DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Welcome to 2020: I hope, and I pray this year will be filled with many blessings for our Parish and the many people who make up our Community. Thank-you for all you do to contribute to our great Parish!

We began the Church year with the foundations of our Christian life; our baptismal call to preach the word of God. The last part of today’s Gospel reading, about Jesus calling his first disciples, is displayed in a painting in the Sistine Chapel, ‘Calling of the Apostles’ by Domenico Ghirlandaio. In the artwork, The Sea of Galilee spreads out behind Jesus, who is front and centre. Several towns line the shore and remind us of Capernaum, where Jesus lived and near the area where he called his first followers.

Two apostles kneel in front of Jesus; another pair stand behind him. Their gestures and postures reveal their interior attitudes. One apostle crosses his arms in acceptance while another prayerfully looks up at Jesus. The fourth seems to look away. “Are you sure you want me?” The fourth appears to look away. “Are you sure you want me?” The fourth seems to look away. “Are you sure you want me?” The fourth seems to look away. “Are you sure you want me?” The fourth seems to look away. “Are you sure you want me?” The fourth seems to look away. “Are you sure you want me?” The fourth seems to look away. “Are you sure you want me?”

The call of Jesus is real. He may not ask us to leave behind our business or family, but he does ask for the same totality of trust and following. The result of fully saying yes to this call is what the first reading proclaims: “You have brought them abundant joy / and great rejoicing; / They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest...” (Isaiah 9:2). The Joy of the Gospel that Pope Francis proclaimed in his 2013 apostolic exhortation is exactly this: that joy that comes from a sincere and generous yes to Jesus’ call to be a disciple.

As Australians we have seen and experienced the generousity of many through the tragedy of the bushfires - as we celebrate Australia Day today, may we in the Ipswich Catholic Community continue to be sincere and generous in our call today to build our faith Community. The call each of us have is to be credible and integral disciples - this call is real! Have a good week,

Stephen ofm

FLOCKNOTE, A NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE

Our weekly newsletter email is moving to Flocknote; our new communication tool. For anyone not currently receiving Stephen’s weekly email please use the link below to subscribe.

ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews

Our Digital News has more information than what we currently print in our paper newsletter so don’t miss out!

Benjamin Leschke

SACRAMENTS & PROGRAMS

Our Parish offers the Sacraments individually and through a series of programs for children, teenagers and adults. Please contact the Parish Office for further details on 07 3281 2133

PARISH OFFICE TEAM

Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM sbliiss@bne.catholic.net.au
Associate Pastors Fr. Thomas Zaranski Fr. James O’Donoghue
Pastoral Associate Bernadette McAndrew 0488 008 817
Administration Staff Maree Coyne, Kathy Lund, Rosalia Risati, Bernadette Lenihan
Pastoral Assistant & Safeguarding Rep Benjamin Leschke 0427 966 156
Safeguarding Information ipswichcatholic.com/safeguarding
lsr.ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH OFFICE

Elizabeth Street, Ipswich 4305
Mon & Tue 8:00am - 3:30pm | Wed 1:00pm - 3:30pm | Thu & Fri 8:00am - 3:30pm
07 3281 2133 | ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au | www.ipswichcatholic.com

BUSHFIRE LEAVING COLLECTION

This weekend we have a leaving collection to raise much needed funds for those effected by bushfires. Please help if you can!

Australia Day

Year A

26th January 2020

"We acknowledge the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which we call the Ipswich Catholic Community."
### Our Parish Diary

**Online Diary – ipswichcatholic.com/events**

#### Monday 27th Jan: Weekday in Ordinary Time
- **Australia Day Public Holiday** - Office Closed
- 7:00am **“No Mass, St. Joseph’s, North Ipswich”**
- 7:00pm **“No Mass, Mass, Mater Dei, Sadliers Crossing”**

#### Tuesday 28th Jan: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor
- 9:00am Mass, St. Mary’s, Woodend
- 11:00am Funeral Prayers, Kathleen Lewis, Warrill Park Chapel

#### Wednesday 29th Jan: Weekday in Ordinary Time
- 9:00am Mass, St. Mary’s, Woodend
- 9:30am Mass, St. Brigid’s, Rosewood
- 5:00pm Prayer Group Meeting, Parish Office

#### Thursday 30th Jan: Weekday in Ordinary Time
- 9:00am Mass, St. Mary’s, Woodend
- 9:00am Mass, St. Joseph’s, North Ipswich

#### Friday 31st Jan: St. John Bosco, Priest
- 7:45am Meditation Group, Parish Office, Woodend
- 8:30am Penance, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
- 9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
- 9:30am Exercise Class, Mater Dei, Sadliers Crossing

