

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Year A** **12th February 2023**

Dear Parishioners,

Law, wisdom, or virtue. Choose one. Today's first reading talks about wisdom. Throughout life, options are placed before us. Which should we pick? Life or death? Good or evil? How do we know which one to choose? Actually, we learn to choose through experience, either our own or the experience of those who have gone before us and left us their insights within our traditions - whether social, political, or religious.



Some of these traditions come to us as advice, others as law. One might say that law is really the expression or codification of social, political, or religious traditions. So, to follow the law is really to obey a certain kind of codified wisdom. I'll try not to get too deep!

When St. Paul speaks about wisdom, he is referring to wisdom that comes from following the directives of God, not merely the insights gained through experience. Paul calls that a mature wisdom as opposed the wisdom of this age. It is the kind of wisdom we find in Jesus, who lived his life for others, a kind of wisdom that some might consider foolish.

In the Gospel, Jesus insists that he is not abolishing law but fulfilling it. He urges us to go deeper into law and find wisdom, to go even deeper into human wisdom, and there to find virtue. Law deals with exteriors; virtue addresses the inner heart. Law forbids murder; virtue forbids hatred. Where do you live? In law? In wisdom? Or in virtue? Choose one!

"Abiding God, may we be faithful to the law of love your Son revealed to the world."

Have a great week, and let's continue to pray for each other.

I would also like to thank St. Edmund's P&F, who have been kind enough to purchase a 6 burner BBQ for the Parish. Both colleges host a combined Sunday Mass each month followed by a BBQ. We also have many other occasions that this will help our Parish with hospitality! Thank you!!!

Stephen ofm

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Fri 10	1.00pm Funeral Prayers St. Joseph's, Robert Skele 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, Parish Office, Woodend	Mon 13	7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church 11.00am Funeral Mass St Mary's, Kevin O'Neill
Sat 11	4:30pm Mass and Commissioning of Teachers 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 14	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church
Sun 12	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 15	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 6.30pm – Sacraments Information Session (Primary & High School Aged) St Mary's Church 6.30pm RCIA Session, Parish Centre
		Thur 16	9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church 10:00am Knitting Group, St. Joseph's Vinnies Room
		Fri 17	9:00am NO Mass at Miraculous Medal Church 9:00am-4.00pm Apostolic Nuncio visit 10.00am Mass Apostolic Nuncio at St Mary's 6.30pm Primary & High School Youth (St Mary's Primary Hall)



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

Recently deceased: Robert Skele, Kevin O'Neill

Anniversaries: Peter Byrne, Mavis Craik, Joanne Tau Rice, Kevin Crane, Veronica Forsythe, Des McManus, and Hudson Basham, and those in our Book of Life.

A Word from Pope Francis - By accepting the Law of God in our heart, one understands that, when one does not love one's neighbour, to some extent one kills oneself and others, because hatred, rivalry and division kill the fraternal charity that is the basis of interpersonal relationships. And this applies to what I have said about war and also about gossip, because words kill. ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 16, 2020



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

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 – REGISTER TODAY!**



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 ensure 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.

PROPERTY UPDATE – The new year is in full swing, and it is hard to imagine that only a few weeks ago we were still celebrating Christmas! Malony Oval is now being fully maintained by the Parish, and I have been working with Chris (St. Mary's Primary Principal) and Fr. Stephen to develop a plan to manage such a wide area. Sprinklers are up and running again, following pump repair work from the floods last year. You will notice the oval is not being mowed gutter to gutter on all sides. It will take a few months for Dan & Sarah (landscaping team) to get on top of it all.

We have a leak! – St. Joseph's Primary School has a water leak, and Nic Constable (Principal) and I are working with the Archdiocese and BCE to investigate and resolve. That is all we know at this stage.

Rosewood – With Mia (new Principal) starting this year, I have been on site to see where we can improve coordination around mowing and yard work as the school has their own grounds person, and we have Dan & Sarah.

Electricity Meter Upgrade – several of our remaining properties are having smart meters installed at no cost to us. This has been a 12 month piece of work to ensure we have current technology and more accurate billing! **Benjamin**

NUNCIO VISIT - This week we have been busy planning for Archbishop Charles Balvo's visit next Friday's.



Mass will commence at 10am and will include representatives from all of our school as well as our parishioners. The front section of the church will be available for parishioners to sit, and the

schools and colleges will be seated throughout the church.

As soon as Mass is finished (approx. 11am), there will be a sausage sizzle on the oval behind the Parish Office (where we met after our Pentecost Mass. Our principals and APREs are working with us to coordinate our day. Thank you, team! Please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to assist on the day.

Stephen ofm

Aboriginal Catholic Mass: Do you remember, or if you don't, did you know of the historic celebration of a special Aboriginal Mass at the Eucharistic Congress in Melbourne in 1973? Friday, 24th February 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of this remarkable event which was attended by some 30,000 people. Aboriginal singers and dancers from north and west of Australia took an active part in the original liturgy which broke new ground in the Church's liturgical renewal. To commemorate this occasion, Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral of St Stephen on **Thursday, 23rd February 2023 commencing at 12.30pm.** The Archbishop has granted special approval to use the revised liturgical texts from that original celebration. Please join us for this occasion.

