



## **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.**

**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

**Third Sunday**  
**Of**  
**Advent**

**17th 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: *Function of the Baptist***

Since Mark is the shortest of the gospels, the lectionary for Mark's year borrows some supplementary passages from the gospel of John. Last Sunday we heard mark's passage about the Baptist and today we are introduced to him through the evangelist John.

John tells us nothing of the primitive appearance or fearsome message of the Baptist. He leads us straightaway into the theological controversy about his identity his role and his right to hold a public ceremony of initiation.

Whenever John writes about the Baptist it is noticeable how he clearly places him in a subordinate role to Christ. Some commentators hold that, among the people to whom this gospel was originally addressed, was a community of the followers of John the Baptist, who had not accepted Christ. Hence the constant emphasis in this gospel on the secondary role of the Baptist.

We must catch the significance of the thrice repeated answer of the Baptist, 'I am not'. This is in contrast to the seven great 'I am' statements which the evangelist accords to Jesus. The Baptist disclaims all important names: 'I am not the Christ ... nor Elijah ... nor the Prophet.'

The word which is used to describe the Baptist is witness. His role is to point a way from himself towards the Other, the One more worthy by far. He is not worthy even to be his slave, opening the strap of his sandal. In this gospel the greatness of the Baptist is manifest in the utterly unselfish way that he hands over to Jesus. He says that it his joy to be the friend of the bridegroom and to hand over the bride to him. 'he must grow greater, I must grow smaller.' (Jn 3:30)

John the Baptist is the witness ... Jesus the reality, standing among them though as yet unknown. John is the voice ... Jesus if the Word. 'Take away the word and what is a voice?' asks St Augustine. 'When it conveys no meaning, it is just an empty sound. A wordless voice strikes the ear, but it does not make the heart grow.'

John is the lamp ... Jesus is the light. The lamp awaits the light.

Like John the Baptist, we are asked by God not to be anything beyond ourselves. I am not ... and need not pretend to be ... the Christ, nor the great Elijah, nor the Prophet. The Great one stands in our midst, lives in our souls, though still largely unknown and unrecognized.

Our task is to offer ourselves, like John, to be how witness, his voice and his lamp. We are to recognise in faith his presence within us. We can hear the message repeated elsewhere in today's liturgy. From Isaiah we catch the opening line: 'the spirit of the Lord has been given to me.' And Paul, in the second reading, says, 'Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of God with contempt.'

It is the Spirit of God who will give the word to the voice we can offer: and give God's light to our lamp.

John the Baptist challenges us to let go of false claims and every vestige of pride. His was the road of humility which hands over totally to Christ. the way to greatness is the road which starts from knowing our nothingness. Then we can let God be God. Then we let Jesus be to us what his name means ... Saviour.

'He must grow greater and I must grow smaller.'

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

### **Penitential Service Wednesday 20th December 6,30pm.**

In the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas, it is very easy to be distracted from our spiritual preparation. Come along on Wednesday for a reconciliation Service and allow God to put some of the finishing touches to your preparation. We will be using the Second Rite with scripture, an examination of conscience and a communal act of repentance. There will be the opportunity for individuals to make a confession after the service. If you have committed grave sin, then you must make an individual confession. Please remember that the small venial sins are forgiven with a simple act of contrition and each time we begin mass with the Penitential Rite.

**Carol Service** Many thanks to the small band of 21 parishioners who turned out to join their voices in praise on Tuesday.

### **Ministers for Christmas Services**

If you are able to offer your services as a minister at one of the Christmas celebrations, please sign up on the list in the pergola (PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

## **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**

**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.

### **St Vincent de Paul Appeal**

**WOW!** A wonderful thank you to the generous people of St Francis Xavier Parish and School, our Christmas Appeal total to date is \$2050-00.