#### Saturday 1st Feb: Weekday in Ordinary Time
- 4:15pm Penance, Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
- 4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
- 5:30pm Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
- 5:00pm Penance, St. Mary’s, Woodend
- 6:00pm Mass, St. Mary’s, Woodend

#### Sunday 2nd Feb: The Presentation of the Lord
- 7:30am Mass, St. Joseph’s, North Ipswich
- 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid’s, Rosewood
- 8:30am Mass, St. Mary’s, Woodend
- 10:00am Baptisms, St. Mary’s, Woodend
- 4:00pm Mass, Minka Place, Ripley
- 6:00pm Mass, St. Mary’s, Woodend

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### Australia Day Weekend - Special Collection

Archbishop Mark Coleridge and the Australian Bishops have asked that special collections be taken up on Australia Day weekend to support bushfire-affected communities. Money raised from this collection will support the Vinnies’ bushfire appeal.

Parishioners wishing to donate individually and receive a tax-deductible receipt can donate at vinnies.org.au. Thank you to those who have already contributed to support affected communities.

We are also called to pray for those affected, especially those who have lost loved ones, for those fighting the fires and for an end to the ongoing crisis. Prayers and other resources can be found at catholic.org.au/bushfires.

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“**Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free; We’ve golden soil and wealth for toil; Our home is girt by sea; Our land abounds in nature’s gifts Of beauty rich and rare; In history’s page, let every stage Advance Australia Fair. In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair.**”
ST. MARY’S COLLEGE IMMERSION TRIP - CAMBODIA (Margareta Lemon)

There is a Buddhist teaching that states “Great suffering gives rise to great compassion. Great compassion gives rise to peace.” This was a recurring theme for the St Mary’s College immersion team who travelled to Cambodia from the 30th November – 14th December 2019.

Cambodia has a rich and fascinating history, yet when many of us think Cambodia we think of the horrific and tragic era of the Khmer Rouge regime. During the four-year long regime, it is estimated that between 1.5 and 3 million people died. All the people living in the towns and cities were forced to move to the countryside to work in the fields. If you were an intellectual, wore glasses or spoke another language you were seen as a threat to the regime and were executed. Following this horrendous period in their country’s history, the Khmer people have remained optimistic and have worked to rebuild their nation.

The immersion team witnessed this work for justice, reconciliation and peace through the various non-government organisations we partnered with. Organisations that are run by both lay and religious people working at the grass-roots level to not change the Khmer people’s way of life but rather empower the Khmer people to reach their full potential through education, loving kindness and compassion.

During our visit to the Cambodian Peace Gallery in Battambang, Nharm, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge regime and founder of the gallery gave us a guided tour. He opened our eyes to see how civil society in Cambodia is advocating for peace and working to empower the people after such a tragic history in collaboration with inter-religious organisations. We also discovered the significant role that the Cambodian army plays as peacekeepers in other conflicts around the world, sharing the lessons they have learnt. “A peaceful community makes a peaceful nation. A peaceful nation makes a peaceful world.”

After 13 days of immersing ourselves in the Cambodian culture we left with full hearts and fond memories of the people we had journeyed with. In this short time, we learnt so much, not just about the Khmer people, their way of life and the history of their country, but also what it means to be women of mercy. We were each challenged by this experience to be a voice for the voiceless and respond to the needs of those around us. St Marys College is be very proud of the sixteen students, young women of Mercy, who stepped out of their comfort zone daily with compassionate hearts to meet new challenges as they engaged with the local children and youth. They had prepared for this immersion over twelve months and confidently communicated with their smiles and enthusiasm. It was a privilege for us to be accompanied by Sr Mary Lawson on this journey. Her presence enriched our experience immensely. We would like to thank the parishioners of the Ipswich Catholic Community for supporting us both financially and through prayer.

In the words of the Cambodian monk and world-famous humanitarian, Maha Ghosananda,

“The Suffering of Cambodia has been deep. From this suffering comes Great Compassion. Great Compassion makes a Peaceful Heart. A Peaceful Heart makes a Peaceful Person. A Peaceful Person makes a Peaceful Family. A Peaceful Family makes a Peaceful Community. A Peaceful Community makes a Peaceful Nation. A Peaceful Nation makes a Peaceful World. A Peaceful World makes a Peaceful Universe.”

ST VINNIES - ST JOSEPH’S CONFERENCE

Over the period October to December we assisted 180 families (292 adults and 259 children) with $6,998 in food vouchers, $3,365 in donations (food, clothing and furniture). We were also able to deliver 35 Christmas hampers worth $2,200 to families and single people.

We were only able to offer this assistance because of the generosity of so many - parishioners of the Ipswich Catholic Community, CSI North Ipswich, the Staff of the Orthopaedic Ward IGH and to Fr’s. Stephen, John and Thomas for their ongoing support. To all we extend our heartfelt thanks and that of our companions. May God bless you all.

