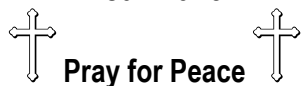


Year 2019



Pray for Peace

Parish Website:

www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

Parish Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stjosephsbrackenridge

Parish Email:

bridge@bne.catholic.net.au

**3rd Sunday of Advent
15th of December**

Liturgical Calendar

Today:

Year A. Mass prepared by Group 2.

Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-6,10. Psalm 145. James 5:7-10.
Matthew 11:2-11.

Next Week 21-22/12.

Isaiah 7:10-14. Psalm 24. Romans 1:1-7.
Matthew 1:18-24.

Mass Times:

Bracken Ridge/Bald Hills – Sat. 6pm. Sun.
7:30am & 9am.

Brighton – Sat. 5pm. Sun. 7am.

Sandgate – Sun. 9am. & 5pm.

Zillmere – Sat. 6pm. Sun. 7am. 9am. & 5pm.

Reconciliation:

Every Sat. 5:15pm to 5:45pm and before all
weekend Masses.

Weekday Mass or Liturgy: 9am.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Readings:

Mon. Num. 24:2-7,15-17. P.25. Matthew 21:23-27.

Tue. Genesis 49:2,8-10. P.72. Matthew 1:1-17.

Wed. Jeremiah 23:5-8. P.72. Matthew 1:18-25.

Thu. Judges 13:2-7,24-25. P.71. Luke 1:5-25.

Fri. Isaiah 7:10-14. P.24. Luke 1:26-38.

Sat. Song of Songs 2:8-14. P.33. Luke 1:39-45.

Mass at Home:

Both City and Regional. Channel 10. Sundays
at 6am. Mass is available for viewing at
any time at <http://www.mfyah.com.au/>

St. Stephen - Cathedral Mass:

Live at 10am., every Sunday on website:
<http://bne.catholic.net.au/webcast>

Communion for the Sick:

To share our Sunday liturgies with sick family
members and/or friends, please see
Leader/Coordinator before Mass.

Reflection from: - the Word among us.

Parish News

St. Joseph's and St Anthony's Bracken Ridge and Bald Hills

Reflection.

**Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday of
Advent Year A
(Matthew 11:2-11)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called *Gaudete* (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "*the desert shall rejoice and bloom ...*" (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kin-dom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading).

In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.



Pray for Peace

Parish Priest: Fr. Gerry Hefferan Ph: 3269 0446.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representative: Clare Kennedy

Pastoral Coordinator: Margaret Halpin

Sacramental Coordinator: Helen Hickey

School: 30 Eldorado St, Bracken Ridge. Principal: Mr. Gary Creevey, Ph: 3261 2858.

St. John Fisher College: John Fisher Drive, Bracken Ridge. Principal: Ms. Catherine Galvin, 3269 8188.

Parish Office: Bronwyn Venzke,
bridge@bne.catholic.net.au Ph: 3261 3670.
Monday, Tuesday & Friday mornings.

St Vincent de Paul: Jeff Walsh

Parish Care Group: Marcia Caruso

Youth Leader: Emma Beach

Hospitality Group: June and Keith De Broughe,

Newsletter: Barbara Masterman, Cut-off time: noon Fridays).

Please leave the area facing the Parish Centre free for the elderly and those among us who have some mobility difficulties and need our sensitivity with parking even if it appears the area is not being used.

Christmas Dates.

Reconciliation (Individual Rite). 21/12. 4.30-5.45pm.

Christmas Carols Concert. 21/12. 7.30pm. (in the Father Bernie Costigan Centre).

Christmas Eve Family Mass.

24/12. 6pm. Carols from 5.40pm. (In the Father Bernie Costigan Centre).

Christmas Eve Mass.

24/12. 9pm. Carols from 8.40pm.

Christmas Day Family Mass.

25/12. 9am. Carols from 8.40am.

Christmas Eve Choir.

All musicians and singers are warmly invited to help lift hearts and souls on Christmas Eve. A Practice will be held on Tue. 17/12 at 7.30pm., in the Church.

Practice for a Children's Nativity Pageant during the 6pm., Mass on Christmas Eve will be held on Mon. 23/12 at 9.45am., in the Father Bernie Costigan Centre. All children welcome. Enq. Emma Beach

St Joseph's Community Christmas Carols.

Saturday 21/12 at 7.30pm., in the Father Bernie Costigan Centre. Sausage Sizzle available directly after 6pm. Mass. Please plan to stay after Mass and join in the fun! Come along and enjoy a wonderful night of music and song as we come closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus. Please spread the word All Welcome! A donation from each family would be appreciated. Proceeds to support our sister Parish in Blackall. Supper available after the Concert. Enq. Phil Halpin

Our prayers matter.

