

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

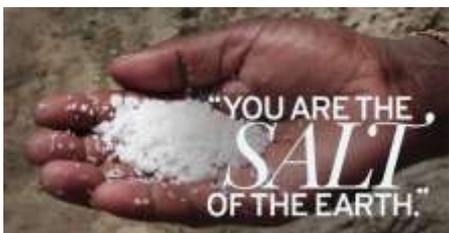
Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM
Assistant Priests: Fr. Jose Panampuzha CMI
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke
Youth Animator: Jean Sajeeve

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Year A** **5th February 2023**

Dear Parishioners,

Happy February! I hope you are well. Remember if you are sick or become housebound and would like a priest to visit with Communion, please call the Parish Office.

Someone gave me a compliment recently and it was lovely the person took the time, and I treasured it. We all love a compliment! The description of the disciples found in today's Gospel is an impressive compliment - and an even greater challenge. Jesus tells them they are "the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13), bringing out the good taste of living.



In other words, life would be bland and uninteresting without them. They are also the "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14), helping people find their way. Without them, others would stumble and fall. Jesus is telling them how important they are in the lives of others. They could, individually and together say: I am really something!

Such compliments are also a challenge. What must one do to be salt and light in the lives of others? Isaiah's passage provides some suggestions: Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked; don't

turn your back on your own; remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech. In other words, to be salt or light is to meet the needs of the needy. This teaching of Jesus is not as easy to do as it is to talk about.

Over the next few weeks, we will commission the teachers in the Catholic Schools of the Parish - they are encouragers, and support Parents in teaching 'faith-matters'. The teachers don't just talk about faith but live our faith. Something we are all called to - to live credibly our faith.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples, his followers. His followers are not those who are simply curious about this itinerant preacher or remarkable healer. They have chosen to follow him, not merely from place to place, but to model their lives after his. Isn't that what we also claim to be - his followers? Haven't we promised to model our lives after his? If so, as both compliment and challenge he says to us as well, "You are really something!" Thank-you for the witness of faith you give I ask you to pray for our Schools - that they will be places where Jesus is made real to all.



Stephen ofm

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Fri 03	6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, Parish Office, Woodend	Mon 06	7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church 9:00am St. Mary's College Mass 11:30am APRE Meeting, Parish Office
Sat 04	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	Tues 07	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church
Sun 05	7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church 8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall 9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church Children's Liturgy 10.30am Baptisms, St. Mary's Church 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church	Wed 08	8:30am Rosary, 9am Mass, 9:30am Adoration St Mary's 9.30am Mass, St. Brigid's Church Hall 5:00pm Prayer Group, Parish Office
		Thur 09	9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church 9:00am St. Joseph's Primary School Mass 6.00pm Mass St Boniface, Marburg
		Fri 10	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church 9:00am St. Edmund's College Commissioning Mass 6:30pm Baptism (Caolan Leschke), St. Mary's Church 6.30pm Primary & High School Youth (St Mary's Primary Hall)



PRAYING FOR OTHERS

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

Anniversaries: Tom Brown, Peter & Irene Mekynczuk, Bill Roach, Des McManus, and Hudson Basham, and those in our Book of Life.



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

PARISH UPDATE

WHAT IS ENGAGE 2023?

This year we are building our Parish Life Teams who will work with Fr. Stephen to maintain strong community engagement at each of our churches. We will also start to explore 'connect groups' and how they can help us connect with more people.

We will be facilitating parish formation sessions, leadership sessions, and workshops. Stay tuned for dates and detail for each of these. We will have some guest facilitators too!

STRATEGY GROUP – We have already begun! On Wednesday night a small group of parishioners were invited to start our Strategy Group. This team will start to develop a Parish Strategy, which will then be shared with the parish. This will involve workshops, small groups, and will result in all parishioners having an opportunity to give input on the final strategy. The strategy will inform our Parish Plan (2023 – 2026).

ONLINE FORMATION - This year we have also invested in online formation tools for families of the parish (including all of our schools) to assist with those who have busy schedules and for those who may not be able to attend sessions or workshops in person. We have purchased the following:

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>

Word On Fire Engage - This tool makes it easy and effective to reach busy parishioners particularly when they are away! The tool also brings the small group experience to them while they are away, extending discussion beyond our church walls.

So, we have lots happening already! At this stage we need everyone to start to pray for Engage 2023. More to come....

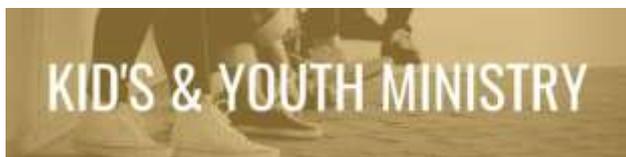


SAFEGUARDING UPDATE – In June 2018, we had 286 of our volunteers gather in St. Mary's Church and hear about safeguarding for the very first time. What began as a challenge to many of us, has now become just a part of who we are. Since 2018, the Archdiocese has worked hard to simplify policies and guidelines by working with external agencies.

We still have around 250 volunteers, **however we now only have approximately 65 volunteers** that undertake ministries that require regular safeguarding training and compliance checks. This not only removes a large amount of administrative burden for the Parish Office, but also simplifies volunteering for all of us!

As we continue to prepare for our safeguarding audit, we are streamlining our records and will only need to contact some of these 65 volunteers. Most ministries at Mass (e.g., Lectors, Communion Ministers, Coordinators) no longer require safeguarding training. We all do still need to remain vigilant to maintain safe places, safe processes, and safe people.

YOUTH UPDATE



**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 – Parish Office**

SAVE THESE DATES

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

DID YOU KNOW?

During the Middle Ages, the Church founded Europe's first universities, producing scholars like Robert Grosseteste, Albert the Great, Roger Bacon, and Thomas Aquinas, who helped establish the scientific method. Science relies on this 'method' and is an important part of who we are. Today, however many people believe that science conflicts with faith!

In fact, many people state that the scientific method disproves the existence of God. They claim, that if the world or universe needs a designer (God), then why wouldn't the designer itself need a designer, too? Or if it can exist without any designer behind it, then why can't we just say the same for the universe and wash our hands of a designer (God) altogether?

If your children, grandchildren, etc... asked these questions, could you easily respond?



THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF LENT

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

Fancy a Drive to Marburg?

**Our Next Monthly Mass
Thursday 9th February at 6:00pm**

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

St. Boniface Church

Owens Street,
Marburg, Qld 4306



Please come and support our community!

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



6th Sunday of Ord Time – Yr A

1st Reading	Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Gospel	Matthew 5:17-37



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

INFORMATION SESSION

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.



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 **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



Volunteering & Safeguarding – We are currently preparing for our annual safeguarding audit which will occur on Friday 3rd March. Maree is assisting me and will start to make email and phone contact with volunteers next week to ensure all volunteers have their records up to date. Where possible we will use electronic forms again to assist with updating any missing information. Thanks for your support! Benjamin

St Edmunds Old Boys Association Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.30pm 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 is 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.

PLEASE CONSIDER – coming to a weekday Mass, our times and locations are listed on the front page of the newsletter. We also have rosary on Wednesday's from 8:40am and adoration after Mass on Wednesday's from Approx. 9:30am – 10:30am. Please consider popping by for prayer.

60th Wedding Anniversary – Congratulation to Lynton and Gloria Rice who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, 26th January. Lynton and Gloria attend St Joseph's church, North Ipswich.

The Art of Liturgical Celebration: 28-30 September 2023, Brisbane - SAVE THE DATE: REGISTRATIONS OPENING 6 FEBRUARY 2023. For all enquiries contact liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au.

Word of God Sunday - The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Word of God Sunday on the first Sunday in February each year – 5 February in 2023. Many countries celebrate the occasion on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. In September 2019, Pope Francis instituted the celebration of Word of God Sunday when issuing the apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*. The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

A number of resources have been developed to help individuals, families, parishes, schools and other ministries commemorate Word of God Sunday.

Among ways Catholics and Catholic communities are being encouraged to mark the day are a special display of Sacred Scripture or the Book of the Gospels, the establishment of Bible study groups or the adoption of lectio divina, a common practice of reflection on Scripture.

Visit the Australian Catholic Bishops website for more...

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Word-of-God-Sunday>

NUNCIO VISIT - This week I was asked by the Archbishop of Brisbane to host the Papal Nuncio (Archbishop Charles Balvo) for a visit to the Ipswich Catholic Community. The Nuncio will be visiting the Archdiocese for five days, spending a day in each of the following - Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Ipswich, and the cathedral precinct. The Archbishop has suggested that the Nuncio visit Ipswich on Friday 17th of February - Only two weeks away!

So, we don't have much time to plan, but I would like to suggest we have a Parish Mass at 10am in Saint Marys Church (the 9 am Eastern Heights mass will be cancelled that day only) - each of the schools will be asked to send some classes, and I invite all parishioners together for this wonderful occasion. First time to my knowledge we have welcomed a Papal Nuncio to Ipswich!

What is a Papal Nuncio? In short, he is the Pope's representative for the church in Australia and collaborates very closely with the Bishops Conference. It is important for the Nuncio to visit Parishes, and therefore dioceses to understand the uniqueness, the beauty, and the challenges that face Parish life today.

I feel very honoured, that we have been asked to host the Nuncio at this time as I am very proud to let him experience the wonderful community that we are in Ipswich.

I am still working out the program for 17 February and in next week's bulletin, I will share with you a full program of the day that the Nuncio and Archbishop Coleridge will spend in Ipswich.

It will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to meet and greet the Nuncio. I would like to have a barbecue after mass for all the students and the Nuncio to mingle with students, staff, and parishioners. If you would like to help in anyway, please see me or phone me or phone the Parish office. We will need help! I'll share more details next week .

Stephen OFM

OPERATIONAL UPATE (Benjamin)

MAREE IS RETIRING – Later this year, Maree will be retiring. After working several decades for the church, this will allow Maree to spend more time with her children and grandchildren, I am sure everyone will agree with me when I say that Maree has earned her retirement! While this means change for us, I think we can be all excited for Maree, and how she will carve the next chapter in her life. Well done, Maree!

PRINCIPALS MEETING – Each Term, Fr. Stephen and I meet with all our principals to discuss our 'communities' and how we can respond to each other as we share in our 'Ipswich Catholic Community' identity. We met on Thursday and talked a bit about how we are preparing for the 160 years of Catholic Education in Ipswich celebrations this year, an Apostolic Nuncio visit on Friday 17th February, and how our Parish can support more students and classes coming to weekday Masses; something we are all excited about. Watch this space and keep us in your prayers!

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.