

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. Jose Panampuzha CMI
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke
Youth Animator: Jean Sajeeve

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**Year A****15th January 2023****Dear Parishioners,**

Thanks so much to everyone who assisted in our Christmas liturgies – they were wonderful, and our Churches looked magnificent, and our Community shone with great Christmas joy! My thanks to the choirs, people who decorated the churches, servers, readers, and all other ministers. All our Liturgies were great team efforts!

Here we are in 2023 and I hope and pray that it is a wonderful year for all of us: A year in which our Parish will grow in its active call to be missionary disciples today!

It is no accident that Vatican II's first document is titled Lumen Gentium ("Light of the Nations"). Jesus is the Light, and as his Body, the One of the hallmarks of Vatican II is the so called "universal call to holiness," the notion that all Christians, regardless of individual vocation or life circumstances, are called to union with God and thereby have a role to play in the salvation of all. Jesus is the light, and as his Body, the Church, we must manifest the light of Christ to all peoples within the circumstances of our lives. The real question becomes: "Are we being faithful to that call, the mission of being a light to the nations"?

Ours is an incarnational faith. We don't simply wait for God to act in our lives by some extraordinary means. By grace, we consent (or not) to God acting through our daily lives - however ordinary or extraordinary. This is made possible, of course, by God becoming human in Jesus Christ, who put our sinful, human nature to death on the cross and raised us up with him at the resurrection to share eternal, divine life with the Holy Trinity.



We must choose whether to accept that gift. If we do, then like Isaiah, St. Paul, and St. John the Baptist, we each have a particular role to play in Christ's mission. This is our mission today – it is for all of us! While we may not think of ourselves as prophets, apostles, or evangelisers, Lumen Gentium makes clear that as individual members of the Body of Christ, we are called by God to contribute to the sanctification of the world from within, like leaven . . . "[and] manifest Christ to

others" (LG 31). Today's readings focus on discipleship. We hear the words servant, apostle, and called to be holy. May we respond: "Here am I, Lord. I come to do your will."

Happy New Year and may it be a good one for you (and me).

Stephen ofm**PARISH CALENDAR****THIS WEEKEND**

Sat 14
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

Sun 15
7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church (breaky after)
8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall
9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church
Children's Liturgy Resumes Sunday 29th January
10.30am Baptisms, St. Mary's Church
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church

NEXT WEEK

Mon 16 No Mass at St. Joseph's Church

Tues 17 9:00am Immaculate Heart Church
8:30am Rosary, 9am Mass, 9:30am Adoration St Mary's

Wed 18 No Mass, St. Brigid's Church Hall
5:00pm Prayer Group, Parish Office

Thur 19 9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church

Fri 20 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church

As we near the end of school holidays, let us all pray that families return safely and are refreshed for a fantastic 2023!

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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

Recently Deceased: Vincent Heffernan, Paula Green, Cardinal George Pell.

Anniversaries: Brian Rashleigh, Dave Dodds, Francis Hammant, Neal Crozier and those in our Book of Life.



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PARISH UPDATE

From our Seminarian

I would like to say a big thank you to Fr. Stephen and to Fr. Johny, also the staff members in the office and each of you for an amazing year. I have enjoyed my year with you very much.

There are a lot of things to gain and to learn from each of you, and I will cherish these last 12 months as I continue my journey to priesthood.

Thank you so much for having me in 2022, and thanks for the generosity and hospitality you shared with me. Given the opportunity, I will pop by from time to time, as the Ipswich Catholic Community is very much part of my family know. I truly enjoyed my pastoral year with you, and the friendships and memories I have formed will last me a lifetime!

As I continue my vocation journey, please keep me in your prayers. Thank you and see you around!

Michael Tran



YOUTH UPDATE

KID'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

**Friday Night Youth kicks off on Friday,
27th January, with an Australia Day theme.**

Primary School & High School students are invited to come and celebrate our diverse Australian culture.

When: Friday 27th January

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm (dinner provided)

Where: St. Mary's Primary School Hall

Both Primary and High School Programs will run each Friday during school term and run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Mark your calendar!

SAVE THESE DATES

**FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH – 6:30pm – 8:30pm
January 27th**

February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Our Parish continues to respond to youth in many ways. Please encourage your children, teens, grandchildren, and young adults to engage with us. We would love to meet them!

These are the programs we have on offer...

- The Atrium – Infants, toddlers, primary school aged children
- Friday Night Youth – Primary school and high school aged youth
- Sacramental Program – Primary school aged children
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Teenagers – High school aged youth
- Children's Liturgy of the Word – Primary school aged children
- Many ministries youth can participate in

If you have any questions, please reach out!

Jean Sajeeve, Youth Animator

Ipswich Catholic Community

FREE FOOD AUSTRALIA DAY THEME

Friday Night Youth!

St Mary's Primary School Hall

PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Friday, 27th January
6:30 – 8:30pm

WELCOME BACK!

SOME KEY DATES

Sacraments for Children & Youth - Info Evening

Wednesday, 15th February 6:30pm – 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church

Ash Wednesday – 22nd February

Palm Sunday – 2nd April

Easter Sunday – 9th April

Pentecost – 28th May

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



3rd Sunday of Ord Time – Yr A

1st Reading	Isaiah 8:23—9:3
Psalm	Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Gospel	Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

PRIMARY SCHOOL & SECONDARY SCHOOL – CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS IN 2023

With school resuming in 2 weeks, all parents/guardians across our primary schools and colleges will receive a letter from Fr. Stephen inviting students who have not yet celebrated their sacraments, to participate in this year's programs. Students of state schools (primary and secondary), as well as parisoners with children in schools outside of our parish are also invited to participate. The letter will be available on the parish website in the first week of school, and can be shared by parishioners and families. Summary of detail below.

SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH – INFORMATION SESSION

When – Wednesday 15th February, 2023 | 6:30pm to 7:30pm | St. Mary's Church. Woodend

Parents and guardians with children/teenagers interested in celebrating their Sacraments this year (and who are not already enrolled in a program) are invited to this information session. Key focus areas are

- Prep – Grade 12 students not yet Baptised.
- Grade 3 children starting their sacramental journey with the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023.
- Grade 3 – Grade 6 students who haven't completed their Sacraments and are not enrolled in a program.
- Grade 7 – Grade 12 students who haven't completed their Sacraments.
- Grade 7 – Grade 12 students interested in becoming Catholic.

ONLINE ENROLMENT FORMS – SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Our online enrolment forms will be available for parents and guardians from Monday 30th January, from our parish website. Please bookmark this link

<https://www.ipswichcatholic.com/children/>



The Sacrament of Baptism for primary school aged children will be available in March/April, and July/August this year. Preparation Evenings are scheduled for Wed 1st March and Wed 19th July.



The Sacrament of Confirmation for baptised children in Year 3 and above will be celebrated in **May**. The program commences Wed 19th April. This will be the first time the parents of these children are enrolling in the program. Parents of children in Year 4 and above who haven't celebrated Confirmation are also invited.



The Sacrament of Holy Communion for baptised children in Year 4 and above will be celebrated **June**. The program commences Wed 17th May. Parents of children already enrolled and who celebrated Confirmation in 2022 will be contacted in March and invited to book their sessions. Parents of children in Year 4 and above who have not celebrated Holy Communion are also invited.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation for baptised children in Year 5 and above will be celebrated in **August**. The Program begins Wed 16th August. Parents of children already enrolled and who celebrated Confirmation in 2021, and Holy Communion in 2022 will be contacted in June and invited to book their sessions. Parents of children in Year 5 and above who haven't celebrated Reconciliation are also invited.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF TEENAGERS

RCIT is a program where high school students prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.

This program is specifically designed for Catholic teens who have not celebrated all of their sacraments, and non-Catholic teens interested in exploring the Catholic faith more, and who would like to consider becoming Catholic.

More information will be available about this program in the coming weeks.



St Edmunds Old Boys Association Annual General Meeting to be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 8 February 2022 at the Pender House, St Edmunds College, Arthur Street Woodend.

All enquiries to be made to Andrew McGrath on 3389 6858 or 0438 164 452.



St Edmunds Old Boys Twilight Bowls Night

On Saturday 11 February – At Ipswich Bowls Club - Merle Finimore Avenue, Queens Park Ipswich. Arrive 4.00pm for a 5.00pm Start. \$20 per bowler, includes 1 beer and a Barbeque Dinner after (7.00pm)

4 Person Teams, but single bowlers welcome.

Contact Andrew McGrath at amcgrath59@hotmail.com or call 0438 164 452.



‘The Fabric of Our Lives’ – A Quiet Weekend for Women of Faith

God is the Master Crafter, and each day lived in relationship with God is an opportunity to create something wonderful - a life which is gradually woven by the coming together of

relationships, events and experiences, and ultimately, overseen by the One who is love.

This weekend is an opportunity to explore the bits and pieces of the everyday as well as the extraordinary moments that come together to create a life – our life.

Hosted & facilitated by: Grace Harwood (Dragonfly Ministries)

When: Friday 20 January 6pm – Sunday 22 January 3pm

Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston. Cost: \$380 (\$350 for concessions) includes all accommodation, meals (an additional fee for special diets), resources, spiritual direction and facilitation.

To register or enquire: grace@dragonflyministries.net.au or 0409 524 283

AUSTRALIA DAY MASS

Everyone is invited to come together on Thursday, 26 January 2023 for our 9.00am Mass in St. Mary’s Church, where we will celebrate the blessings bestowed upon our beautiful country and its wonderful people, to pray for this to continue, and indeed pray that other countries and people should enjoy the same freedom and peace that we do.



Vale Cardinal George Pell

The Catholic Church in Australia has known few more extraordinary figures than George Pell. A product and priest of the rural diocese of Ballarat, he rose to be not only Archbishop of Melbourne but, extraordinarily, Archbishop of Sydney as well. It was unthinkable then that the Archbishop of Melbourne would be moved to Sydney. As was said at the time, “It was an insult to both”. It took George Pell to break the mould.

With the move to Sydney he was named Cardinal, which brought with it a further enhancement of his Vatican profile. This led eventually to his appointment as Prefect of the Secretariat of the Economy of the Holy See, charged with leading the financial reforms begun by Pope Benedict and pursued by Pope Francis.

Then his legal troubles erupted in Australia in circumstances that remain unclear. Pell became the victim of an outrageous injustice as he was convicted and jailed for 13 months before a final vindication. The spiritual poise and strength he showed through all of this was extraordinary. It revealed a depth to George Pell that often went unrecognised.

Through his legal troubles, he was identified wholly with the Catholic Church and vice versa. Pell was the Church and the Church was Pell – big, powerful and heartless in the eyes of many. Partly this was because, in his public persona in Australia, Pell had presented himself self-consciously as the voice of the Catholic Church. Those who didn’t know him thought Pell heartless and humourless, and his media persona could suggest this. Yet if George Pell had anything they were a good heart and a sense of humour. It was a pity that more of this didn’t show in his media appearances.

He didn’t claim to be a saint; he knew he was flawed. But he did claim – and rightly – to be a man of faith and a man of the Church. He once told me how struck he was by the words on the Roman tomb of Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, *Vehementer amavit Ecclesiam* (*Vehemently he loved the Church*). George said however that he’d prefer on his own tomb, *Vehementer amavit Dominum et Ecclesiam* (*Vehemently he loved the Lord and the Church*).

There was nothing bland or half-hearted about George Pell: he was strong, even vehement in his faith, his convictions, his likes and dislikes. He could be a fierce opponent, unafraid to enter the battle. At times this could make him seem an ideological warrior, which did not serve him well. It certainly wasn’t George Pell at his best.

He was always a polarising figure, stirring strongly contrasting reactions. He had both passionate friends and passionate foes. In part this was because his deepest instincts were those of a politician who thrived on opposition and conflict. It was also tied to an apocalyptic view of the world seen as an arena where good and evil, life and death, light and darkness contended. There wasn’t much middle ground for George Pell, not too many shades of grey.

But that he had unusual gifts of leadership is certain – intelligence, courage, conviction, self-confidence, political nous and tenacity among them. Though he chose a life in the Church, George Pell would have been a leader in any field he had chosen.

It will take time to assess his legacy in the Church in Australia, which will prove as complex, even as contradictory as the man himself. For now we give thanks for the gifts George Pell brought to us and the challenges he posed. And we pray that, beyond all the struggles and sorrows he knew, this extraordinary man of faith and of the Church, our brother George, will come now before the Lord of mercy who will say to him simply (as Julian of Norwich predicts for each of us), “Thanks for all you’ve done”.

Eternal rest give to George, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

+ **Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane**
11 January 2023