Lyn Molenaar, President

ST VINNIES - ST MARY’S CONFERENCE

Between October and December 197 families were visited, $5,989 were received in kind donations (blankets, clothes, furniture), there were $10,676 - Food Vouchers; totalling $16,665. Also, in December we were able to deliver 85 Christmas hampers worth $18340 to families in the Ipswich community. This was only possible with the overwhelming contributions and support of the St Mary’s and St Edmund’s Colleges as well as the Leichhardt, Rosewood and St Mary’s Primary Schools who provided not only food but also many gifts for the children. Again, a very big thank you to our generous benefactors.

Paul Cervetto, President
NEWS AND INFORMATION

St. Edmund’s Old Boys Association – The Annual General Meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at the Pender House, St Edmund’s College, Arthur Street Woodend. All enquiries to be made to Andrew McGrath on 3389 6858 or 0438 164 452.

World Community for Christian Meditation Australia (Queensland) - invites you to join us for a Reflection day with two modern Mystics; Evelyn Underhill & John Main. These "modern mystics" have reclaimed the riches of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition for ordinary people in everyday life. Come along and be inspired by them! Saturday 29th February 2020 from 9:30am - 2:30pm at The Fort, The Passionist Community, 199 – 219 Fort Road, Oxley. Suggested donation $10; BYO lunch and journal for reflection. Gabby Nelson toga@bigpond.net.au

Christian Religious Instruction - provides opportunities for students to: QUESTION LIFE: asking questions is the key to learning, EXPLORE VALUES: exploration brings deeper comprehension, and DISCOVER FAITH: discovery leads to meaningful conclusions. Attend a volunteer training day on Thursday 30th January at Catalyst Church. Contact Suzie Overell 0412 875 412.

Important Message - If you have children attending State Schools in our area - please make sure you TICK the YES Box on the enrolment form, if you wish your children to attend Religious Instruction during School hours. This is a great opportunity for us to show the children how God’s love shines on each one of us and on the whole world. Our CRI Catholic coordinator is Aileen Kelly 0438 113 857.

FACTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA
• Australia is the world’s 6th largest country by area.
• Due to its large size and isolation from the rest of the world, Australia is sometimes known as the ‘island continent’.
• The Australian Aboriginal people arrived in Australia about 50,000 years ago or even earlier and The Aboriginal people did not think that the land belonged to them. They believed that they had grown from the land, so it was like their mother, and they belonged to the land.
• Australia has over 750 different reptile species, more than any other country in the world.
• Australia hosted the 1956 (Melbourne) and 2000 (Sydney) Summer Olympics.
• The estimated population in Australia for 2020 is a staggering 25,549,300 people.
• The Dutch governor, van Diemen, sent Abel Tasman on a voyage of discovery and he found Tasmania, which he named Van Diemen’s Land.

Southern Cross Care - are looking for someone to assist with hemming new lace curtains for a small fee. Please contact Sue Mullins on 07 3288 9955.

Community Forum - You are invited to share in a Community Forum, “Care For Our Common World - Living Laudato Si……..Think Globally, Act Locally.” Saturday February 15th 2020 from 9:00am - 1:45pm at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, 70 Appleby Rd, Stafford. Expressions of Interest: Please Contact Stafford Parish via stafford@bne.catholic.net.au or 07 3356 7155.

We pray for the firefighters and emergency workers, and we pray for the victims and families for the lives, homes and businesses destroyed by fire. We pray for the burnt land and death and injury of our animals. We pray for rain, and we pray for healing. May we experience God’s power and love amidst the tragedy!

OUR SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Principal</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s, Woodend</td>
<td>Mr Mike Quinn</td>
<td>07 3281 1998</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pipswich@bne.catholic.edu.au">pipswich@bne.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph’s, North Ipswich</td>
<td>Mr Nicholas Constable</td>
<td>07 3201 6188</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pnthipswich@bne.catholic.edu.au">pnthipswich@bne.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Brigid’s, Rosewood</td>
<td>Mr Duane Wann</td>
<td>07 5464 1563</td>
<td><a href="mailto:prosewood@bne.catholic.edu.au">prosewood@bne.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt</td>
<td>Mr Kurt Dutney</td>
<td>07 3812 1077</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pleichhardt@bne.catholic.edu.au">pleichhardt@bne.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s College</td>
<td>Mrs Judith Finan</td>
<td>07 3432 5444</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admincentre@stmarys.qld.edu.au">admincentre@stmarys.qld.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Edmund’s College</td>
<td>Mr Ray Celegato</td>
<td>07 3810 4400</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secmail@sec.qld.edu.au">secmail@sec.qld.edu.au</a></td>
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Safeguarding our Community - ipswichcatholic.com/safeguarding