



**ST
FRANCIS
XAVIER
CATHOLIC
PARISH**


OUR PARISH MASSES						
Weekday					Saturday	30 th December
24 th	Dec	Sun	6.30pm	Christmas Carols	4.30pm	Reconciliation
			7.00pm	Christmas Vigil	5.00pm	Mass
25 th	Dec	Mon	9.00am	Christmas	Sunday	31st December
26 th	Dec	Tues	9.00am	Mass – St Stephen	7.00am	Mass
27 th	Dec	Wed	9.00am	Mass – St John	9.00am	Mass
28 th	Dec	Thurs	9.00am	Mass – The Holy Innocents		
29 th	Dec	Fri	9.00am	Mass		

4 th Sunday of Advent	Year B	24 th December 2023
 <p>Unpack the Message The Annunciation tells us that, we humans, can't directly hear God's voice. God talks to us through God's angels. God sent the angel Gabriel to bring God's message to Mary. The message is God's message; the angel is a messenger. The angel appeared to Mary in a promoted village, her private home. God didn't choose a popular, powerful, well-known person, but chose a young, ordinary, humble, and unknown girl to be the mother of God. In her Magnificat, God's grace awakens her to know that humility is God's way. <i>'He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness...He has put down the mighty from their thrones.... but has sent the rich away empty'</i> Lk 1:52.</p> <p>Mary had quietly dedicated herself to serving God in a single lifestyle. The angel said to her, <i>'Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you'</i> Lk 1:28. Mary couldn't understand the message. She wondered what the greeting could mean and asked for clarification. The angel unpacked the greeting, <i>'You shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus...The Lord will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his reign shall have no end'</i> Lk 1:31-33.</p> <p>The announcement foretells what Jesus shall do to God's people. First, <i>'He will rule over all the nations'</i> implies He is king of the universe. Second, <i>'His reign shall have no end'</i> implies that He will gather people to live in his kingdom and his kingdom has no end. The rest of St Luke's gospel slowly unpacks this Good News message. Mary is <i>'full of grace and has won God's favour'</i> Lk 1:28. Her life was not free from grief and mourning; but blended with pain and sorrow. Simeon summed up her suffering very well in one single sentence, saying <i>'A sword will pierce your own soul'</i> Lk 2:35. She was able to bear all of it simply because she believed <i>'the Lord is with you'</i>. She would not</p>	<p>bear pain and endure sorrow alone, but with God and for God's people. When suffering and sorrow, tragedies and pain happen, we tend to lose our focus on God; but project self-pity on ourselves. This makes us wonder about God's love. When our faith in Jesus is weakened, and when our love for him is dimmed; we think our suffering is a sign of punishment for something we have said or done. We have a wrong image of God. Instead of having a loving God, we have a god of vengeance. Mary accepted pain and sorrow through faith and love for God. She recalled and pondered on Gabriel's greetings: <i>'Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you.'</i> This graces her strength to endure whatever the Lord asks of her, because <i>'The Lord is with her.'</i></p> <p>Hearing the message, Mary asked the angel for clarification, but she had some sense of it. She understood: God became one of us, to live amongst us and to gather us into his kingdom of love and grace. Second, God allows us to take part in God's plan. God is the main power to carry God's plan; and allows us to be an instrument in God's hands. In this way, God makes a connection between each individual cross to his own cross. Jesus comes to share and bear our sufferings, and pains, and that would give meaning to our pain and suffering. His Cross, and his crown of thorns give meanings to ours. Jesus once called his disciples to take up their own cross to follow Mat 16:24.</p> <p>At Christmas, we give gifts in the hope that they will bring joy to others. Gifts do remind us about the love made visible we have received. Christmas is the celebration of the gift of God's only Son given to us in the person of Jesus. We celebrate the gift of life because Jesus comes to give us life and eternal life. God gives us not just a part of Jesus but the whole person. Learn from Mary, say 'yes' to God, and receive the whole person of Jesus.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Fr Vudinh Tuong Parish Priest</p>

WEEKLY INFORMATION

Merry Christmas!

A very warm welcome to all visitors to the parish over the festive season. We pray for safe travel for all those who are travelling during this period. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped throughout the year in different ministries – wishing you all a Blessed Christmas.



