

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

2nd Sunday of Lent **Year A** **5th March 2023**

Dear Parishioners,

Hope your Lenten journey is fruitful! Many of you have shared with me your reactions to the stones given out last week – keep reflecting on what is 'hard' in your life and what needs to be 'softened'!



Today's readings don't seem Lenten. They are uplifting, not penitential. God makes promises to Abram of extraordinary good fortune, political protection, and international status. The man must have been thrilled. Paul reminds Timothy that the life of holiness and blessing to which we have been called is a gift from God; always available to us, and not a reward for any good works we might have performed. And then we hear of Jesus' transfiguration in the sight of a few disciples. They were so overwhelmed by that spectacular experience they wanted to pitch tents so they wouldn't have to leave the place. How are such wondrous ideas penitential?

While God's marvelous blessings are free gifts, we are expected to respond to them appropriately, to accept them and use them for the common good. Abram's blessings were not simply for him and his family. "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). His blessings would open a door to others - other nations, other ethnic groups, other religious communities. Abram was not simply chosen by God. He was chosen so that others might be blessed through him. Timothy was instructed to "bear your share of hardship for the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:8). The blessing might be a gift, but it carried the responsibilities of discipleship. The voice from heaven told the disciples, "Listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Being chosen by God or having seen the glory of Jesus calls for a change of mind and heart. This change isn't easy to accomplish. We are all called to change our ways towards Jesus – do you need to change your mind and or heart at this time?



What are the blessings in your life at this time? How are others blessed by you? Where do you see and experience blessings in our Parish?

May this week be a blessing for you!

Stephen ofm

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Sat 04	4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church	Mon 06	7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church
	4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church	Tues 07	9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart Church
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church	9.30am Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Heart Church		
Sun 05	6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal Church	Wed 08	9.00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend
	7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church		9.30am Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church
	8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall		NO Mass, St. Brigid's Hall, Rosewood
	9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church (incl Children's Liturgy)	Thur 09	6.30pm RCIA, St Mary's Parish Centre
	10.30am Baptism, St. Mary's Church		9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church	Fri 10	6.00pm Mass at St Boniface Church, Marburg	
			9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal 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, Kathleen Lawrie

Anniversaries: Carmel Leadbetter, Frank Nolan, James and Michael Mulkerin, Margaret Wanstall and Fred Reinke, Eileen Matthews, John Francis Williams, John Gerald Williams, and those in our Book of Life.



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

PARISH UPDATE

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>



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE – We continue to make contact with those volunteers needing to have information updated on our volunteer register. We are currently working with those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to Hospitals and Nursing Homes, etc. We are on track for our Safeguarding Audit in March.

Please Remember – Volunteers who are new to ministry, or existing volunteers changing ministries, must speak with the Parish Office first, before taking on a ministry. This ensures 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.

MINISTRY ROSTER: The new roster for April/May/June will be prepared soon and we invite you now to update your availability during these months. Please do this on your MSP App or email the Parish Office by Wednesday 8/3/2023.

EASTER IS COMING (see Easter Mass Times listed in this newsletter): To save many phone calls looking for Ministers for our Easter Ceremonies, it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know which of our Easter Ceremonies you will be attending, and from there we can sort out rosters sooner rather than later. You can do this via this link, <http://bit.ly/41Af5wf>, use the QR code, or leave your name on the sheet at the welcome desk. (We will also include on this link and sheet the Masses for Anzac Day & Pentecost Sunday) will fall into our MSP Roster period.



PLEASE NOTE: If you don't respond either via the link or paper, we presume you are not available to help over Easter. ***If you do respond, thank you - we will endeavour to roster you, however if we have too many volunteers (and we pray we do!!) not everyone will be able to be rostered, but we thank you for your offer.***

PENTECOST MULTICULTURAL MASS In recent years, we have celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday with a multicultural Mass. We look forward to celebrating our cultural diversity once again as a parish community on **Sunday 28th May at 10am in St. Mary's Church.**

Please consider being part of this great celebration of faith and culture. If you are willing to help plan and/or volunteer in any way, please contact the Parish Office. As you would be aware, planning for this Mass takes a lot of time and requires a lot of volunteers.



All are welcome to come to an **Information Night on Thursday, 27th April at 6:30pm in the Parish Office.**

YOUTH UPDATE

PASSION PLAY: The Parish's Stations of the Cross Passion Play on Good Friday is returning in 2023 and will be led by our youth. We currently have 10 people interested but we need at least 20 young people in total to make it possible. All high school students from grade 7 to grade 12 are strongly encouraged to sign up and take part. Rehearsals begin on Sunday the 12th March at St Mary's Church from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Rehearsals will then occur every Sunday before Good Friday at the same time and place.

YOUNG ADULTS: 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 contact the parish office.

YOUTH GROUP INFO

PRIMARY SCHOOL YOUTH
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
FRIDAY 10TH OF MARCH
6:30PM - 8:30PM

KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY
SAVE THESE DATES
March 10th, 17th, 24th

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 Mary's College Hall

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH DODGEBALL
ST MARY'S COLLEGE HALL
FRIDAY 10TH OF MARCH
6:30PM - 8:30PM
BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!
There will also be Original and Broccoli Malt!



SUMMIT 23 is a three-day event for all who belong to the faith community of the Archdiocese. The Summit is intended to empower, inspire and equip delegates to engage in the mission of the Church. We will converge in the city's inner-west as Archbishop Mark Coleridge shares his vision and priorities for the Archdiocese. For all information on speakers, when, where and what it is about go to: <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/summit/> Its starts at 6pm on Thursday 18 May, all day Friday, and Saturday till 3pm. EARLYBIRD registration extended to 31 March.

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 31 March). After early bird is \$200pp | \$170pp for groups of 10+ Find out more and register at brisbanesummit.com.

Please contact the Parish Office on 32812133 or via email: ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au to register.

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



Third Sunday of Lent – Yr A

1st Reading	Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm	Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v.8
2nd Reading	Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Gospel	John 4:5-42

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)

A Word from Pope Francis: We have not seen with our own eyes the face of Jesus shining like the sun. However, we too were given the Word of Salvation, faith was given to us, and we have experienced the joy of meeting Jesus in different ways. Jesus also says to us: "Rise, and have no fear" (Matt 17:7). ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 8, 2020

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**

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the annual

CHRISM MASS

Thursday 30th March 2023 @ 7:00pm

Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane

A celebration for the entire Archdiocese. All Welcome. car parking available from 6:00pm

Our Next Mass Thursday 9th March at 6:00pm

Everyone is welcome to come along!



St. Boniface Church
Owens Street, Marburg, Qld 4306

He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.





RITE OF ELECTION:

Last Sunday parishes from across the Archdiocese gathered to celebrate the Rite of Election as part of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is also called the Enrolment of Names. The Rite of Election celebrates publicly the fact that these people have progressed on their faith journey and have opened their hearts to Christ in a spirit of faith and love. These people God as chosen as “elect”. They are “elected” for initiation into the Church, not because they have earned it, but because God has chosen them. From this point on they are known as “the elect”. This liturgy is a public statement of the catechumen’s readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation and the Church’s acceptance of their intention to follow the way of Christ. Over the next few weeks we particularly pray for **Sonia, Juniene, Faye, Shannon, Hanh and Ly** who are to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The parish also prays for **Briley, Benjamin, Sam, Ashlea, Nathan and Jane** who are already baptised and will celebrate coming into full communion with the Catholic Church through Confirmation and Eucharist.



“Gracious God, in your goodness, deepen the conversion of your people who are preparing for Easter sacraments. Grant them fullness of understanding and firmness of faith, so that they may share your holy mysteries both on earth and heaven.”

Reflection by Ly Truong (RCIA Catechumen):

Sitting inside St Stephen’s Cathedral, among my family, friends and peers, I reflect on my time with the RCIA. I’m someone who you may consider a special case, working graveyard shifts through the week and then on the weekends, - my second job. This did not deter the amazing RCIA team and my peers at the Ipswich Parish, who embraced and motivated me throughout this journey. In a big way, without their dedication, hard work and genuinely caring nature, my path would not be this straightforward. Growing up as a Non-Christian, I regularly found myself spiritually empty, and questioning life itself. What I discovered after these last 26 weeks, is that the journey of faith is everlasting and is full of hope and colour. As I sign my name in the Book of Elect, and wait for it to be called out, I’m overcome by a sense of belonging and comfort, as I enter the next phases of my preparations. Although this part of my journey closes, I’ll embrace it and will look forward to beginning my eternal journey with Christ.

EASTER MASS TIMES

- Monday, 27th March - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation**
7.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend
- Monday, 3rd April - Night Prayer & Reflection**
7.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend
- Holy Thursday, 6th April**
7.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend
- Good Friday, 7th April**
 - 10.00am Stations of the Cross – Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
 - 10.00am Stations of the Cross – St Boniface Church, Marburg
 - 10.00am Stations of the Cross – Passion Play St Mary’s Church, Woodend
 - 3.00pm The Lord’s Passion – St Mary’s Church, Woodend
 - 3.00pm The Lord’s Passion – St Brigid’s Hall, Rosewood
- Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil - Saturday, 8th April**
5:30pm Mass at St Mary’s Church, Woodend
- Easter Sunday, 9th April**
 - 7:30am Mass at St Joseph’s Church, Nth Ipswich
 - 8.00am Mass at St Brigid’s Hall, Rosewood
 - 9.00am Mass at St Mary’s Church, Woodend
 - 5:30pm Mass at St Mary’s Church, Woodend



Second Sunday of Lent 4 & 5 March



Teresa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Teresa’s only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Teresa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation’s Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Teresa access housing and psychological support. Today, Teresa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community.

Teresa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

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

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.