

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year A

4th December 2022

Dear Parishioners,

At times, God's presence among us is so unspectacular that we need someone else to point it out—someone with a loud voice. That seems to have been the role of John the Baptist. His lifestyle and his message certainly caught everyone's attention. But when he caught their attention, he directed it away from himself and towards the kingdom of heaven.

He called it a kingdom because that was the government people of his time knew. (Jesus, too, often spoke of his kingdom.) However, the kingdom John referred to is not one of military power and privilege but a "peaceable kingdom," where animals that are normally feared as predators live with each other in peace. A beautiful picture, but is it a possibility or just fantasy?

The people believed that someday one would be born who would rule this way, thus enabling them to become a genuine peaceable kingdom. This kingdom would not be made of animals but of women and men of different races, cultures, and beliefs; women and men who would recognise each other's God-given uniqueness and would create genuine unity from this diversity.

John the Baptist declared that this kingdom "is at hand." Is it? Do we strive to live peacefully with the great diversity of people of our world? Or are we smug as we proclaim: "We have Abraham as our father" (Matthew 3:9), so we are right, and you are wrong. The people of John's time should have known better. We should, too. John cries out to them—and to us: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2).

Let's continue to prepare and be open to the 'Great Joy' of Christmas!



Stephen ofm

PARISH BIRTHDAY BBQ (We are 3 years old)
Friday 16th Dec 6pm-8pm - St. Mary's Church



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 **ALL ARE WELCOME**



CAN YOU HELP OUR PARISH OVER CHRISTMAS?

We need welcomers and collectors at Masses, amongst other ministries - Please phone the Parish Office to offer help. If you forget to call or don't offer, staff have to ring around and ask for help. This is not a good use of our staff. Please help over Christmas!



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

God changes the desert into a sea, parched ground into springs of water....God turns his gaze to wherever sadness and loneliness abound....He comes to us in difficult situations; he fills our inner emptiness that makes room for him; he visits our existential deserts. The Lord visits us there.

- Homily, Athens, December 5, 2021

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

Fri 02 No Youth – Christmas Break
4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church
4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church
Sat 03 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church
6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal Church
7:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church (cuppa after)
8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall (m/tea after)
9:00am Mass at St. Mary's Church
Sun 04 Incl Children's Liturgy of the Word (during Mass)
10.30am Baptisms, St. Mary's Church
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church

NEXT WEEK

Mon 05 7:00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church
9:30pm Funeral Mass Clare Wildie, Immaculate Heart Church
Tues 06 9:00am Immaculate Heart Church
8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Adoration St Mary's
Wed 07 9:30am Mass, St. Brigid's Church Hall
6:30pm RCIA Sacraments of Healing, Parish Office
9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church
Thur 08 6:00pm Mass at St. Boniface, Marburg (dinner after)
7:00pm Evening Prayer & Rosary, St. Mary's Church
Fri 09 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church
9:15am Mass at St. Mary's Hostel



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PASTORAL & OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Parish Priest Update



The last few weeks have been exceptionally busy. With school finishing today across the Parish, I wish all our students and families a safe holiday break and hope to see many of you over the Advent / Christmas period.

This week I buried the time capsule at St. Brigid's Primary School, celebrating 100 years! We weren't able to find the previous time capsule, and this time we have lots of photos and a video that have been added to the Parish archive. A few photos below to share this exciting moment!



Last week, I attended CWL House to meet with the trustees. They have gifted the house to the Parish as they have now closed their ministry. I thank all the ladies of CWL (present, and past) for their amazing contribution to the Ipswich Catholic Community. You have established a wonderful legacy, ladies! Some photos of the keys being passed to the Parish below!



Finally, I would like to remind everyone, that although holidays have commenced, we have a lot of liturgies happening across the Parish these coming weeks. I would like to invite everyone to our 3rd birthday BBQ on Friday 16th December at St. Mary's; come and grab a sausage! Also, we have our Reconciliation Liturgy on Monday 17th December from 7pm. This is a powerful moment in our community where we gather to bring our brokenness and experience God's mercy. Please come along.

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

Our Parish has been awarded a grant for Pastoral Formation. We applied to 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'! For those who missed the news last week, some points below.



St. Mary's Church Electrical - This week the two large flood lights in front of the church were removed as they were rusted out and filled with water. The circuit had been isolated for some time; however, removal of these lights ensures better safety for everyone. They will be replaced in the lighting project early next year. The 18 lights in the church have been looked at by our electricians to get as much lighting going as possible for the Christmas season. These lights are falling apart so some delicate work has to be done to help with temp lighting. All these lights will be replaced in the lighting project next year; however, it is important we have good lighting for our Christmas liturgies.

Immaculate Heart & St. Joseph's – The annual termite inspection and pest spray is occurring next week.

Benjamin Leschke

Parish Birthday BBQ – On Friday 16th December from 6pm to 8pm 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!



SOME IMPORTANT NEWS

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



3rd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading	Isaiah 35:1-6,10
Psalm	Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10
2nd Reading	James 5:7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11

PRAYING FOR OTHERS



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

Recently Deceased: Clare Wildie, Bob McDowell, Maureen Sheedy (nee Gee), John Denman, and Chris Thomas.

Anniversaries: Peter Hogan, Leonardo & Venera Romeo, Fr John Dobson, Fay Ryan, and those in our Book of Life.

Talkabout 'Christmas Edition' - is now being pulled together. If you have any last-minute items, please urgently reach out to Robyn at robyn@mansol.net.au. Articles were due 2nd December to allow time for publication in time for Christmas, however I am sure if you contact Robyn by Monday with anything the team can accommodate! Thank You

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.

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.



We have recommenced '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.

Parish Office Hours in 2023 – The Parish Office will close Friday 23rd December at 12pm and re-open on Wednesday 11th January at 9am. In 2023 the office hours will change to 9am – 1pm Monday to Friday.

Christmas Decorations – Can you assist in helping decorate our churches for Christmas? Each year a lot of work goes into making our churches beautiful for Christmas. We have several volunteers already; however, we need more people to help lighten the load! Please call the Parish Office if you can assist in any way!



Meals On Wheels: Our parish is assisting with delivery over the Christmas period - thank you to all who have already volunteered to help, but we still need 1 Driver on 15 December, 1 Driver & Helper on 22 December, 1 Driver & Helper on 12 January, 1 Driver & Helper on 19 January. Please call the parish office with your offer to help as soon as possible. Thank you.



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.

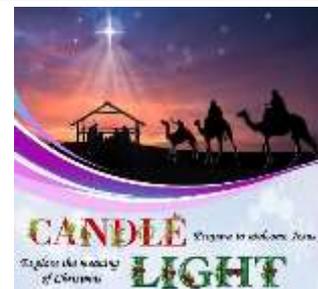
All funds raised through the sale of these calendars support the work of the Franciscans – so if you wish to make a donation when purchasing your calendar/s, be assured it will assist someone, somewhere in the world.

Did you know that St. Francis is credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223 to cultivate the worship of Christ. He had been inspired by his visit to the Holy Land, where he'd been shown Jesus's traditional birthplace.



Explore the Meaning of Christmas

- St. Paul Convent, 28 Fedrick St. Boronia Heights, 4124.
- Saturday 10th December 7pm
- Free entry
- Register – 3800 6338



A Weekend for Women

- Friday 9th December 6pm to Sunday 11 December 3pm
- Friday 20 January 6pm to Sunday 22 January 3pm
- Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston
- \$380 (\$350 concession) includes food and accommodation

grace@dragonflyministries.net.au



CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN, ADVENT CONCERT SERIES - 5:00PM Sunday 4 December 2022

Dominic Perissinotto, St Stephen's Cathedral Organist, will perform French composer Olivier Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* (The Nativity of the Lord), a work of nine "meditations" each depicting an image or concept from the birth of Jesus. *La Nativité* is a testament to Messiaen's Christian faith, as well as one of his earliest works to show the style of composition that would later imbue much of his music. His works were inspired by both the mountains and the nativity scenes in stain glass windows in medieval cathedrals.

In addition to Dominic's performance, Archbishop Mark Coleridge will present reflections on each movement, delving into the joy of Christ's birth, and relating the music to the artwork of Sophie Hacker, which will be displayed on monitors during the performance. Sophie worked with 'found objects' - discarded pieces of wood, string, metal and skip finds, and created nine stunning images depicting aspects of the Incarnation, which are full of spiritual and theological symbolism.

Tickets available at the door or www.trybooking.com/CDVWH

Adult \$35; Concession \$30; Child \$15

The Cathedral car park will be available

UNDERSTANDING ADVENT



The second candle reminds us of God's preparation for the coming of the Christ-Child, to be born in Bethlehem of Judah. The Lord was busy preparing for the birth of the Messiah in an insignificant part of Judah, Bethlehem.

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

Luke 4:18

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

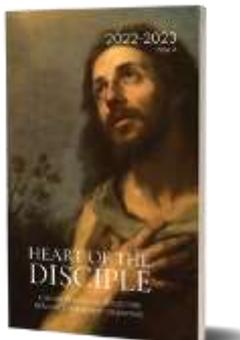
Advent Reflections – For the Season of Advent we will have reflection videos after communion to help lead us through this important season. If you do have difficulty reading the screens, I invite you to find a seat close to the TVs to assist. These reflections are professionally produced so we can't adjust the font size.

Christmas Nativity – The Christmas Nativity Play will commence at 5:00pm at St. Joseph's before the 5:30pm Christmas Vigil. The Nativity will be during the Gospel at the 5:30pm at St. Mary's Christmas Vigil Mass. Families are invited to attend, children are invited to dress up as an angel, shepherd, Mary, Joseph, or even an ox!

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

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 (Carols begin 30 minutes before all Vigil Masses)

4:30pm – Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
5:30pm – St. Joseph's, North Ipswich (with Nativity)
5:30pm – St. Mary's, Woodend (with Nativity)
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



CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

1st Sunday	Placement of Advent Wreath & Candles ✓
2nd Sunday	Placement of Crib & Giving Tree ✓
3rd Sunday	Christmas Tree Assembled
4th Sunday	Blessing of Crib & Christmas Tree

Banners - This year we are using banners again to remind each other that we are preparing as a community of believers. Take a few moments to look up and reflect on this important season.

2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION



During Advent our Parish will celebrate the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation **at 7pm on Monday 19th December in St. Mary's Church**. This is a great opportunity to come together as a parish community and experience the mercy of Jesus as we wait in anticipation.

“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.” (EG, 114)

This Year's Giving Tree – Parishioners have 4 selections for this year's Giving Tree:

1. Parish Formation (to help with Engage 2023)
2. St. Vincent de Paul
3. Hospice
4. Ukraine Appeal – Australian Catholic Bishops Conference*

* The bishops have asked parishes to include Ukraine in their Advent appeals.

Envelopes are available in churches



We also have a QR Code for those who want to give electronically. When the link is clicked, it will open to a donation form. Please note where you would like the money to go to in the "Reason for your Donation" field. For example, Parish Formation.

Thank you for your gifts this Christmas!

Our Parish is also proud to continue the support of Rosies all year round by providing accommodation in the old Leichhardt Presbytery. If you wish to support Rosies, please visit their website - <https://rosies.org.au/charity/ipswich/>

