

**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](mailto:ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au) | [ipswichcatholic.com](http://ipswichcatholic.com)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Ejikeme Valentine  
**Operations Manager:** Benjamin Leschke  
**Youth Animator:** Jean Sajeeve

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent** **Year A** **12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Dear Parishioners,**

I cannot write about me or my experience without you. I write because you are here. I, Ejikeme Valentine Ntamaka, was born into a Christian family of Mr Bennett and Mrs Evelyn Ntamaka. I came from Eziome Mbieri, Mbaitolu, Imo State, in Eastern Nigeria. I am the sixth child and the fourth son in the family of seven (four boys and three girls). For one to be balanced in life, there is always a need for learning. On 16th February 2023, I received a call from Bishop Ken Howell to come to this beautiful community, Ipswich Catholic Community. My stay so far has been wonderful, meeting people and learning from them. My coming to this place, is an experience I will cherish so much.



We encounter people to share experience, learn and offer help when needed. This is exactly what happened in our gospel today. The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. During his encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus broke Jewish customs. First, he spoke to her despite the fact that she was a woman. Second, she was a Samaritan woman, and the Jews traditionally despised Samaritans. For centuries Jews and Samaritans had rejected each other. Jesus' behaviour shocked the woman. But as if that weren't enough, he told the woman he could give her "living water" as a gift from God so that she would never thirst again. Jesus is the gift that would satisfy her soul's desire. This living water was only available through him.

Although they had never met before, Jesus revealed who she was and offer her salvation which made her acclaim Jesus as a prophet. Leaving behind her water jar, the woman returned to town, inviting the people to "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did."

The Samaritan woman Jesus met, faced prejudice from her own community. She came to draw water at the hottest part of the day, instead of the usual morning or evening times, because she was shunned and rejected by the other women of the area for her immorality. Jesus knew her history but still accepted her and ministered to her.


When Jesus revealed himself as the Living Water to the woman at the well, his message was strikingly similar to his revelation as the Bread of Life: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." By reaching out to the Samaritans, Jesus showed that his mission was to all people, not just the Jews.

As we journey in this lovely Ipswich Catholic Community, may our encounter lead us to Christ the Living Water.

**Fr. Ejikeme**

**PARISH CALENDAR**

THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEK
<p><b>Sat 11</b></p> <p>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</p> <p><b>Sun 12</b></p> <p>7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Church 8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall 9.00am Baptism at St Brigid's Church Hall 9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church (incl Children's Liturgy) 10.30am Baptism at St. Mary's Church 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church</p>	<p><b>Mon 13</b> 7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church</p> <p><b>Tues 14</b> 9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart Church 9.30am Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Heart Church</p> <p><b>Wed 15</b> 9.00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend 9.30am Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church 9.30am Mass at St. Brigid's Hall, Rosewood</p> <p><b>Thur 16</b> 9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church 6:30am Liturgy Meeting, Francis Room Parish Office</p> <p><b>Fri 17</b> 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church 6.30pm Primary &amp; High School Youth</p>

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

**Recently deceased:** Kathleen Lawrie, Bernard Robinson

**Anniversaries:** Harry and Dorothy Mattias, Frank Nolan, Carmel Leadbetter, James and Michael Mulkerin, and those in our Book of Life.



**SUBSCRIBE FOR REGULAR UPDATES - [ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews](http://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>

**OPERATIONS UPDATE** – Thank you to the parishioners who have reported several recent maintenance issues. We have started to organise some lights to be replaced.

We have also scheduled our RCD (electrical audits) to comply with our WH&S commitments.

Please let the Parish Office know of any maintenance issue around our churches!



## YOUTH MINISTRY



### YOUTH REGISTRATION

Youth are asked to enrol to ensure we have emergency contact information for parents/guardians.

