

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 9:00am - 1:00pm
1C Elizabeth Street, Woodend 4305 | 07 3281 2133
ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au | ipswichcatholic.com
Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM
Assistant Priest: Fr Ejikeme Valentine
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke
Youth Animator: Jean Sajeeve

1st Sunday of Lent

Year A

26th February 2023

Dear Parishioners,

A few weeks ago, several Parishioners gathered with me to share some thoughts on how we would celebrate LENT 2023. The verse we said prior to the Gospel at Masses on Ash Wednesday *was our focus ... "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts"*



In responding to this verse we decided in our discussions that we would encourage more silence in our liturgy so that we can 'hear' God's voice, and reflect on the hardness of heart many of us experience. Please do what you can to enter into these 'silence' periods.

- Maybe .. before Mass, let's help to keep an atmosphere of quietness,
- .. after the Scriptures and homily, to enter into quiet reflection, and
- .. after Communion, to try as well to be still and quiet.

We will hear this verse several times during Lent..... **be still and know that I am God**

This Sunday we will encourage Parishioners to take a stone home: each of us at times experience 'hardness of heart' - often feel in our hearts (anger, resentments, frustrations, misunderstanding etc) During Lent we are asked to change our ways ... to repent and believe in the Good News of Jesus. The stone is something tangible for you to hold and reflect on (today and during Lent) what might be 'softened' in your life, or in your heart (attitude towards others, acceptance of a person or situation, soften the words we use, soften our ways towards change etc). Lent is a gift to us to reflect, pray and do something to change our ways. Put very simply, we are reminded (in so many ways) during Lent to "be good and live the Gospel".

During Lent the Sanctuary area is bare – we have removed the cloths, there are no flowers – it all looks very simple so that our focus is on Jesus. We remove the holy water from the font reminding us to truly anticipate the waters of Baptism at Easter. It is not that we have forgotten to fill the fonts! We leave the ashes in the Sanctuary to remind us of our fragileness.

Lent is that season given to us to refocus our lives, to engage and encounter the Lord, to do what we can to be renewed in our living as Jesus' disciples today.

So, I say 'Happy Lent' and together, let's do all we can to make 2023 Lent meaningful! **Stephen ofm**

THIS WEEKEND, WE WELCOME FR EJKEME TO THE IPSWICH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE WILL ENSURE THAT HE ENJOYS HIS STAY WITH US.

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Sat 25	8.00am Mass at St Michael's Pine Mountain	Mon 27	7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church
	4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church	Tues 28	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church
	4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church		9.00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend
	5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church	Wed 01	9.30am Mass, St. Brigid's Church Hall, Rosewood
	6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal Church		5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's, Woodend
Sun 26	7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church	Thur 02	9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church
	8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall		10.00am Mass Villa Maria Aged Care
	9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church (incl Children's Liturgy)	Fri 03	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church
	10.30am Baptism Preparations, St. Mary's Parish Centre		10.30am Mass St Mary's Hostel
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church		6.30pm Primary & High School Youth	



PRAYING FOR OTHERS Please pray for those in our parish who are unwell. We pray for ...

Recently deceased: Sidney Smith, Rodney Potts, Peter Mullins, Veronica Forsythe.

Anniversaries: Margaret Wanstall and Fred Reinke, Eileen Matthews, John Francis Williams, John Gerald Williams, Brian Lawton, Mark Stevenson, Pat and Norma Hogan, Lyn Wark, and those in our Book of Life.



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

PARISH UPDATE

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, conversion, penance and renewal - so that we might prepare ourselves to better celebrate the Resurrection of Christ at Easter

HOW CAN I ENGAGE MORE NOW?