Pray for Peace. Let us all 'Pray@8' Pray@8 cards are available at the doors of the Church. Please take one for yourself and one to give away. "Loving God. Let your gentle presence settle over our troubled lands. Teach us to walk in the way of your peace. Amen."

Children's Liturgy.

Now in recession until mid. February when once again our Years Prep – Three will be invited to join us in the Parish Centre during the Liturgy of the Word at the 9am. Mass. Enq. Barbara

Kindy Liturgy.

Now in recession until 2020. Sessions will be announced at the commencement of 9am., Mass. Children aged 3, 4 & 5 will again be invited to join us in the Parish Centre during the Liturgy of the Word. Enq. Margaret

A big thank you to our volunteer Catechists.

We Pray God's Healing touch and love-

-for all those who are sick and for those who care for them.

To have family/friends included in our newsletter, first please check that the person for whom you are requesting prayers is happy

to have their name printed in our newsletter. Enq. Barbara

Condolence.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have recently lost loved ones.

Recently Deceased:

Memorial:

All our deceased family members and friends.

Parish Pastoral Council.

Our Parish family continues our exploration of the other five Plenary Council 2020 Themes. If you have any ideas or concerns within the Parish please raise them with your pastoral councillors personally or alternatively by sending an email to bridge@bne.catholic.net.au with the heading "For the attention of the Pastoral Council".

Liturgy Roster.

Liturgy Preparation.

For weekend 28-29/12. Group 4. Enq. Margaret Halpin. All interested parishioners are invited and welcome to attend any of the preparation sessions. Please contact the leader for dates, time and venue.

Leaders/ Proclaimers of the Word.

For next weekend, 21-22/12. Group 3.

Eucharistic Ministers.

For next weekend. Group 3.

Music Ministry.

For next weekend. Group 3.

Servers.

If you would like to serve, please see Fr. Gerry before Mass.

Counters Roster.

22/12. Group 3. Terry, Rita, Michael & Debbie.

29/12. Group 4. Sunil, Nitin & Marissa.

Newsletter Photocopying.

Rostered 21/12. Judy .

Vocation Views.

"As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke the name of the Lord". (James 5:10). A vocation is responding to the call of God.

The Lights of Christmas.

At St Stephen's Cathedral. This free, family-friendly event incorporates a spectacular light show projected onto the walls of the Cathedral, while a kaleidoscope of moving colour will transform the adjacent chapel until Christmas Eve and includes music, food and children's activities from 6.30pm., followed by the 12-minute show running continuously from 7pm.

Archdiocesan/Secular Calendar.

15-22/12. 3rd & 4th Sundays of Advent. Centacare CFRS. International Migrant Day. Out Lady of Guadalupe. Saint Peter Canisius.

RCIA. Enq. Margaret Halpin

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

Concerns/Complaints?

Archdiocese of Brisbane - Office for Safeguarding Services

P: 3324 3752

E: safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

STOPline Service

STOPline is an external service provided for the Archdiocese to receive confidential disclosures. Disclosures can be made anonymously.

P: 1300 304 550

E: AOB@stopline.com.au

Queensland Police Service

All incidents and concerns that may be criminal should be reported directly to the police for investigation.

P: Policelink 131 444 Crimestoppers 1800 333 000

E: policelink@police.qld.gov.au

Child Safety Services

If you suspect a child in need of protection from abuse or neglect is being harmed or neglected, contact Child Safety Services.

P: 1800 177 135 or 3235 9999 (After hours)

Website:

www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety

Religious Leaders Common Statement on

End of Life Care.

Dying well is an important part of what it means to flourish as individuals and communities. We support high-quality palliative care, better conversations about death and dying and provision for the spiritual dimension of healing such as chaplaincy and pastoral care. A full text of document is found here: <http://archbne.org/dtyk>

Euthanasia—We Can Live Without It E-

Petition.

It is a fairly simple process to add your voice of opposition to VAD/ euthanasia via the Petition link here: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petitiondetails?id=3176>

Our Library –

-is situated in the Workroom to the left as you enter the Church. Just make your choice and write your name and the title of the borrowed book in the booklet provided.

St. Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Cards \$4 for a pack of 8. Columban Calendars \$10. 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Stickers per \$1 per sheet.

Prayer Blog.

See Parish Blog updates on our website and on the board near the Sacristy. Parishioners are invited to share how they pray and to share reflections.

Care for Creation.

All of us can co-operate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents". (Pope Francis, Laudato Si' On Care for our Common Home.14).
<https://stjosephsbrackenridgecareforcreation.weebly.com/past-events.html>

Parish Care for Creation group. The Parish Care for Creation Group meets in the Parish Centre at 4.45pm., on the third Saturday of each month. All very welcome. Enq Rosemary and Peter Bugden

Nouwen Network.

