



St. Mary's Catholic Parish Beaudesert

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Parish Priest

Fr. Kevin Njoku

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Administration Assistants

Kaitlyn Erasmus
Emma Le Breton-Stott

Youth Co-ordinator

Awaiting decision

Sacramental Prep. Co-ordinator

Patricia Dunn

Finance Council

Chair—Susan Shay
Secretary—Melissa Cahill

pfc.stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair—Anthony Marshall

ppc.stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Care & Concern

Contact the Parish Office
5541 1068

Safe Guarding / Workplace Health & Safety

Kaitlyn Erasmus
safeguardcvadult@yahoo.com

Parish Postal Address

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Beaudesert Qld 4285

Parish Office—Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
& Friday: 9:00am - 2:00pm

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St Mary's Primary School

07 5541 2005

Principal: Mrs Renay Condon

pbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au

McAuley College

Phone: 07 5542 3000

Principal: Mr Jason Pacey

sbeaudesert@bne.catholic.edu.au

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (8th/9th February 2025)

The first reading recounts the call of Isaiah, one of the great prophets of the People of God and a significant influence on the later ministry of Jesus and the Christian faith. Today's reading presents wonderful metaphorical imagery of God's will and presence being made known to Isaiah. It features a call for a prophet which Isaiah feels compelled to answer, but he senses that there is no way he is up to the task. How can Isaiah proclaim God's holy saving word to Isaiah's kinfolk, he doesn't feel even remotely worthy to be in God's presence let alone proclaim the Lord's words. 'Woe is me!' Isaiah states, 'I am a man of unclean lips, and live among a people of unclean lips'.

The notion of lips here is symbolic imagery. It is drawing on the scriptural concept where the lips reveal the true moral character of a person (see Matt 12:34; 15:18-19 or Prov 16:30). However, the focus on Isaiah's lips is also noteworthy because it is proclamation with these very lips that is to be Isaiah's calling. They represent both moral (goodness or lack thereof) and functional (referring to a required tool of trade for any prophet) framing of the person. The very thing that is going to be needed is the thing that is not good enough as far as Isaiah is concerned.

As such, Isaiah is not only afraid of God's presence in the mode common to First Testament theology (captured in Exodus 33:20, for example, where no one can see the entire majesty of God and live), Isaiah is also afraid of himself. He is afraid of what he is or, more accurately, what he feels he is not. He is afraid of what he feels he doesn't have or cannot do and how he is generally 'not good enough'.

Fortunately, our loving God never leaves us to our own devices but always offers God's transformative spirit and a way forward. In the theophanic imagery of the first reading, God offers healing, touching Isaiah's lips and making him 'clean'. It is thus empowered that when the question is asked 'whom shall I send?', Isaiah has moved from one of cowering fear to one who boldly responds, 'Here am I; send me!'

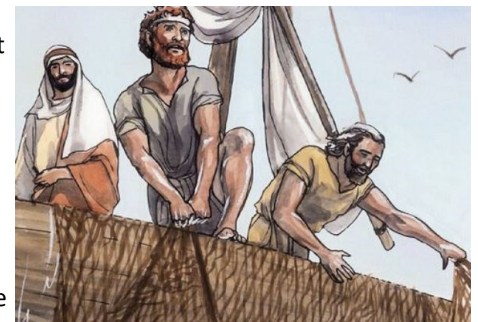
Turning to the Gospel reading, it is relatively early in Jesus' public ministry when Luke recounts Jesus' encounter with some of his first followers. Here too we have a calling of people to God's mission. The fishermen have worked hard through the night and it has been rather fruitless. Jesus encourages them to 'go one more time' and the miraculous catch ensues. Peter recognising what is going on and in anticipation of the calling he is about to respond to, falls to his knees and despairingly cries out that Jesus should go away 'for I am a sinful man'.

Again, there is this sense of unworthiness. What Peter is ultimately called to is coming into focus and because what one is called to is from God, it has the illumination of God with it, and it brings into focus our limitations. But the miraculous catch is a metaphor, a sign of the disciple's potential despite their limitations. Fruitlessness of their own efforts will be transformed by the call of Christ. Further, as Jesus is the one calling, there is no need to fear. In following Jesus, Peter and the other disciples will realise their true calling and will be 'catchers of people'.

Paul too, especially when the full version of the second reading is read, recognises that he is the 'least of the apostles', unworthy of the very title. But Paul provides a beautiful line in response; 'but by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain' (1 Cor 15:10).

Isaiah, Peter and Paul; in all their cases they have a sense of what they are in the face of their calling and they feel unworthy. They see a problem in who they are or what they do not have or what they cannot do. Their declaration is effectively 'I am not good enough'. But God sees them through God's eyes and the power of grace, and through such grace they ultimately can say 'I am what I am' and what 'I am' is precisely good enough because of God's presence and God's love.

As for us, we don't know the extent of where our life will lead. However, we can rest assured that if the Lord is calling us to do astrophysics or anything else for that matter, that the Lord will gently tell us to not be afraid of what we cannot do, but trust God who will lead us to an abundant grace filled life, one where the 'catch will be bursting at the seams'.



Readings for this week

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (9th February)

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Here am I! Send me.

Responsorial Psalm:

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

They left everything and followed him.

Readings for Mass next week

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (16th February)

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Monday 10th February, St Scholastica, virgin (memorial)

Tuesday 11th February, World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Friday 14th February, Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop (memorial)

Meetings

St John the Baptist Co-ordinator Meeting— Sunday 16th Feb,
8:30am (following Mass)

Finance Council Meeting—Monday 17th Feb, 6:00pm

Jubilee Committee Meeting—Monday 24th Feb, 6:30pm

Events

Morning tea will be served every Sunday after the 9:30am
Mass at St Mary's

Morning tea will be served on the first Sunday of each month
after the 7:30am Mass at St John the Baptist.

St Patrick's Day Dinner – Friday 14th March, Gallagher Centre

Multicultural Day—Sunday 25th May

Parish Jubilee Celebration—Sunday 27th July

Lord,

help us recognize Your holiness and our need
for Your grace.

Strengthen us to witness our faith with
courage and sincerity.

Guide us to follow You wholeheartedly,
leaving behind anything that holds us back.
Amen.

Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters

Terry Geraghty, Margaret Ford, D Wilde, Baby Jaime, Janet Young, Rosie, Paul Cameron, Margaret Salisbury, Lauraine Ward, Katrina Foster, Moya Mitchell, Michael Gough, Andrew Gough, Michael Johns, Liz Murray, Josie Buffalino, Sebastian Randall, and Julie Fraser

We remember and pray for those who have recently died

and those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Ruben Armstrong

Mary McKay

Brendan James McGrath (4th February)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Masses at Country Churches While Fr Kevin is Away

We thank Trish Dunn, Annette Moloney, Mary Rohan, Chris & Joahn Rohan, Peter Wilson and Anthony Marshall for assisting us in leading Liturgy of the Word with Holy Eucharist in Fr Kevin's absence.

Saturday Country Masses and the Monday morning Masses will be back to normal, with Fr Kevin celebrating from Saturday the 15th February at Rathdowney.

Kerry Pew Restoration

We have 1 short and 3 long pews left for all pews at St John's to be refurbished.

If you'd like to donate towards the refurbishment of a pew, please contact the Parish Office. donors may also have a plaque on the pew for \$20. The long pews will cost \$500 each to restore, and the short \$250 each. **If you donate towards a pew please contact the Parish Office so we can keep track of the donation.** Thank you.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of prayer, Friday 7th March, 2025, at 10am. Seventh Day Adventist Church, 45 Anna St, Beaudesert . All welcome.

Money Counting

10th February—Colleen

17th February—Trish

24th February—Peter

3rd March—Colleen

Alpha Youth Series

Alpha Youth creates space for young people to explore their questions about life, faith, and purpose together. There's nothing you can't say, and you don't have to say anything at all. Alpha is 100% free.

Brisbane (premier event) 11th Feb 2025 - The Vita Nova, Stones Corner

Gold Coast (premier event) 13th Feb 2025 - Kings Church, Reedy Creek

Free dinner and dessert included, grab tickets at:
<https://www.alphayouth.io/events>

Welcome Back, Fr Kevin!

This week, we welcome Fr Kevin back from his annual leave. We hope that he had a wonderful time with his family and that he is rested and ready to hit the ground running for a busy 2025!

The first Mass he will be celebrating for the year is the St Mary's Primary School Commencement Mass at 8:50am on Friday 14th February. Everyone is welcome!



Bible Reflection—9th February 2025

In responding to God's call personal worthiness is not the issue, for all humanity is sinful. All that matters is the call of God, the mission God gives, and our fidelity to it.

Though the holiness of God overwhelms Isaiah, the nature of God's call always remains as an invitation: 'Whom shall I send?' Contemporary culture sets up standards of acceptability: body shape, fashions, job performance, etc. The good news is that God calls us pre-cisely as we are and works through our humanity.

he presence of Jesus brings about great transformations: empty nets become overflowing and a man who protested to Jesus, 'depart from me!' ends up follow-ing him. In this last transformation Jesus' power turns a sinner into a disciple.

<https://www.liturgia.com.au/App/Calendar/2025/2/9>

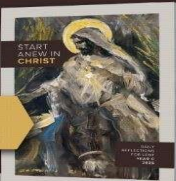


Holy Baptism

We welcome to our Parish, Rory Thomas McFarlane and Emmie Mae Mackenzie who will be Baptised into the Catholic Faith on Sunday. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

START ANEW IN CHRIST

Group and Individual Reflections for Lent



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Please contact the Office if you would like to order a copy.

Anniversary of National Apology Day— 13th February

Each year, 13 February offers an important time to reflect on how generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have been affected, and continue to be affected, by the past policies of the Australian Government and the ongoing impacts of this on the health and wellbeing of First Nations People. On this day in 2008, Kevin Rudd (then Prime Minister) made a formal apology to First Nations people and the Stolen Generations.

Why was the National Apology so important?

The National Apology was an historic acknowledgement of the wrongs done to the Stolen Generations. It was a significant step towards building a respectful new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The impact of the Apology is evidence of the importance of historical acceptance, which is one of the five dimensions we use to describe and measure reconciliation in our Reconciliation Action Plans.



Lord, God of Justice,
As a nation we have said sorry for the cruel and unjust laws and policies throughout our country's history that have "inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians".

Help us, as the People of God, to be advocates of accountability and dignity so that, as we remember and learn from the past, we shape a nation where all can thrive and flourish.

Quote from Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia
2008 National Apology to Indigenous Peoples

8th - 9th February— Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel



The Church recognises that military personnel can contribute enormously to the stability of our world and to the establishment of peace.

This Jubilee will celebrate the efforts all members of the armed forces and police, municipal police, security operators, veterans, military associations, military academies, chaplaincies and military ordinariates provide for peace.

Testimony- Lieutenant Colonel Gavin Keating (From the Catholic Voice)

"Military conflict is an unfortunate reality in society. Obviously from our faith perspective we wish that that were not so, but the kingdom of God hasn't been fully arrived at... and we're working towards that but in the interim, military conflict remains a reality.

The Australian Army is very professional in the sense that we spend our careers learning how to apply violence in a controlled fashion in accordance with government policy – which is the doctrinal definition of what we do. But it's done to limit the number of lives that will be lost. It's done to save lives. If you'd been to places like Timor in '99 and seen burnt out buildings, or Iraq, Afghanistan – you actually realise what war does to the fabric of a country and it makes you appreciate that our country has been blessed by not having major conflict on our soil in our modern history.

As military professionals we approach violence as the last resort, but like any insurance policy, when you call on the insurance policy it's got to be functional. There's no point pulling it out and finding it's worthless. That's why armies have to

train, why they always have to be on the ball and thinking about these issues, not because they want to go to war, but because they realise if they do go to war, it's not the time to find out they're not ready."

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Prayer

Lord our God, we thank you for the service and sacrifice of all who have made possible the freedom we enjoy and the heritage we have been given. We commend to you all who serve our nation in the Armed Forces, Police and Security. Shelter them in danger, and in time of peace keep them from all evil. For ourselves, we pray that you will help us to persevere in loyalty and courage, and grant us to be worthy of those who have gone before us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Pope Francis' Address to the Managers and Staff of the Vatican Inspectorate of Public Security (2024):

"Yours is a job with many facets, consisting of patient prevention, vigilance in the field, management of unforeseen, sometimes dangerous situations, in most cases dealt with discreetly and inconspicuously. It is a job that requires courage, tact, steady nerves, attention and understanding for the needs and criticalities of those who ask for your help and also of those who make your intervention necessary with problematic behaviour of various kinds.

Saint John XXIII used to say that the work of the forces of order is a burdensome task, that requires high moral qualities and above all dedication and sacrifice for the attainment of the common good. Therefore, he defined you as "good servants of the human community and builders of peace in society" (cf. Address to the Participants in the 16th International "Rallye" of the European Police Corps, Castelgandolfo, 8 September 1961)."

Are you, or someone you know, wanting to know more about the

Catholic Church or join our faith community?

Would you just like to talk about it without having to commit?

RCIA is a group of believers in the parish who meet regularly, and are ready to talk about any questions you may have! To begin a conversation, call the Parish Office 07 5541 1068, or e-mail: stmarys@bne.catholic.net.au

Are you thinking of becoming Catholic?



Mass Times: 10th February—16th February

Divine Mercy Devotion: Every Sunday 3.00pm - 3.15pm, St. Mary's Church, Beaudesert. All Welcome.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday – Beaudesert 4:30pm

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Beaudesert "Liturgy of the Word; with Holy Eucharist" 7.00am	No Mass	Tamborine Mtn 9.00am Beaudesert 5:30pm	No Mass	St Mary's Primary School Commencement Mass 8:50am	Rathdowney 4.30pm Beaudesert 6.30pm	Tamborine Mtn 7.30am Beaudesert 9.30am

Our Mission

'Guided by the Holy Spirit, we aim to be an evangelising, listening and faith-filled parish; underpinned by the values of compassion, inclusivity and love of neighbour.'

Our mission is: **evangelisation** of our parish and wider communities; **liturgy and prayer opportunities** that form, inform and transform our faith; **pastoral support** through initiatives that invite people to share their gifts and talents; and **leadership** that supports life-long faith formation and promotes responsible stewardship of our resources.

Safeguarding Commitment & New STOPline

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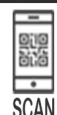
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