YOUTH UPDATE



SAVE THESE DATES

February 17th, 24th

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

**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**

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.

**PREPARING FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
BURING OF PALMS**

Parishioners are invited to bring in palms from last year – pop them into a clip-seal bag (or envelope etc) and leave them in the sacristy of any of the Churches or drop them into the Parish Office by 17 February.

Each of our Schools will be involved in ceremonies to burn the Ashes the days before Ash Wednesday.

The ashes used for Ash Wednesday are made from the burned and blessed palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday.



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



7th Sunday of Ord Time – Yr A

1st Reading	Lv 19:1-2. 17-18
Psalm	Psalm 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Gospel	Matthew 5:38-48



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 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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Mary's Conference: The December quarterly report for the St Mary's and St Barbara's Conferences. Can I just echo the words from Lyn and express our sincere thanks to the Ipswich Catholic Community for all they give to help support the good works of the St Vincent de Paul Society here in Ipswich. During the quarter, the St Mary's and St Barbara's Conferences assisted 352 families in the Ipswich and Rosewood area.

We provided \$31,406 in direct financial assistance such as food vouchers, purchasing second hand household appliances and assisting with some rent and other bills. We also provided \$2,355 in clothing and furniture through the Vinnies store and Vinnies warehouse, as well as \$7,390 in other In-Kind donations, including the food donated here at the parish churches each Sunday. On the weekend before Christmas we were also able to deliver Christmas hampers, valued at over \$22,000 to 77 families in the area. This was only able to be done with the very generous contributions from the 2 colleges, St Edmunds and St Mary's, as well as the primary schools at Rosewood, Leichhardt and St Mary's.

This year again looks to be a very busy one for the Society here in Ipswich and your ongoing support will be needed and appreciated more than ever. To quote our founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam "Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands."

St Joseph's Conference: Our sincere thanks go to the Ipswich Catholic Community for their generous donations to the Giving Tree and to the grocery items that are given each week through all the churches. This past year has been challenging for many people who rely on government benefits or who only have limited wages. Rents, mortgages, fuel, food and utilities have all risen considerably making it difficult for many families to cope and without your assistance many would not. May God bless you all abundantly. During this quarter we provided \$7495 for food vouchers, \$450 for fuel vouchers, \$2750.34 for rent assistance, \$175 for removal costs and \$1699.60 for back-to-school costs through the Children's Education Fund. We also gave \$3020 for food (donated by you), \$1305 for Christmas hampers, and \$1295 for clothing, fuel and chemist vouchers. Thank you!

St Mary's College 160 –Year Celebrations

Monday 8th May, Foundation Day Mass

Friday 12th May, Mother & Daughter Breakfast.

Saturday 27th May, 160 Year Celebration Dinner

Sunday 23rd July, Catholic Education Week Mass

Tuesday 29th August, Father & Daughter Breakfast

Friday 15th September, Mercy Day

Saturday 14th October, Ladies Long Lunch

We look forward to celebrating 160 years of Mercy Education in Ipswich this year with our community.

A FRIAR'S NOTEBOOK: 'We can walk with Jesus, whose mission will be accomplished whether we like it or not, or we can grasp at our fleeting comforts, getting in his way. It doesn't seem like much of a choice to me. If we want to follow after Jesus, we need to let go of our apathy and laziness, the comfort that comes from being disconnected from others, and begin to truly care. Discipleship is about a life of passion, about giving our lives completely over to the mission that Christ is calling us to. Either we're fully in, or we're not in at all.

—from the book *Let Go: Seven Stumbling Blocks to Christian Discipleship* by Casey Cole, OFM, page 74

Catholic Theology in Context: At the heart of the new Archdiocesan Centre for Catholic Formation's offerings are the four core modules entitled Catholic Foundations.

Catholic Foundations is designed to draw Catholics into the fullness of the Catholic life and provide formation for those considering ministry roles. The experience will engage both the head and the heart, so participants grow in knowledge and the lived experiences of the Catholic faith. Each module includes 10 sessions supported with individual reflection and a certificate awarded for completion. The modules will be spread across four semesters in 2023 and 2024.

The first module, Catholic Theology in Context, led by Shane Dwyer (Evangelisation Brisbane Associate Director, Adult Formation) will commence on Monday night 20 February 2023 at Xavier Hall, Holy Spirit Seminary. This module introduces some key principles of the Catholic faith as we seek to understand more deeply who God is and who we are called to be in response to God. It will cover themes including: **The person of Jesus Christ Understanding our baptism A Catholic response to Scripture Our life in the Trinity Living our faith today The Eucharist Prayer.** Please consider developing your faith through these short courses. If you would like to talk it over, please see Fr Stephen. To find out more, head to catholicformation.au

Aboriginal Catholic Mass: Do you remember, or if you don't, did you know of the historic celebration of a special Aboriginal Mass at the Eucharistic Congress in Melbourne in 1973? Friday, 24th February 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of this remarkable event which was attended by some 30,000 people. Aboriginal singers and dancers from north and west of Australia took an active part in the original liturgy which broke new ground in the Church's liturgical renewal.

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OUR SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT



We are committed to the
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**

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.