Did you know our Parish has invested in online formation tools for families of the parish (including all of our schools)

Formed - A revolutionary online platform providing access to the best Catholic audio talks, movies, eBooks, and video-based studies. Parish membership has an unlimited number of seats to suit any parish size. Content list - <https://formed.org/content-list>

If you haven't already, go sign up! Use the link below and search for 'Ipswich Catholic Community', then follow the prompts! <https://formed.org/signup>

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 85 PEOPLE REGISTERED - GOAL IS 250 USERS



SAFEGUARDING UPATE – Maree has started to make contact with those volunteers needing to have information updated on our volunteer register. We are on track for our Safeguarding Audit in March.

Please Remember – Volunteers new to ministry, or existing volunteers changing ministries, must speak with the Parish Office first, before taking on a ministry. This ensure we are following the necessary procedures, set out by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The Parish Office will then advise volunteers when they can commence in their ministry. There are no exceptions to this process, and this ensures we are navigating safeguarding easily and keeping our records up to date! If you have any questions around this, please speak with Benjamin. We all do need to remain vigilant to maintain safe places, safe processes, and safe people.

ATRIUM UPDATE: We held an Orientation morning for the Infant/Toddler Atrium last Wednesday morning and it was great to welcome our new families to this special ministry. It was also delightful to welcome back the children who have previously attended the Atrium. We are now located in the old Presbytery building at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Leichhardt. The rooms have been refurbished and everything looks fabulous ready to commence officially on March 1st from 9.00am – 10.30am. The response to this unique ministry has been overwhelming and we have had to close enrolments as we have reached our maximum numbers for the space. However, if you would like to enquire please contact Bernadette McAndrew: 0417 797 302 or Karen Brennan: 0412 891 451.



The Primary School aged Atrium will commence on the 28th February in a room underneath the St Mary's Primary School Early Years area. This session is from 3.30pm to 5.00pm on Tuesday afternoons.

Who is "Connect Ipswich"?

Connect Ipswich is the name for the new High School Youth Group in the Ipswich Catholic Community. The aim of Connect Ipswich is to connect young people with the church and form a community. Our purpose is to build relationships with teenagers from our schools and parish. For 2023, it is Connect's mission to build up the life of youth within our parish and make youth known to our parish. Connect Ipswich hosts youth every Friday night at either St Mary's or St Edmund's College. There are many things that Connect Ipswich has planned to do with the parish throughout the course of 2023 such as fundraisers and whole parish events. All of us from the Connect Ipswich Team are excited to connect with the Ipswich Catholic Community in 2023.

YOUTH UPDATE

YOUTH UPDATE: The Parish's Stations of the Cross Passion Play on Good Friday is returning in 2023 and will be led by our youth. Any high school students from grade 7 to grade 12 wishing to participate please call or email the Parish Office with an expression of interest. More info coming soon!

The Ipswich Catholic Community is looking to reboot formation with Young Adults in our parish. We will be hosting an information/Q&A session in the coming weeks. If you are interested, please make contact with the parish. More info coming soon!

Friday Night Youth - Everyone is Invited
FRIDAY NIGHTS 6:30PM – 8:30PM (WITH DINNER)



Primary Youth –
St. Mary's Primary School Hall
High School Youth –
St Edmund's College / St Mary's College





SUMMIT 23 is a three-day gathering of clergy, religious, educators, catechists, lay leaders and communities from across the Archdiocese of Brisbane for keynote presentations, workshops, panel discussions, prayer and encounter with Jesus. The Summit is a key moment in the implementation of the decrees of the Plenary Council. Though we do not yet have papal approval, there is much we can do. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will share his vision for the Archdiocese alongside a number of other leading voices, including Sherry Weddell (author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*). The Summit will create a place where each person can encounter Christ, be formed in faith, and equipped for the mission we are called to. **When: 6pm Thurs. 18th to 3pm Sat. 20th May 2023 Where: Riverlife Centre** (47 Jennifer St, Seventeen Mile Rocks Q) **Cost: Early bird is \$170pp | \$150pp for groups of 10+ (ends 12 March).** After early bird is \$200pp | \$170pp for groups of 10+ Find out more and register at brisbanesummit.com. **If you would like to be part of the Parish Group, please call the Parish Office. The cost will be covered by a generous person.**