[bit.ly/ipswichyouth](https://bit.ly/ipswichyouth)

**YOUTH UPDATE:** Last week Connect Youth had a Water Fight for youth. It was our best youth night yet! Everyone had heaps of fun and the atmosphere was amazing. The students were eager to throw water at each other and in particular the youth leaders. Over the past 5 weeks we have seen a massive growth for high school youth in our parish and have formed fantastic relationships with all of the students who attend. All youth leaders are very happy and proud of the level that youth has come to and are very excited to see what the rest of 2023 has on offer!

### Every Friday Night During the Term

**6:30PM – 8:30PM (Dinner Provided)**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Primary Youth – St. Mary's Primary School Hall**

**High School Youth – St Mary's College Hall**

**PASSION PLAY:** Passion Play Practices begin this weekend, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, on Sunday night after the 5:30pm Mass at St Mary's Church. We still need about 6 more people to sign up and take part. All high school students from grade 7 to 12 are strongly encouraged to sign up! Practices will occur every Sunday before Good Friday at the same time and place.

**YOUTH MASTERCLASS SUMMARY:** Last Saturday I attended the Youth Masterclass hosted by Catholic Collective from Evangelisation Brisbane. The Masterclass helped me gain a lot of knowledge and ideas that I will be able to bring to the youth of our parish. I learnt how to be a transformational leader, that will lead and create an effective team of youth leaders.

*MasterClass*

At the masterclass we were reminded to pray to God for help and to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. I engaged with activities where I was taught new skills about youth ministry.

The session also included prayer, worship, reconciliation, and adoration. We were encouraged to be present, that God is missional and to allow God to enlighten us.

At the master class I also had the honour of being one of the guest speakers where I shared how God has been alive and moving within my ministry. I spoke about our increase in numbers and fun at our youth groups, the more involvement our youth has with the Colleges in our parish community, and the new journey and approach I am wanting to take with our youth. I am excited to work with Jean and our other youth leaders to implement all my new knowledge into the parish and help youth thrive. **Stewart England, Youth Leader**

**YOUTH ANIMATOR UPDATE** – Recently I was fortunate enough to go overseas to visit my family, but now I am back to a full year of youth! Thanks to Stewart, Isaac, and others who kept youth going while I was away. This term we are working on our youth leadership team and have around 8 leaders who have been helping at youth. More details next week.

**Jean Sajeeve, Youth Animator**



Let's get moving to the music! Feel free to wear something bright! We look forward to seeing our high school youth enjoy 'NEON DISCO' next week.

**Don't forget youth tonight too!**

Primary school students are invited to our games night! Each Friday in the St. Mary's Primary School Hall!

**Bring your friends!**







**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. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will share his vision and priorities for the Archdiocese. Please visit <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/summit>

**When:** Thurs 6pm 18<sup>th</sup> May to Sat 3pm 20th May  
**Where:** Riverlife Centre, 47 Jennifer St, Seventeen Mile Rocks  
**Cost:** \$150 per person  
 Please contact the Parish Office on 32812133 or via email: [ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au) to register.

**ONLINE ENROLMENT  
 SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

Our online enrolment form is now available for parents and guardians on our parish website.

[ipswichcatholic.com/children](https://ipswichcatholic.com/children)

**CONFIRMATION** Confirmation for baptised children in Year 3 and above will be celebrated in **May**. The program commences Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**EUCCHARIST** Holy Communion for baptised children in Year 4 and above will be celebrated in **June**. The program commences Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**RECONCILIATION** Reconciliation for baptised children in Year 5 and above will be celebrated in **August**. The Program begins Wed 16<sup>th</sup> August.



**STATIONS of the CROSS**

**Tuesday – 9.30am Immaculate Heart  
 Wednesday – 9.30am St. Mary’s  
 Friday – 5.30pm St. Mary’s**

**MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent – Yr A**

<b>1st Reading</b>	1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7,10-13a
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 23:1-6
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Ephesians 5:8-14
<b>Gospel</b>	John 9:1-41



**RCIA UPDATE:** *Leading up to the Easter Vigil for our six Catechumens and six Candidates to be fully initiated into the Catholic faith, they have been invited to share their personal/spiritual reflection about their faith journey in our Parish Newsletter. Enjoy reading!*

*(from Jane Caldwell):* After my grandmother’s “falling out” with a priest I was not baptised in a Catholic Church nor brought up in the faith. Two remarkable Catholic Priests and Our Blessed Mother Mary, lead me back to her son, Jesus, and Catholicism.



