



Embracing the communities of:
St Mary's South Brisbane,
St Francis of Assisi West End,
St Ita's Dutton Park and
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Fairfield

Under the care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars



The community of St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parishes stand.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 17th December 2023 - Year B

Good News Reflection: **Testifying to the Light**

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that John the Baptist came to "testify to the light." What does this mean?

We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth that shines in the darkness to draw us to eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth so that we can be saved from the destructive forces of our sins and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony given by John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this affect our lives today?

John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in the wilderness. A voice in the desert." And his testimony brings us to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Make a bee-line to him! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him. He is coming to you!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems distant, unavailable, not present to us when we need him. What has opened your eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor (as it says in the reading from Isaiah), to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close

friendship with the Lord.

We all have the same testimony and the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain, heartache, and despair, not to mention sinfulness. Can we rightfully ignore their needs? Is it loving to be so quiet that they cannot hear the truth? Certainly not! Someday we will have to explain to Jesus why we ignored our baptismal calling to be the voice that could have helped others find him.

What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice. How we handle trials, revealing our faith in Jesus, is a voice that's audible to those who are lost in the wilderness. The more peace we have and the more love that we give, the louder is our cry.

Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the truth, the louder and clearer is our message.

What people choose to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it so that they're given that choice.

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Welcome to New Parishioners

Please make yourselves known to our Priests and to the parishioners who greet you as you arrive. For more information about our parish or how to volunteer in the Church ministry or our activities, please contact the Parish Office below.

MASS TIMES

St Mary's (20 Merivale St, South Brisbane)

- Mon-Fri: 7am | Sat: 8am (Rosary after Mass)
- Sunday: 9am and 5pm

St Francis of Assisi (47 Dornoch Tce, West End)

- Sunday: 9am

St Ita's (Pope St, Dutton Park)

- Saturday (Vigil): 5pm
- Sunday: 10.30am (Indonesian)

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
(68 Victoria St, Fairfield)

- Sunday: 7am

CONFESSION

St Mary's:

Sat: 8.30am-9am | Sun: 4.15-4.45pm

St Ita's:

By appointment (contact parish office)

More information:

Websites: - www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au
- www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au

FB: - www.facebook.com/stmaryssouthbrisbane/
- www.fb.me/duttonparkwestendcatholicparish

PARISH OFFICE

47 Dornoch Tce, West End, Q 4101

Ph: 07 3324 3734

Postal: PO Box 3857, West End, Q 4101

southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au

stitaspar@bne.catholic.net.au

- **Parish Priest:** Fr. Joshy Parappully OFM Cap
pp.southbrisbane@bne.catholic.net.au
- **Parish Deacon:** Deacon Adam Walk
walka@bne.catholic.net.au
- **Pastoral Coordinator:** Sr. Salvation Bunao SFI
- **Parish Secretary:** Niken Westerman
- **Finance Officer:** Kevin Bhasin

Safeguarding Officers:

- St Mary's Church : Chris Bolger (0407 480 205)
- St Francis of Assisi: Liam Cunnane (0477 306 166)
- St Ita's Church: Liam O'Rourke (0411 033 321)
- OLPS Church: Paul Hogan (0418 742 760)

ST ITAS'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

247 Gladstone Rd, Dutton Park, Q 4102

Ph: (07) 3838 8400

Email: pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au

READINGS AT MASS

First reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50,53-54

R: My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R/**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R/**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R/**

Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask

him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

THIS WEEK'S Psalm Responses

Monday 18th:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Tuesday 19th:

Fill me with your praise, and I will sing your glory!

Wednesday 20th:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Thursday 21st:

Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones;

Friday 22nd:

My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

Saturday 23rd:

*Lift your heads high and see:
your redemption is near at hand.*

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

4th Sunday of Advent

1st reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

2nd reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

If you know anyone who is homebound and wishes to receive Holy Communion at their home, please contact the Parish Office (details at the back page).

MASS INTENTION

If you wish to have a mass intention for your departed loved ones, please use the envelope provided at the foyer of the Churches.

Please print the names for whom the mass is intended clearly with the specific date of the mass, and hand it in to the Priest/Church Coordinator.

NATIVITY PLAY IN OUR CHURCHES

If you would like your children to be involved in St Mary's or St Ita's Nativity Play this year, please contact:



- Sr Salvacion (0403 815 856) for St Mary's.
- Fiona (0497 068 546) for St Ita's.

ST MARY'S PRAYER GROUP

The St Mary's Prayer Group will not be meeting on Tuesday, 26 December and 2 January.

We will resume on Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at 6.30 pm.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration at St Mary's will not be held from Sat, 23 Dec until Sun, 7 Jan 2024 (inclusive). We will resume on Saturday, 13 January.

LOOKING FOR THE IDEAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS?

St Mary's Church has a variety of handmade Christmas and greeting cards, sacramental candles, Christmas decorations, rosary beads and bracelets plus much more available.