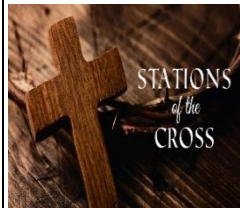
MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



Second Sunday of Lent – Yr A

1st Reading	Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm	Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22
2nd Reading	2 Timothy 1:8-10
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT



Tuesdays, after 9.00am

Mass at Leichhardt

Wednesdays - after 9.00am

Mass at St. Mary's

Fridays - 5.30pm at St. Mary's

(check newsletter)

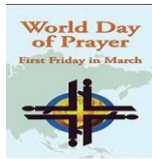


*St. Michael's Church,
Pine Mountain*

856 Pine Mountain Rd, Pine Mountain

Our Next Mass - Saturday 25th February at 8:00am

Our smaller church communities celebrate Mass once a month. Everyone is welcome to come along!



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Throughout the world, people of every country will gather for this special time of prayer which has been prepared by the people of Taiwan – and you are invited to be part of this universal ecumenical prayer. You can join us on **Friday, 3rd March 2023**, with services commencing at **10.00am** at St Thomas's Anglican Church, 15 Lawrence Street, North Ipswich, and The Seventh Day Adventist Church, Cnr Walloon & Langdon Road, Thagoona Everyone's welcome, and your support will be much appreciated.



ONLINE ENROLMENT FORMS – SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Our online enrolment forms are now available for parents and guardians on our parish website. Please bookmark this link 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 in **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 their sacraments, and non-Catholic teens interested in exploring the Catholic faith more, and who would like to consider becoming Catholic. **Enquire now – ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au**

RCIA Update: Congratulations to our six Catechumens who will be received at the Rite of Election Ceremony on Sunday, 26th February, 3pm in the Cathedral of St Stephen's, Brisbane. Please continue to pray for them in their faith journey.





First Sunday of Lent 25 & 26 February



Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling

further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas, Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or call 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT EACH OF THE CHURCHES – YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED



During Lent, Christians really intentionally prepare for the celebration of Easter, and we do this in three ways:

1. *We pray and spend time with God*
2. *We make room for God by fasting from things that usually fill our time or our bellies*
3. *We reach out through alms-giving which puts our love for others into action*

It doesn't matter how old you are, Lent is a time that even our youngest disciples can embrace!

International Women's Day

Catholic Mission and the Archdiocese of Brisbane invite you to celebrate the difference women are making in diverse areas of mission.

Date: Wednesday 8th Mar 2023
Time: 10.00 am – 11.00am
(9.45am for a 10.00am start)
Venue: Francis Rush Centre,
277 Elizabeth St, Brisbane

GUEST SPEAKER
Josephine Cullen

International Women's Day catholic mission #EmbraceEquity
Reach out. Give life.

HELP SYRIA

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake or scan the QR code.



A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT METANOIA:

It is defined as a change of heart, especially after spiritual conversion. This is the most commonly understood meaning, but our lives are in a kind of metanoia as long as we live. Our bodies keep changing, cell by cell, so it makes sense that our hearts and minds should also keep "updating."

During Lent this year, we might decide to seek metanoia in one or more areas of our lives, and emerge "from the tomb of our old selves" at Easter, renewed and revitalized. I can ask myself what areas in my life need deep transformation - my relationship with God and others;

This Lent can be a challenge for change, even true metanoia but the starting line is in my heart, soul and mind. Metanoia is a journey and it is not taken alone. God will be with us as His plan is for everyone to be saved, even the worst of us, so we can be sure that He will do infinitely more than we can ask to assist us.

Will Easter be the finishing line or the start of a marathon of change? God only knows and He will help, but am I willing/ready to ask Him for this?

Judith (Rosewood)

Thank You to Parishioners for your prayers, love and support for our son Peter. He is now recovering from his surgery and doing very well. *Viv Markwell*

OUR SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT



Our parish supports and is committed to the Safeguarding Policies as set out by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.