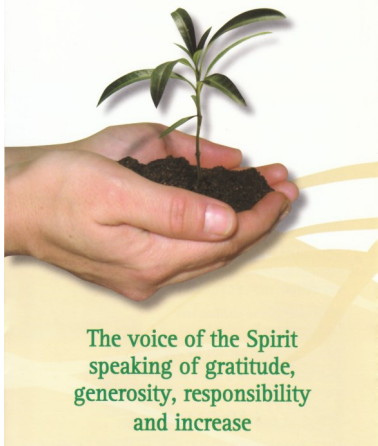
### **A Personal Thank You**

We would like to take this opportunity at Christmas time in thanking everyone who has said prayers for our beautiful Grandson, Hudson. Hudson is a thriving little three year old and should I say this in our Politically Correct society but he is a real little boy. He loves trucks, dinosaurs and being outside digging and getting messy. He was bon on ANZAC Day 2014 at 2 days old, he suffered 3 brain bleeds, we were all devastated. With the help of the Specialists, Doctors and Nurses at the Ipswich Hospital, Hudson got through and keeps reaching and surpassing all his milestones. He still needs annual check-ups at the Lady Cilento hospital but the Specialists are very happy with his progress.

Our family believe that through all the prayers Hudson received from our St Francis Xavier Community, Hudson has become the little man we know and love today. He is still on our prayer list here at St Francis and we still do appreciate prayers, we will keep you all informed to how he is going but from the depth of our hearts, Thank You and may you and yours have a Holy, Happy and Safe Christmas.

GOD BLESS FROM THE McHardy Family.

## 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)***

### **17th December Third Sunday of Advent**

*“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 - 18* This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations. Accessed from <http://archstl.org/stewardship/page/bulletin-inserts> on 12th December 2017)

## **JESUS WAY – THE STEWARDS REWARD**

By their worthy deeds in this life, people also make a limited but real human contribution to building up the kingdom. They do so with an eye to present happiness and also to the fulfillment, which the kingdom – and themselves as part of it – will enjoy in the life to come.

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

*Peter was moved to say to Him ‘We have put aside everything to follow you!’ Jesus answered, ‘I give you my word, there is no one who has given up home, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children or property, for me and for the gospel who will not receive in this present age a hundred times as many homes, brothers and sisters, mothers, children and property – and prosecution besides – and in the age to come, everlasting life.’ (Mark 10: 28-30)*

I am constantly in awe of the seeming paradoxes that run through Christ’s message (I think that is why it rings so true – who would preach a message so contrary to the ways of this world but God himself?).

The more we give up for God (to the church and community, of time and treasure), the more we receive from God! And not just in the next life, but in this life too.

I’ve found my friends who practice Stewardship as a way of life say they have found the meaning and purpose of life: serving others and giving of themselves. They are the happiest and most fulfilled people I know (certainly more so than those who’ve focused on getting as many material goods & toys as they can).

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### **Questions:**

Why should we do good here in this life?

What should you do best in God’s kingdom on earth to prepare yourself for God’s kingdom in heaven?

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Thank God our time is now! Stewardship is an enterprise that invites us into an exploration of a new world – an exploration into God. Which one of us can dare resist this incredible invitation from a loving and gracious God? *Archbishop Thomas Murphy*

# PARISH NOTICES

## Dates for your Diary



(Vigil Sat 6.00pm Mass) Sun 7.30 & 9.00am Mass  
 Wed 20th Dec. Penitential Service 6.30pm  
 Sun 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 Rosary and Divine Mercy are having a break.

## 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 December Third Sunday of Advent**  
 Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
 Psalm Response: My soul rejoices in my God  
**24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 2Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38.



### 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	No Mass see below
Friday	9.00am Mass
Saturday	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	7.30am & 9.00am Mass

### Cleaning: 22.12.17 Jim & Oliver

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: 17-23 December

Fr Ron Illidge, Norman Beardman, Teodorico Caracal, Gordon O'Donohue, Felice Pastro, Antonis Stevenson, John McGrath, Joseph Vu Van Ngon, Bonifacio Cajés, Leonardo Oblino, Constance Swales, Monica Pelu, Judy Harris, Arlyn Tirant, Kath Daininth, Denis Cavanagh.

### Recently Deceased: Kim Zaklan, Bp John Gerry

**Bishop Gerry's requiem Mass is on Thursday 20th December beginning at 11.00am in St Stephen's Cathedral Brisbane.**

### 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.