You will be able to browse and purchase these items after daily and Sunday Masses. The funds raised through the sale will help fund the restoration of St Mary's Church.

ST FRANCIS TABLE MINISTRY FOR THE ELDERLY Christmas Celebration

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas celebration and to our volunteers who endlessly work behind the scene helping this ministry from the beginning of the year. A special thank you to Heidi and Dominic who generously donated juices and home cooked Christmas ham. The celebration was enjoyed by all.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Note:

This ministry will be taking a break over the Christmas holidays from 18 December and will resume on Monday, 5 February 2024.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE 2024 For children in year 5 or older ENROLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

If you would like to enrol your child to join our sacramental program, please complete [this enrolment forms](#) and return to the Parish Office by Monday, 5 February 2024.

Information Evening
Wednesday, 7 February 2024 - 6pm
St Ita's Church Dutton Park

You could also download the forms from our websites: www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au or www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au

PRAYER FOR PEACE



Loving God

We earnestly pray for peace and stability in Myanmar amidst the ongoing internal conflict. Our hearts grieve for the children and families enduring displacement, fighting with hunger and poverty.

Hear the prayer of these children and families and respond with the support they desperately need. May your love and warmth reach those who are most in need.

In your mercy, grant peace and perseverance to the internally displaced children and families, providing them with the necessary resources for survival.

We pray for the restoration of community and an end to conflict, allowing children and families to feel secure once again.

Grant families the strength and perseverance they need as they travel through these challenging times. May your guiding light lead them towards hope and a brighter future.

Amen.

Learn more about how you can partner with missionaries in Myanmar by visiting catholicmission.org.au/myanmar or scanning the QR code.



Advent Concert Series St Stephen's Cathedral December 2023



5pm Saturday 2nd
Advent Vespers
Cathedral Schola #

5pm Sunday 3rd
Dominic Perissinotto
(pipe organ) *

5pm Sunday 10th
Christopher Trikilis
(pipe organ) *

5pm Sunday 17th
(in the Chapel)

Susan Collins (violin) *

Free Admission

* Ticketed Admission

3pm Saturday 23rd
Christmas Carol Service #

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th December

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Fairfield:

- 7.00am Mass

St Francis of Assisi, West End:

- 9.00am Mass

St Mary's, South Brisbane:

- 9.00am Mass



CHRISTMAS VIGIL

St Ita's, Dutton Park:

- 5.00pm Mass
(4.30pm - Carols & Nativity Play)
- 8.00pm Indonesian Mass
(7.30pm - Carols)

St Mary's, South Brisbane:

- 7.00pm Mass
(6.00pm - Nativity Play & Carols)

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25th December

- **OLPS:** 7.00am Mass
- **St Francis of Assisi:** 9.00am Mass
(8.30am Carols)
- **St Mary's:** 9.00am Mass
- **St Ita's:** 10.30am Indonesian Mass



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE



Parish Office will be closed
from 22 Dec 2023 to 7 Jan 2024.

The office will re-open on
8 January 2024.

When was the last time you reviewed your Will?

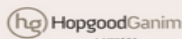
/ HopgoodGanim Lawyers is a leading Australian independent legal and advisory firm operating nationally and internationally from Brisbane and Perth.

We can help you with:

- Wills and estate planning
- Estate administration and disputes

/ Key contact:

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Visit our website www.hopgoodganim.com.au

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PARISH ACTIVITIES 2023

BAPTISMS

- 2nd Saturday of the Month - 9.30am: St Mary's
(Booking is essential.)

PRAYER & ADORATION

- Tuesday 6.30pm: St Mary's Church
- Sunday 4pm: St Mary's Church

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturdays after 8am Mass until Sundays 8.30am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

- 1st Friday - 7am: St Mary's Church
- 1st Saturday - 5pm: St Ita's Church
- 1st Sunday - 7am: OLPS Fairfield

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (School Term Only)

- Saturday - 5.00pm: St Ita's Church (Vigil Mass)
- Sunday - 9.00am: St Mary's Church

FAMILY MASS (School term only)

- 4th Saturday - 5pm: St Ita's Church

ST FRANCIS TABLE - Ministry to the Elderly

- 1st and 3rd Monday: 9am -1pm
St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Tce, West End

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Please consider giving to our planned giving program.

Your continued support for our Parishes is appreciated. If you'd like to use direct debit please complete the form below and return to the Parish Office.

- [St Mary's Parish Direct Debit Request Form](#)
- [Dutton Park Parish Direct Debit Request Form](#)

Other ways of giving direct internet transfer:

- **St Mary's Parish South Brisbane**
BSB: 064-786
Acc No: 100 009 890
Ref: Your Last Name and Collections
- **Dutton Park Parish:**
BSB: 064-786
Acc No: 100 022 825
Ref: Last Name and Collections

We also have **Tap n Go**
see Church Coordinator at Mass.

SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's Catholic Parish and Dutton Park Catholic Parish have zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to safeguarding everyone involved in their activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

To make an anonymous report call 1300 304 550. For more information visit brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding

