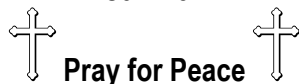


Year 2017



Pray for Peace

Parish Website:

www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

Parish Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stjosephsbrackenridge

Parish Email:

bridge@bne.catholic.net.au

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

Liturgical Calendar

Today:

Year B. Mass prepared by Group 6.

Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11. Psalm 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8,19-28.

Next Week 23-24/12.

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11. Psalm. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8,19-28.

Mass Times:

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

Brighton – Sat. 6pm. 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. Jeremiah 23:5-8. P.71. Matthew 1:18-24.

Tue. Judges 13:2-7,24-25. P.70. Luke 1:5-25.

Wed. Isaiah 7:10-14. P.23. Luke 1:26-38.

Thu. Song 2:8-14. P.32. Like 1:39-45.

Fri. 1 Samuel 1:24-28. P. Luke 1:46-56.

Sat. Malachi 3:1-4,23-24. P. 88. Luke 1:57-66.

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 B - (John 1:6-8, 19-28)**

- Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

If we, like John the Baptist, can honestly answer the question, "Who are you?", then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the "one who is coming", the light of the world, the revelation of God, writes Mercy Sister Veronica Lawson.

Today's gospel reading falls into two sections. The first section comprises a statement from the prologue of John's gospel and the second revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue presents John the baptizer as "a man sent from God". He is not "the light"; he is rather a "witness" whose role is to testify to "the light". The true light [Jesus] was "coming into the world". As we proclaim Jesus as "the light", we might take time to appreciate the wonder and the properties of the material reality that informs this metaphor.

In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptizer responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions are relentless and John's responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God's messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the "descendants of Levi" He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God's people to prepare the way for God's advent, God's coming.

John knows who he is. He understands the parameters of his mission and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is a pivotal one in the story of God's saving action. His story is also pivotal in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem "Jews": "Who are you?" If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we

are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the "one who is coming", the light of the world, the revelation of God.

A caution is in order regarding this gospel reading: we must remember that not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama, including Jesus, are Jewish. The group of characters specifically named in the narrative as "the Jews" includes some influential members of the Jewish religious leadership, but cannot be identified with them because it comprises a more extensive group who are consistently in conflict with Jesus. It would be a serious disservice to the gospel to condemn the Jewish people on the basis of this and similar stories of Jewish opposition to Jesus.



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

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

St Vincent de Paul: Jeff Walsh or Earl Grady

Parish Care Group: Marcia Caruso

Youth Leader: Emma Beach

Blitz: Kelcey & Josh de Gee

Hospitality Group: June and Keith De Broughe,

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

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

Please leave the area facing the Parish Centre free for 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 Mass Times.

24/12. 6pm., Mass in the Fr. Bernie Costigan Centre. (Carols from 5.30pm).

25/12. Midnight and 9am. Mass in the Church. (Carols twenty minutes beforehand).

Reconciliation: Individual Rite. Sat. 23/12. 4.30 – 5.45pm.

Our prayers matter.

Pray for Peace. Pray@8. Pray@8 cards are available at the doors of the Church. Please take one for yourself and one to give away. Lord, the plight of Iraq and Syria is deep and the suffering of Christians is severe and frightening. Peace is the foundation of life. *"Loving God. Let your gentle presence settle over our troubled lands. Teach us to walk in the way of your peace. Amen."*

Christmas Preparations.

Once again our local SVDP offers Columban Calendars at \$10 each. Christmas Cards \$4 for a pack of eight, and 'Keep Christ in Christmas' stickers for \$1 per sheet. These are all at the same price as last year.

Children's Liturgy.

We will start up again towards the end of February. All Prep to Year 3 students are invited to join us in the Parish Centre at the 9am. Mass. Enq. Barbara

Kindy Liturgy.

Now in recess until next year. Our 3, 4 & 5 year old littlies are invited to join us in the Parish Centre at the 9am. Mass. Enq. Margaret

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has implemented standards of conduct for voluntary church workers to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct background referencing for all persons who intend to engage in voluntary ministry having direct and regular involvement with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This referencing is kept up to date at all times.

Volunteers and Blue Cards.

Parish Volunteer Form and an (Archdiocesan) 'Code of Ethical Behaviour' form for volunteers to sign. Please collect the forms from Bronwyn or Margaret.

Baptism.

We welcome to the waters of Baptism and to our Faith Community:-

Catholic Leader. A good read for just \$2.