The Nouwen's purpose is to support all those suffering from mental illness and their families, across all faith communities. Enq. Gloria

Journey Catholic Radio Programme.

www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and or subscribe to weekly shows by email.

St. Joseph's School.

The 2020 start will be Wednesday, 29/1. The P & F. hires out the Tennis Courts. A Working Bee will be held on Sat. 18/01/2020 from 8 – 11am. It would be great to see as many helpers as possible. If you would like to use the Courts on weekends, contact evenings or holidays, email STBRtennis@gmail.com.

St Gerard's Christmas Festival.

Nightly until 23/12. Including New Carols by Candlelight Outdoors 21/12 at 7pm. with Renata and Paradise City Band. Massive Light Display, Gift Shop and Op Shop, Coffee Shop, BBQ. Free Musical Entertainment every night. Carols by Candlelight: Sat. 21/11. 7pm. Outdoors, bring seating and Aerogard. Sing along with Renata and the Paradise City Band. All very welcome. 146 Maundrell Terrace, Chermide West.

Lawn Maintenance.

Anas Raed: 0413 271 432. David Nabeel: 0490 388 459. Email: da.mowingservices@gmail.com

WHS Incident Report.

Parishioners and visitors are reminded of the requirement to immediately report any health or safety incident, injury or damage that occurs within our Parish. Reporting assists our Parish to provide the necessary assistance, take remedial action and provide mandatory notifications to the Archdiocese and the Division of Work Health and Safety QLD.

Following on from the Royal Commission.

Specialist Support – Updated

Director of Professional Standards Office (Qld)
Helpline - 1800 337 928
Centacare Family and Relationship Services -
Brisbane 07 3251 5000
Lifeline - 13 11 14
UnitingCare – Chermide 07 3624 2400
Living Well - Strathpine 07 3028 4648

SIMBANG GABI 2019.

A Filipino tradition of joyful waiting for the birth of Jesus - a 9-day pre-Christmas celebrations (15-23 December) with Carols, Holy Mass and fellowship held at different churches around Brisbane North. Here at St. Joseph and St. Anthony's church it will be on Sunday 22/12. 5.30pm. Carols; 6pm. Holy Mass (in English); then Fellowship at Parish Centre. Please, bring a plate to share. Flyers with the complete 9-day schedule can be collected at the back tables of church. For more info: Amando Soriano; Rose McKenzie. Everyone is invited.

Saint Therese Of Lisieux - Australian Visit

2020. The Catholic Leader reports a family of saints – the relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and her parents Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin – will be touring Australia for the first time in 18 years. From February through May 2020, the relics will travel to Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. The visit was organised by Catholic Mission, which has partnered with InvoCare to bring the relics to 17 Australian dioceses. A draft itinerary (subject to change) shows the relics travelling to Brisbane on 5/2, and then visiting Coorparoo. Mt. Carmel 6-7/2. Springfield Parish 7-8/2. Cathedral Parish 9-10/2. Gympie Parish (Gunalda and Gympie Church 10-11/2. Caboolture Parish (Bongaree Church 11/2. Kedron Parish 11-12/2. Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre Ormiston (February 13); Burleigh Heads Parish (February 13–14) and Nerang Parish (Allambie Park and Marian Valley Retreat—February 14-15) before heading to northern NSW.

Blackall/Tambo Update.

The people of Blackall are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Parishioners and friends of the Bracken Ridge Parish. St. Joseph's Parish Blackall Fete was a great success. Thank you to all who contributed.

Ignite Summer Camp.

"All Fired Up". Mapleton. 10-13/1/2020. Four massive days, huge outdoor games and 200 new best mates. Ignite Summer Camp is designed for high schoolers to make awesome real friendships and provide a space to

encounter Jesus in a powerful and dynamic way. Earlybird: \$285. Regular; \$310. Earlybird ends 1/12. Family discount and transport options available. Enq. igniteyouth.com/summercamp

Footsteps Of St. Paul.

Journey with St. Paul as you relive the Acts of the Apostles and the famous letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Greek islands in this 10N pilgrimage led by Catholic Priests that features Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Crete, Santorini, Hosios Loukas, Delphi, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Kavala for an all-inclusive Land Package price of \$4490 + Tips. Departures Available: 12th May 2020 and 20th Oct 2020. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300721561 or email us info@magiholidays.com.au

Its hamper time.

The families of people in prison were so happy with the lovely hampers we made for them the last few years and were so thankful for our kind thoughts. This year we will pack hampers in new Christmas supermarket bags - they have to be carried on public transport; so not too heavy or breakable - nothing over 1 litre or 1 kg please. And no chocolate because of the heat! Suggest Christmas treats eg cakes, puddings, custard, lollies, sweet or savoury biscuits, bonbons, chips. Also useful are non-perishable foods – eg cans of ham, fish, tomatoes, fruit; soft drink in cans, juice in cartons. Personal care items are also good. Please bring in a NEW reusable Christmas shopping bag and put them at the back of the church before Sunday 15 Dec, when we will pack from 2 pm. Helpers needed! Phone Sue. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Volunteers needed SVCS Bardon 27/12.

Do you have a few hours to spare on 27/12 and would like to give back to the community that shares your values? SVCS Bardon requires a Volunteer bus driver for a special lunch outing with our elderly residents to Sandgate between 9am., and 1:30pm. Only a standard Drivers Licence is required. We also need a few extra hands to help out on the day, so if you would like to join us for this special outing, please contact Sonia Kovak 3435 7210 or email Sonia.kovac2@svha.org.au

Life Procession.

Pray to End Abortion. Third Saturday of each month. Mass St. Brigid's. Red Hill. 6.30am. Gather at Roma Street Parkland. Walk to Wickham Terrace praying the Rosary. Enq. www.prolifeprocession.org

Our Parish Family—Sister Parish with Blackall-Tambo Parish in the Diocese of Rockhampton & supporting the Patroness St Josephine Bakhita

We acknowledge the Turrbal people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

QUICK REFERENCE ...

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.

The SCVA people at the Archdiocese have now divided training into two levels: Level 1 is for nearly all volunteers and covers the basics of SCVA. It can be done online at:
www.safeguardingaob.com.au/safeguardingtraining
Level 2 Training.

Caboolture Parish. To be confirmed.

Holy Cross Church, 85 Nottingham St., Kippa-Ring.
29/10. 6 – 7.4pm.
<https://www.trybooking.com/531017>
Enq. or assistance with booking contact Terry Tolhurst

Friday Night Prayer Vigils

Quiet prayer and reflection in the Church. 7-8pm. All welcome.

SVDP

Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month after 9am Mass. Enq Jeff Walsh

Seniors' Group.

This Group meets in the Parish Centre after the 9am. Mass on the first Tuesday of each month. Enq. and/or transport: Therese & Ron Kissane

@BNEArchdiocese Mobile App.

Archbishop Mark's Homilies, Mass times, News, events. Enq. brisbanecatholic.org.au

Youth Groups

BLITZ:-

Blitz will next meet Sun. 9/2/20 in the Parish Centre from 4.30 – 6pm. All Grades 4 - 6 welcome.
Enq Emma Beach



ROCK:

Rock will next meet Sun. 2/2/20 in 2020 in the Parish Centre. All Grades from 7 – 12 welcome.
Enq. Emma Beach



SALT:-

Young Adults Group (Ages: 18 to 30). All welcome. Enq. Jess

WAG (World Action Group)



Last weekend we collected \$192.60 for Water Wells in South Sudan.



This weekend we are collecting for our friends in the Blackall/Tambo Parish



As always, we thank our very generous parishioners for continuing to support our Parish projects.



Enq. Terry and Rita Tolhurst

St Joseph's Craft Group

Our Craft Group meets on the 3rd Monday of every month after the 9am Mass 9.30-11.30am.
Jan or Shirley

Men's Prayer Group

Held every Tuesday evening in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. All gentlemen of the Parish invited and welcome. Enq. Philip .

Ladies Prayer Group

Held each Wednesday morning in the Church, from 9.30 – 10.30am. This is followed by tea or coffee in the Parish Centre. All most welcome to join us. Enq. Margaret

Cath. Social Justice Council website.

(www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au). Copies of the Statement are available on the Paper Table.

Our Parish Newsletter online

<http://www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com/parishnewsletter.html>

Giving

Our Parish takes up one collection for the support of our priest, parish and contribution to the Archdiocese. It is taken up before the offertory. Current number of Envelope Givers: 59. Current number of Direct Debit Givers: 104.

Thank you for your giving from last weekend:-

Envelopes	\$845.
Direct Debit	\$1351.
Loose	\$1032.
Total	\$3228.

Budgeted Weekly Target: \$3404.

Average – Week 49. \$3375.

Should you wish to donate directly to the parish (via your online banking), please use the following account:- **BSB064786 Account 005931500** Bracken Ridge/Bald Hills Catholic Parish .

Please consider joining our Planned Giving Programme

Name:.....

Address.....

Ph:.....

Email:.....

*Please place slip on the collection plate or email Bronwyn Venzke at bridge@bne.catholic.net.au
Many thanks for your support.*



The only funeral service owned and operated by the Catholic Church

Ph: (07) 3293 0555 Web: www.holycrossfunerals.com

We acknowledge the Turrbal people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship