

REGULAR WEEKEND MASS LOCATIONS

St. Mary's Church, Woodend
1B Elizabeth Street, Woodend 4305.
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Leichhardt
22 Old Toowoomba Road, Leichhardt 4305.
St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
42 Pine Mountain Road, North Ipswich 4305.
St. Brigid's Church Hall, Rosewood
Railway Street, Rosewood 4340.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, E/Heights
33A Robertson Road, Eastern Heights 4305.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours
Monday to Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm
1C Elizabeth Street, Woodend 4305 | 07 3281 2133
ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au | ipswichcatholic.com
Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM
Assistant Priests: Fr. Johny Edapulavan CMI
Fr. Jose Panampuzha CMI
Seminarian: Michael Tran

Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe

Year C

20th November 2022

Dear Parishioners,

It is good to be back in the community after the long 30 days silent retreat. You may ask: How can he do it? Before the retreat, I was asking the same question, and that question was still with me during the first week of the retreat. I have to say, it was a challenging time, however, it was also a blessing time for me. By being silent, I could hear God's voice speak to me more clearly. After the retreat, I felt peaceful and happy to continue this vocation journey. Thank you so much for keeping me, and thinking of me, in your prayers throughout the retreat. I am very grateful for your continued support.



This weekend, we celebrate the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Normally, speaking of "king", we immediately think of a powerful figure, with hundreds of thousands of servants, with a magnificent palace, splendid clothes, with a life that surpasses everyone else's... But if those are the images and characteristics of kings, then indeed, the young man born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth named Jesus, is definitely not a king. He came from a poor family, was born in a stable, lived as a carpenter, and finally accepted a shameful and painful death on the cross. However, in this carpenter's life, there are things that make us think:



- Although he was born in a stable, the Magi in the East said, "He is the new-born King of the Jews, so we have come here with gifts to pay homage to Him" (Mt 2:2).
- When the people wanted to make him King, he fled to another place (John 6:15).
- Seeing him riding on a donkey into Jerusalem, the people praising loudly to him, "Hosanna to the king of Israel" (John 12:13).
- When he was brought before the court, the question of "king" was raised again. Indeed, when Pilate asked, "Are you a king?", he boldly replied: "You have said so" (Mt 27:11).
- It was when he was crucified that people saw above the cross the words "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (Mt 27:37).
- Finally, before the hour of his death, when a condemned man crucified with him said to him, "When you come to your kingdom, please remember me." He promised immediately: "Today, you will be with me in Heaven" (Lk 23:42-43).

Thus, Christ is indeed a king, but this king is different from the kings of the earth. His kingdom is not of this world, nor is it in the ideas that people usually have, when thinking of a king. It was He who affirmed before Pilate: "I am a king, but my kingdom is not of this world" (Jn 18:36). With such a statement, Christ lets us understand that he is a king whose sentiments and policies are different from all earthly kings. Instead of making people serve him, he humbled himself and personally served everyone. In this regard, Christ personally set an example when He knelt down to wash the feet of His disciples. Instead of everyone having to protect the king's life, He has given up His life to save the lives of his people. Instead of using territory, language, and skin colour to identify His citizens, He used the "precept of love" as the principle of naturalization for those who wanted to become citizens of His Kingdom.

The day we receive baptism, we officially become citizens in the kingdom of King Jesus. May the grace of the sacrament help us always to live as worthy citizens in this kingdom of peace, love, and service. May Christ always be the king of our hearts.

Michael, Seminarian

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 25th Nov 6pm-8pm
Drop Off – St. Mary's Church

Our Primary and High School Youth Christmas breakup is sure to be a fun night for all! This year has been big for youth ministry, and we invite all youth (prep to grade 12) to come along for some games, some food, and a lot of fun!!! Several of our youth leaders have a lot of activities planned, so don't miss out! More details on page 3...



PARISH BIRTHDAY BBQ

Friday 16th Dec 6pm-8pm
St. Mary's Church

We are turning 3!

As this coincides with the Christmas season, we will also celebrate the end of the year. Parishioners, school families, friends, and visitors are invited to come along for a sausage sizzle and for a bit of fun. What a great way to wind down and the sausages are on us! For catering purposes, please register via bit.ly/2022parishbirthday



ADVENT STARTS NEXT SUNDAY. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS

OPENING TO GREAT JOY

LET'S PREPARE FOR THIS IMPORTANT TIME



SUBSCRIBE FOR REGULAR UPDATES - ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

Fri 18	6:30pm Primary School Youth, Primary School Hall 7:00pm Carols Concert, St. Mary's Church (ticketed event)
Sat 19	10:00am Mass/Bless Graves, Glamorgan Vale Cemetery 2:00pm Carols Concert, St. Mary's Church (ticketed event) 4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church 4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church 6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal Church 6:30pm Mass at St. Boniface Marburg (dinner after)
Sun 20	7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church (cuppa after) 8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall 9:00am Mass at St. Mary's Church (Michael's Candidacy) 10:00am Michael's Morning Tea, Primary School Hall 10:30am Baptisms, St. Mary's Church 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church

NEXT WEEK

Mon 21	7:00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church 3:30pm Atrium, (Primary School age)
Tues 22	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church
Wed 23	8:30am Rosary, 9am Mass, 9:30am Adoration St Mary's 9:30am Mass, St. Brigid's Church Hall 3:30pm Atrium, (Primary School Age)
Thur 24	9:00am Mass (Anointing) at St Mary's Church 11.00am Funeral - Bob McDowell, St. Mary's Church 6:30pm Finance Council Meeting, Parish Office
Fri 25	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church 6:00pm Youth Christmas Party, St. Mary's

PASTORAL & OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Parish Priest Update



This Sunday, Michael Tran is accepted as a Candidate for the Priesthood. Bishop Ken will preside at the 9.00am Mass at St Mary's. As we gather as a Parish, we celebrate the impact Michael has had on our Parish, and we also share in this important milestone on his vocational journey. On behalf of our community, congratulations Michael! We are with you all the way!!



Welcome to Michael's parents, Bishop Ken and our Seminary Rector, Fr. Neil Muir. Michael has settled very well into Parish life, and his contributions to our community have been welcomed.

Parish Birthday BBQ – In 4 weeks' time we will have a BBQ to celebrate 2022, and the 3rd birthday of our Parish. Please come along and bring your family, and a friend, to grab a sausage and catch-up with others. The church will be open for prayer and adoration if you would like to pop in, and there will be plenty of activity outside in the carpark where we will gather for a sausage sizzle! We may even have a cake! But you will need to come along and see for yourself. A special thank you to Tone Clark and the Samoan community who have been kind enough to host the BBQ, so come along and have some fun!

Stephen ofm



Many of our buildings are old, and part of them are failing! We have a planned maintenance schedule, but due to the number of properties, it can get a little hectic at times. If you would like to contribute to the cost of any of these projects, please place an envelope on the collection plate marked 'Repairs'. Thank you to those who have already given!

Operations Manager Update

Each year, we search high and low for opportunities to apply for grant funding to assist with building repairs, energy efficiency, ministry work, and pastoral formation for the Parish. To date we have been very successful in relation to grants that assist us with our properties. Recently we applied for a grant from Catholic Foundation so we could spend 2023 engaging with our parishioners and families through ministry and hospitality. We have won the grant and I am excited to announce, 'Engage 2023'!



What is Engage 2023 – Simply put, it is a program we are running next year to help form and develop our Parish Life Teams, and to also engage more with parishioners, families, schools, primary & high school youth, and young adults.

- This year, Fr. Stephen announced that our Parish Life Teams would help build up lay leaders and is the next iteration of our animation group / parish advisory council.
- Each year we engage with around 200 sacramental program families, so there will be a focus on creating formation opportunities that go well beyond celebrating the sacraments of initiation.
- Youth in 2022 has grown significantly, so in 2023, we will be focusing more on how our primary and high school youth can engage in parish life, beyond Friday night youth.

Much more detail to come! The program will officially launch the weekend of 28th & 29th January 2023.

Benjamin Leschke

ENGAGE
2023

Forming leaders and engaging others across our parish

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."
— St. Francis Of Assisi

MORE INFORMATION
ipswichcatholic.com/engage

SOME IMPORTANT NEWS



Congratulations to Fr. Stephen who has been appointed Dean of the South Country Deanery, from 7th January 2023. This appointment will see Fr. Stephen continue to work closely with the priests in our neighbouring parishes (across the wider Ipswich region). With several new priests being appointed to the deanery in 2023, this is a great opportunity for Fr. Stephen to build strong relationships between our parishes.

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm	Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5, 6-7,8-9
2nd Reading	Romans 13:11-14
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Please pray for those in our parish who are unwell or in need. We also pray for the following ...



Recently Deceased: Bob McDowell, John Denman, Brent McCarroll, Theresa Harrison

Anniversaries: Dorothy Stevenson, Eileen Volkman, Orsenc Iano, Remedios Parica, Jack Coogan, Patricia & Michael Stack, John Francis Williams, Frank Doolan, Colin Flood and those in our Book of Life.



Congratulations to all our year 12 Graduating students - we pray you reach for the stars, achieve the results you need, and do your best in whatever lies ahead. We are especially very proud of our young parishioners who were leaders at various schools this year in Ipswich - Stewart England, Raiden Clark; Rachael McNamara, Allyssa-Grace Elape and Claire Parker.

The Ipswich Catholic Community congratulate the three new Deacons for the Archdiocese of Brisbane- Minje Kim (who did an Advent placement in Ipswich several year ago), Isaac Falcon and Gerard Lai.

Chúng tôi chào mừng cha mẹ của Michael đến giáo xứ Ipswich tuần này. Cảm ơn bạn vì tất cả những gì bạn đã làm để nuôi dưỡng ơn gọi của Michael. Chúng tôi hy vọng bạn tận hưởng chuyến thăm của bạn tại Brisbane. Cũng như bạn, chúng tôi rất tự hào về anh ấy. (We welcome Michael's parents to Ipswich this week; thank-you for all you have done to nurture Michael's vocation. We hope you enjoy your visit to Brisbane.)

This weekend at the 9.00am Mass at St Mary's, we welcome Bishop Ken Howell; the Rector, Fr Neil; Seminary Staff, the new Deacons and Seminarians from Holy Spirit Seminary.



The last Recycling Roundup for 2022 will be held on 26/27th November; used Christmas/greeting cards with matching envelopes, eyeglasses, buttons and sewing items, bubble wrap, postage stamps. Items can be left at parish churches on 26/27th November. As always, "Thank you" to all the wonderful supporters in our Parish Community. Linda Allen (Leichhardt parishioner)

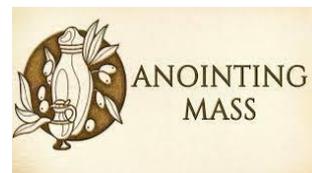
Christmas Shopping at Vinnies - Please consider coming to your local Vinnies store (West Ipswich and Rosewood) for all your Christmas trees, decorations, cards, tableware, etc. The variety, the quality and the low, low prices will astound you.

Anointing Mass – Thursday (24th) 9.00am St. Mary's

Parishioners and visitors are invited to an anointing Mass on Thursday **24th November** at St. Mary's at 9:00am.

All 3 priests will be available for prayer and anointing, so please come along.

No matter where you are with God, anointing is an amazing way to experience God's grace through this ministry.



COMMUNION TO THE SICK

We are in the process of contacting each of the Nursing Homes within our Parish to arrange regular visits. We hope to have this 'formalised' in the next couple of weeks. If you are sick or housebound, we can arrange to have communion brought to you – we can only do this if we know of your need and desire! Please let one of the priests know of this or phone the Parish Office. We are in the process of setting up 'formalised' Communion Rounds. From the First Sunday of Advent, we will recommence 'commissioning' those who take Communion to the Sick. You are welcome to still place a pyx on the Altar (WITH A HOST IN IT), and you will be called forward by the Presider after the final Prayer. You might recall we used to do this prior to COVID.

Our Next Monthly Mass

This Saturday (19th) at 6:30pm

Our smaller church communities celebrate Mass once a month. Everyone is welcome to come along! Dinner afterwards at the pub!

St. Boniface Church

Owens Street,
Marburg, Qld 4306



2023 Franciscan Calendars are now available from the welcome desk. The recommended sale price is \$6.00 each or you can buy 2 for \$10.

All funds raised through the sale of these calendars support the work of the Franciscans – so if you wish to make a donation when purchasing your calendar/s, be assured it will assist someone, somewhere in the world.

We have had over 100 families participate in primary school and high school youth this year. This is an amazing achievement, and we would like to celebrate this. Jean (Youth Leader) and the team are putting on a BBQ with some games for all students (Prep to Grade 12). All are invited to attend. Dropoff is at 6:00pm on Friday 25th November, in the carpark of St. Mary's Church. The celebration ends at 8:00pm. Please RSVP to assist us with catering. Parents are welcome to stay! - bit.ly/2022youthparty

FORMATION & ACCOMPANIMENT

NOVEMBER MASSES 2022

November Mass Offering Envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk now. The **BOOK OF LIFE** in each church will also be on display for those wishing to enter the names of your deceased loved ones. Our November Liturgies are as follows:



CEMETERY LITURGIES

19th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves
10:00am at Glamorgan Vale Cemetery

26th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves
9:00am at St. Michael's Cemetery, Pine Mountain



The Month of November

Please remember to write the names of family and friends into the Book of Life at your church. During November we especially remember all the faithful departed. Our loved ones will be prayed for at all our Masses during November. During November the Book of Life is placed next to the Paschal candle, as a powerful symbol of Christ's resurrection and also ours. In St. Mary's Church, we also have a candle burning 24/7 for the repose of the souls

in all 5 cemeteries and columbaria. If you would like a Mass offered for your loved ones, envelopes for Mass for the Holy Souls are placed at the Help Desk - Their names will be written into the Book of Life and prayed for at each Mass in November. May our loved ones Rest In Peace!

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

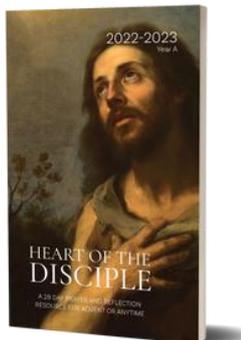
CHRISTMAS is just weeks away – and like all families we need to prepare for our celebrations. If you would like to be involved (for example helping to prepare the Children's Nativity 'Play') in any of the 'family Masses' (i.e., Christmas Vigil Masses), and the last few years we have given fruit cake and a chocolate to people – would you like to help in getting these ready. You might have ideas or suggestions for doing something different. PLEASE call the Parish Office this week. We have had no response for the St. Mary's vigil. We will make a decision about this next week.

Advent - This year's theme - "Opening to Great Joy"

Each Christmas we celebrate the coming of the Infant Saviour, but are we moving in that direction? Are we opening to great joy? What is that joy and how do we celebrate with others? All very good questions!

We have 100 copies of 'Heart of the Disciple' produced by the Archdiocese. A 28-day reflection resource for Advent to help you as you discern these questions.

Pick up your copy today for \$5 (covers the materials and postage to parish) You may even want to form an Advent Group to meet and discuss this each week. In Advent we will be reflecting on how we can "open to Great Joy" in welcoming the Lord Jesus.



Christmas Masses & Liturgies (Save the Date)

Advent Liturgies (all of Parish)

Thursday 8th December 7pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary
Monday 19th December 7pm – Second Rite of Reconciliation

Christmas Vigil (Eve) – Saturday 24th December

4:30pm – Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
5:30pm – St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
5:30pm – St. Mary's, Woodend
6:30pm – St. Brigid's, Rosewood
8:00pm – Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
Midnight Mass – St. Mary's, Woodend

Christmas Day – Sunday 25th December

7:30am – St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
9:00am – St. Mary's, Woodend
No evening Mass Christmas Day



Talkabout 'Christmas Edition' - is being prepared in time for Christmas. To keep people informed of parish activities we need your contributions. Please email articles, news items and photographs to Robyn at robyn@mansol.net.au. Articles are due no later than 2nd December to allow time for publication! Thank You

Volunteer Rosters – Could all volunteers please update their availability for the December – February period. Next weekend we will commence the rostering of ministers for weekend Masses. We have received several requests from new volunteers, and anyone who isn't yet volunteering and would like to please contact the Parish Office.

Volunteer Ministry Link - bit.ly/mspipswich



What is Advent? Advent, which comes from the Latin word for arrival or coming, is a period of preparation for the birth of our Lord. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and is the start of the Christmas season, which lasts through to the Baptism of Our Lord. The first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the liturgical year, the Church's "New Year's Day," at which time we change the cycle of readings we are using at Mass.

Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, but also of penance and preparation for the great Christmas feast. The liturgical colour of the season is purple, a sign of penance, which is also used during Lent. The Church discourages excessive ornamentation, boisterous music and even weddings during Advent, in order to foster a sense of quiet hope.