We Pray for 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 prayers in the newsletter, please contact Barbara

Condolence.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who are mourning the recent loss of loved ones.

Recently Deceased:

Memorial:

All our deceased family members and friends.



'Silence and Space before God' Friday Night Prayer Vigil. A weekly sacred time to enjoy quiet prayer and reflection. 7pm - 8pm each Friday night until late 2020. At St Joseph's Church 30 Eldorado Street Bracken Ridge. Come along any Friday night for some time before God.

Christmas Eve Choir.

Practice for Christmas Eve Mass (5.30). Carols 6pm. Mass) will be held on Tue. 19/12 at 7:30pm., in the Church. All most welcome.

Children's Nativity Pageant.

Any children wishing to be involved in the children's pageant at the Christmas Eve Mass are invited to attend a short practice 9-10am., on Sat. 23/12.

Christmas Eve Set Up

This will take place immediately after the children's pageant practice – 10am. on Sat. 23/12. We have many chairs to move so many hands will be most appreciated.

Liturgy Roster.

Liturgy Preparation.

For weekend 30-31/12. Group 2. Enq. Helen Hickey. 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 23-24/12. Group 1. 6pm. P. Phillips. N. D'Souza. D. Griffiths. 7.30am. G. Endicott. L. McDonough. L. Olley. 9am. D. Riggall. S. Turner. N. Rao.

Eucharistic Ministers.

For next weekend. Group 1. 6pm. R. Kissane. M. Caruso. A. Fulton. A. Isaak. P. Ryan. 7.30am. J. & S. Rogers. K. Ryan. J. & C. Van der Maat. 9am. G. Cameron. K. Turner. N. Sheridan. E. Schneider-Loos. S. Turner.

Music Ministry.

For next weekend. Group 1. 6pm. L. & L. Esparcia. 7.30am. P. Olley. J. McCoy. 9am. S. & G. Fernandes.

Servers.

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

Counters Roster.

Group 1. 24/12. Philip. Peter & Sunil. Group 2. 31/12. Debbie, Matthew & Julian.

Newsletter Photocopying.

23/12. Lynette D'Souza.

Archdiocesan and Secular Calendar 17-24/12.

3rd & 4th Sundays of Advent. International Migrants Day (UN). Christmas Eve. Saints Peter Canisius. John of Kanty.

Parish Newsletter online.

<http://www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com/parish-newsletter.html>

Our Library.

Just make your choice and write your name and the title of the book you are borrowing in the booklet provided.

St. Vincent De Paul.

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

Wheels for Sara Appeal.

If you would like to make a donation, please place the money in an envelope clearly marked "Sara". Enquiries to the Parish Office 3261 3670.

SALT - Young Adults Group.

All youth, 18-30 years, invited to join us for our Christmas dinner TODAY Sun. (17/12), 6:30pm., at the Full Moon Hotel, Sandgate. Please RSVP to Jess

Rock (Youth Group).

Next meeting 4/2/18. In the Parish Centre from 5 – 7pm. All students between Years 6 to 12 are welcome. Please contact Emma for any details

Blitz.

Next meeting on Sun. 28/1/18. All students from Years 4 to 6 are welcome to join us in the Parish Centre, 4.30 – 6pm. Enq. Emma Beach Gold coin donation.

RCIA. Enquiries: Margaret

Parish Pastoral Council.

The sun shines, the rain fall, the wind blows and nature finds energy to regrow and regenerate. We need to thank God for providing so much to us...and if such things were shared around more equally no one would go hungry and all would have shelter. Hand in hand with these gifts from God, the natural elements of sun, rain, and wind also means that we have to maintain the physical structures that we build for ourselves, our Church, and our community. Our manual toil that provides from God's creation also needs to preserve God's creation. Such works should always be a 'labour of love' by us to family, neighbours, Church, and community. Labouring for another is never in vain...it is just another way to thank God for allowing us to use our talents to do good works. Love thy neighbour and 'loving' the environment are good mottoes to live by. 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".

Prayer Blog - 'Our Parish Year of Prayer 2017'.

See Parish Blog updates on our website and on the board near the Sacristy. Parishioners may write a short piece on how they pray and share reflections on our parish blog.

Women's Prayer Group.

Held every Wednesday, in the Church from 9.30 - 10.30am., followed by a cuppa. All welcome. Enquiries: Margaret

Men's Prayer Group.