**(Jane and her mum)**

My Catholic mother’s death last year was a pivotal point in my decision to convert. St Mary’s community warmly welcomed me. The RCIA journey to be celebrated at Easter Vigil has been so powerful. It feels like a journey into faith that will never be completed. There is so much to learn and understand. In the end it will be perfect. The destination is Eternity.

I have seen and heard The Gospel come alive. Beautifully presented Homilies. Positive messages of hope, love and forgiveness. Children and families encouraged to know their worth. Dignity for all. Celebrations at Christmas. Joyful music. Generosity, hospitality, fidelity, bringing God’s word to life.

Thank you to Fr Stephen and his Associate Pastors, the RCIA Team, my sponsor Brenda and all participants for enthusiastically sharing their faith with me. It will be an Easter I will never forget.



**LENT – HALFWAY THERE!** God says to Moses, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you...The LORD, the God of your [ancestors], the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:14, 15).

As Jesus would later say, God is not a God of the dead, but of the living, and so we believe that the dead will one day rise. **At this midpoint of Lent, we pause to consider how our repentance is leading us to the Resurrection, to our reunion with the great "I AM."**

Part of our repentance involves working to secure justice for all and helping our neighbour to live in God's ways. We encourage each other and nurture each other, like the compassionate gardener, who tells the owner of the orchard that he will nurture the tree, fertilize it, and perhaps it will bear fruit. We too are called to nurture others. It's downhill from here!

**VOLUNTEERING AT EASTER**

If you are available to assist with any of our Easter Liturgies, please let us know by 14<sup>th</sup> March by completing the online form via this link – <http://bit.ly/41Af5wf>



There is also a paper form at the Welcome Desk (this week only).

If you don't put your name down, we will assume you are not able to assist. Each year Office Staff spend hours making dozens of phone calls looking for volunteers, adding your name to our form will help us avoid needing to do this. We will try and roster everyone, and we will publish the Easter Roster the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March.



**EASTER LITURGIES**

**Monday, 27th March - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Leichhardt

10.00am Stations of the Cross, St Boniface Church, Marburg

10.00am Stations of the Cross, 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

**MINISTRY VOLUNTEER ROSTER:** The new ministry roster for April/May/June is now being prepared.

**VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH** - Volunteers who are new to ministry, or existing volunteers changing ministries, must speak with the Parish Office, before taking on additional ministries. 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. If you have any questions around this process, please speak with Benjamin.

**Youth Passion Play**



**Rehearsals**

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Sunday 12th March

Sunday 19th March

Sunday 26th March

Sunday 2nd April

@ St Mary's Church

High School

Students

**Be apart of the most important story ever told**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY MULTICULTURAL MASS**



We look forward to celebrating our cultural diversity once again as a parish community on **Pentecost Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May from 10:00am in St. Mary's Church. Food and fun afterward on the oval behind the Parish Office.**

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. We also need volunteers to assist with hospitality afterward!

We have an **Information Night on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm in the Parish Office. Please come along, it would be nice to see some new faces too!**

**St Patrick's Day Mass** - The Annual St Patrick's Day Mass will be celebrated again this year in the Cathedral of St Stephen, Elizabeth Street at 10.00am on 17 March 2023. The Mass will be live-streamed through the Cathedral website on this link - [Archbne.org/bzw](http://Archbne.org/bzw)

**CHRISM MASS** – Thursday 30th March 7pm, Cathedral of St. Stephen, Brisbane. Parking available from 6:00pm.

**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.