If you are experiencing any symptoms such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, please stay home and contact your health care provider for advice

WEEKLY INFORMATION

Dates for your diary

1 st	Jan	Mon	9am	New Year's Mass – Mary Mother of God Followed by cuppa with Fr. Mkude
5 th	Jan	Fri	9am	Healing Mass

Please note that the parish office will be closed from the close of business on Friday 22 December 2023 and reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

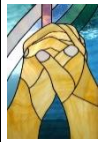
Responsorial Psalm

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will for me done.
Alleluia!

PASTORAL MATTERS



Prayer for the Sick

Kim Shadwell, Jackie Ledger, Amy and Reagan Whiteman, Sarah Kathleen Jones, Phil O'Dwyer, Peter Eddy, Almira Ann James, Finley McHardy, Nyaweir Ring, Kylie Herbert, Tony Ryan, Elisapeti Pati, Amanda Harding, Margo Jane Higgins, Cameron Auld, Louis Galea, Trent Andrews.

Reborn in Eternal Life 25th – 31st December

Elizabeth Mahulik, Elizabeth Allison, Mildred McGrath, Millicent Sharman, Lusia Aiavao, Grace Ferguson, James Allison, David Wood, Eileen Power, Georgina Pearson, Anbele Siruriene.

Reading – The Holy Family 31st Dec. 2023

1 st Reading	Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3
2 nd Reading	Heb 11:8, 1-12, 17-19
Gospel	Lk 2:22-40



Baptism at St Francis Xavier, Goodna

Bookings for January are now closed. The next Baptisms will be 18th February 2024. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Recently Deceased Kathleen Gurdon (née McCarthy), Jacqueline Panaotie, Frances Stubbs, Marion Mahoney.



Loop System The Church is fitted with a loop system. If you wear a hearing aid, set the control to the 'T' to obtain a better sound.

WEEK 4 ROSTERS - THIS WEEK – 24th DECEMBER 2023

Flowers	Tien & Nhu		Cleaning	Tien & Nhu		Yard	n/a
1 st	5pm	Bruce Larter	2 nd	5pm	Owen Ross	Ciborium	5pm Julie Aiavao
Reading	7am	Joan Sitcheff	Reading	7am	Anna Timu		7am Kolio Timu
	9am	Kisa Senio		9am	Paulo Lauvao		9am Elaine Walters

WEEK 5 ROSTERS - NEXT WEEK – 31st DECEMBER 2023

Flowers	Kisa Senio		Cleaning	Kisa Senio		Yard	n/a
1 st	5pm	Kerry Ellis	2 nd	5pm	Lina Kalolo	Ciborium	5pm Ipolito Kalolo
Reading	7am	Eddie Radke	Reading	7am	Theresa Greig		7am Amelia Teomatavui
	9am	Leituala Family		9am	Sosefo Masalu		9am Angela Vaoiva

Ministers should arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of Mass, or their role will be reassigned on the day.

WEEKLY INFORMATION

Welcome Fr. January Mkude CSSp



We welcome our new Parish Priest, Fr. Mkude, CSSp, who will celebrate his first Mass with us on the 1st January 2024, at 9am. Fr. Mkude was ordained on the 12 May 2011, and served as Parish Priest at South Hedland from 2014 to 2021, and Associate Priest at Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Bray Park from 2021 to 2023. During his time at South Hedland, he also looked after Port Hedland parish, and St. Cecilia's School, during a period of illness of the Port Hedland parish priest. Fr. Mkude originally hails from Tanzania, a country known for Africa's highest mountain, and for having the largest population of any country located entirely south of the equator. Fr. Mkude will soon be joined by another member of the Spiritans congregation very early in the new year. The Spiritans are an order of Priests, Brothers and Lay Associates who are dedicated to evangelisation, and the alleviation of poverty.



St Francis Xavier Primary School
Goodna
Kids who care

Our location: 6 Church Street, Goodna QLD Australia 4300

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PARISH CONTACTS

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Parish Clergy: Fr Vudinh Tuong PP
Parish Secretary: Katherine Qualisiefski (Tues - Fri)
Safeguarding Rep: Suzanne Fitzgerald
lsr.goodna@bne.catholic.net.au
Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9am to 3pm
07 3818 0111 or goodna@bne.catholic.net.au



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We are committed to Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount. Please see our website for our Safeguarding and Whistleblower policies. StopLine is a confidential, independent provider of whistleblowing services available to all parishioners on **1300 304 550** or AOB@stopline.com.au.