Held every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. All gentlemen of the parish invited and welcome. Enq. Phillip

Royal Commission Information.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse held its Final Hearing on 14 December 2017. Justice McClellan's final address is available online at <http://bit.ly/2yokWpw> The Final Report, covering the Commission's investigations and recommendations, was delivered to the Governor-General on 15/12/17. In addition the Final Report will document, for the public record, the experiences of people affected by this abuse. The report will be many volumes and cover areas including: **Understanding the nature, cause and impact of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.** What was learnt from private sessions. Child safe institutions. Findings about institutions. Interventions and treatment for children with harmful sexual behaviours. The need for advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment services. Redress and civil litigation. Criminal justice system. The report will be subsequently tabled in the Australian Parliament by the Government and then be made public. It is up to the Australian Governments and institutions to decide what actions will be taken regarding the Royal Commission's recommendations. The report will be available publicly online after it is tabled. Francis Sullivan (CEO TJHC) media blog at <http://tinyurl.com/TJHCblog> Stay connected and updated by signing up to the latest news, blog posts and media releases at <http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au/> Specialist Support : Director of Professional Standards Office (Qld) - 1800 337 928 or 07 3229 3711. Adults Surviving Child Abuse -1300 657 380. Victims Counselling Support Services - 1300 139 703. Knowmore - 1800 605 762 www.knowmore.com.au Netta Sheridan.

Care for Creation Group.

<http://stjosephsbrackenridgecareforcreation.weebly.com> is our Care for Creation website and Facebook page. We value your feedback on any improvements we can make. With Pope Francis we pray: "That we may take good care of creation – a gift freely given – cultivating and protecting it for future generations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen". 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

Vocation Views.

There was a man sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today?

Catholic Social Justice Council website. (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au). Copies of the Statement are available on the Paper Table.

@BNEArchdiocese Mobile App available.

Archbishop Mark's Homilies, Mass Times, news, events, Enq. brisbanecatholic.org.au

Fire & Spirit.

Held on the first Sunday of each month from 3.30 -5pm. worship and sharing of the Word in our Parish Church. Come and join us for our monthly afternoon of praise, worship and sharing of the Word in our Parish Church. All ages welcome. (We are not gathering in January)). Enq. Gabrielle

Nouwen Network.

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

Two-Minute Homilies.

Priests from around the Archdiocese prepare "Two Minute Homilies": <http://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/two-minute-homilies/>

St. Joseph's School.

Next year school will commence on Tue. 23/1/18. Australia Day Holiday on Fri. 26/1/18.

The Uniform Shop will be open as follows: 15/1. 16/1. 17/1 & 18/1/18. 9 – 11am. And 22/1. 23/1. 24/1 & 25/1/18. 8 - 10.30am.

Wag Update.

SOUTH SUDAN: We are saving towards our next Well. BLACKALL/TAMBO: (Note from Sharyn Rogers). Our Blackall contact, Moira Kent attended a Retreat at Marian Valley last week. Before Mass on Monday morning she caught up with Fr. Gerry, Bronwyn Venzke and other members of our community before flying home. Moira hopes to return to Brisbane in January to personally thank the members of the Congregation for their ongoing support. Enq. Terry & Rita

Pope Francis –

At TED Talks. <http://bit.ly/FrancisTEDTalks>

Position Vacant.

All Sainst Parish, Albany Creek is seeking applications for the part-time position of Youth Ministry Coordinator working 20 hours per week. We are a community of young people from late primary through to high schoolers and young adults who are strongly supported by the wider All Saints parish family. We want to create exciting opportunities for young people to encounter Jesus through the Sacraments, events and outreach programs. Our goal is meet people wherever they are at and journey with them in becoming all that they were created to be. A position description is available upon request. Please contact the parish office on 3264 8283 or via email at

albanyck@bne.catholic.net.au to request a copy. Commencement Date: 1/2/18. Applications close 15/1/18.

Giving for weekend 9-10/12.

Our Parish takes up one collection for the support of our priest, parish, and contribution to the Archdiocese. It is taken up at offertory. Current Envelope Givers: 72. Direct Debit Givers 93. Envelopes \$594. Direct Debit \$1819. Loose \$995. Total \$3408. Budgeted Weekly Target \$3596. Average: Week 50. \$3381.

An Invitation.

If you wish to join the Giving Programme and support our/my Parish with a regular financial Gift please place a note with your name, address, and phone number on either Collection plate or email our Parish Office at bridge@bne.catholic.net.au and we will contact you. Many thanks for your support.

St. Joseph's Craft Group.

Our Craft Group meets on the 3rd Monday of every month, after the 9am. Mass, from 9:30 - 11:30am., in the Parish Centre excluding School Holidays. Next Meeting Mon. 20/11. Enq. Jan or Jan

"Simbang Gabi" –

9 day Pre-Christmas Night Mass. At St. Joseph's & St. Anthony's Church, Bracken Ridge. Thu. 21/12. 7pm. Carols Holy Mass (English) at 7.30pm. Fellowship after Mass. Please bring a plate to share. Enq. Bing or Amando. All invited and welcomed to the special Catholic Australian-Filipino Community of Brisbane North Ceremony.

menALIVE in the City. Enq. 3367 1402. Enq. 3367 1402 or mail@menalive.org.au

The Cathedral of St Stephen –

- are calling for new volunteers. Do you enjoy meeting people? Do you love your Cathedral? Do you revel in good art and juicy history? You are invited to talk with us about becoming a volunteer welcomer and guide at the Cathedral of St. Stephen. Join us for an information session to be held in the Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre on 1/2/18 from 10.30am.-12.30pm. Enq. Carmel Devery at the Cathedral office on 3324 3030 or e-mail deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au by 25/1/18.

The Full Spiritual Exercises In Daily Life.

Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality invites you to experience the traditional Full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola, during 2018. Faber offers a personal approach to the Exercises, with weekly face-to-face conversations with an experienced and accredited Ignatian Spiritual Director who will adapt the Exercises to your needs over a period of weeks. Sharyn 3368 2450 by 2/2/18. www.faberspirituality.org.au fabercis@bigpond.com

Volunteer Hospital Pastoral Carers.

Expressions of interest for training as a volunteer hospital pastoral carer are being sought for training in 2018. Centacare Pastoral Ministries offers scholarships for training in return for a one morning per week commitment for a minimum two year period. Pastoral care teams in hospitals are highly valued by patients, staff and management. If you would like to know more, contact judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au (Ph: 3324 3193). Expressions of Interest close 15 January 2018.

Position Vacant – Parish Youth Ministry Worker.

For a position at the Mother of Mercy Parish, Hendra/ Northgate/Hamilton. Good pastoral and liturgical knowledge is required for a part-time position, 15 hours a week to work across a variety of weekdays, weekends and evenings. Applications close 15/1/18. Enq. Visit the Archdiocese of Brisbane website <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/> and to careers.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for employees and volunteers to maintain a safe and healthy environment. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.

Holy Spirit Home Carseldine –

-has a north facing, one bedroom villa available for \$292,000. This refurbished villa has stone kitchen bench top, new carpet, tiled living area and lots of natural light. Enq. and to view, please contact Sharon Fry 3054 4635 Monday to Friday.

Pilgrimage to India.

"One Heart and One Soul" led by Marie Fonseca from February 19 – March 10/18. A four night meditation/yoga retreat with daily Mass led by Fr. Joe Pereira (Mumbai), in Goa. The pilgrimage also includes attending a Mass at St. Teresa of Kolkata's Tomb and visits to some of her homes. Enq. Marie Fonseca: 02 9344 0523 or 0418 265117.

Memorandum.

Members of our parish community who have lost a loved one in recent months, may choose to have a small wooden cross placed in the Blessed Sacramental Chapel for a period of time, (perhaps 12 months).. The Chapel can be accessed at any time, and families may find this a place of comfort during those early days of grieving.. Crosses are available on request. Enq. Barbara Masterman.

The crosses have brought much comfort to our families over the past few years. Unfortunately, the available wall space in the chapel is limited and only a few spare places remain. If your family members have been remembered there for an extended time and you feel ready, we respectfully request that you take your loved one's cross or crosses now and find a prayerful restful area in your home, where you can continue to spend time with them.

Four Candles.

Four candles were burning, but then, one by one, they started to go out.

The first candle said: "I am Peace, but the world is full of anger and fighting. Nobody can keep me lit". Then the flame of Peace went out.

The second candle said: "I am Faith, but I am no longer indispensable. It doesn't make sense for me to stay alight". A breeze then blew out Faith's flame.

The third candle said: "I am Love, but people don't understand my importance and they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them. I haven't the strength to stay lit". and with that, Love's flame went out.

At that moment, a child came in and saw the three unlit candles. "Why aren't you burning? You're supposed to stay lit till the end!"

Saying this, the child began to cry. But then the forth candle spoke. "Don't cry, little one, I am Hope. While I am still burning we can re-light the other candles". The child then took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles once again.

May the flame of hope never go out in your life. While we have hope, we can re-light the flames of peace, faith and love.