)

A big stumbling block for me was ‘impulse buying.’ It wasn’t buying stuff on TV, but it was walking through the big ‘warehouse stores’ (you know the ones). I had my shopping list (which my spouse had generously put together for me). But there were always so many things that would be *nice* to have! I’d inevitably end up spending about a hundred dollars more than I had planned. And I wouldn’t use what I bought very much (and sometimes never!) My spouse says that the road to bankruptcy is paved with impulse buying. I’ve learned though that the road to generosity is easily followed when it is mapped out – when it is planned. So, though I still feel the desire for things I want (but don’t need) now I stick to my shopping list, just like I plan my giving to the Church and charity.

Questions:

When you hear the above Gospel reading, do you feel called to ‘give it all away’?

Do you feel called to give up anything?

Have you ever heard these words and actually given something away that was keeping you from following God?

Satan assembles his junior apprentices looking for fresh ideas of how to populate hell.

One apprentice raises his hand and suggests, “I have an idea. Tell them there is no heaven.” Satan isn’t happy with that. He says sarcastically “We’ve tried that, much as we try to tell people there is no God, but people understand in the deep recesses of their stupid heart that there is, so forget it.” A second apprentice raises his hand and says “Well, tell them there is no hell.”

Satan says, “We’ve tried that too, and it won’t work. Sooner or later people realize that mass murderers can’t wind up in the same place as Mother Teresa.” Finally, a third apprentice raises his hand and says slowly, “Then tell them - there is no hurry.” And Satan smiled.

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy

With Christmas approaching and we find things that we have not yet done, there is always the danger that we turn to spending more. Spare a thought for those who are struggling to make ends meet, or having enough just to get by.

PARISH NOTICES

Dates for your Diary



(Vigil Sat 6.00pm Mass) Sun 7.30 & 9.00am Mass
 Tue 12th Dec. Carols
 Wed 13th Dec. Rosary Group 6.30pm
 Sun 17th December Third Sunday of Advent
 Sun 17th December Fr Roger's Retirement PARTY

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.



10th December Second Sunday of Advent

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

Psalm Response: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

17th December Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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: 15.12.17 Mitch & Pam

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: 10-16 December

Allan Booth, Dulcie Neden, Doreen Toothill, Irene Fenelon, Edna Stewart, Cecilia & Daniel Gorman.

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.