

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

-4th Sunday of Lent **Year A** **19th March 2023**

Dear Parishioners,

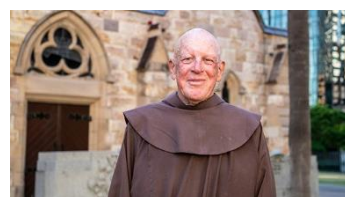
As Easter approached let's Look for Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance logos on your chocolate wrapper. **Did you know that much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved or forced to work in exploitative conditions?**



Download the [Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard](http://chocolatescorecard.com) to find out what's really going into your chocolate and how your favourite brands rate. chocolatescorecard.com

Feel good about the chocolate you purchase and consume this Easter. You are making a large effort to eliminate slavery in chocolate production! I encourage you make use of this site and buy responsibly – this is an important part you and I can play in our purchasing.

On Thursday, I was with Fr. John Boyd-Boland when he passed away. He was a Friar, and was my Formator in the Seminary. Over the years we became very good friends and certainly were 'brothers' in many ways - so my reflections this week have gone to other matters, however I was thinking about –



- **When were the moments in your life where you were able to let go of a 'blindness' or to see more in the way God sees?**
- **Jesus opened the blind man's eyes so he could truly see the world and what was important. What do you need, to open your eyes to, in your local area or in the world?**
- **What are you doing in your life right now to move toward light rather than darkness?**
- **How can you let the light of your faith in Jesus shine for others to see?**

Let's hold in our prayers, the needs we carry in our hearts, and like the Blind Man we seek to see clearly what God has installed for us. Have a great week, **Stephen ofm**

CELEBRATING THE 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION



All parishioners are invited to St. Mary's Church on **Monday 27th March at 7.00pm** to celebrate the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation. This Liturgy is for our entire community and is an integral part of our journey toward Easter. At the beginning of Lent, everyone was invited to take a small stone home with them as a reminder that each of us experience 'hardness of heart', when we regularly feel anger, resentments, frustrations, misunderstanding, often toward others. During Lent we are asked to change our ways ...

Please bring your small stone with you to the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation.

Your stones will form part of our Liturgy. The stones will also be incorporated into our celebration at Easter, illustrating that connection between Lent and Easter. If you have never celebrated the 2nd Rite, I urge you to come along. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience the outpouring of God's grace and mercy in our Parish.

Please don't let this opportunity go by as we only share the 2nd Rite twice each year. We will have 4 priests.

Jesus kept his wounds so that we would experience his mercy. This is our strength and our hope.

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Sat 18	4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church	Mon 20	7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Feast of St Joseph
	4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church	Tues 21	9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart Church
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church	9.30am Stations of the Cross, Immaculate Heart Church		
Sun 19	6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal Church	Wed 22	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		9.30am Mass at St. Brigid's Hall, Rosewood
	9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church (incl Children's Liturgy)	Thur 23	6.30pm Baptism Preparations School Aged
	10.30am Baptism at St. Mary's Church		9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church	Fri 24	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church	
6.30pm Youth Passion Play Practice		5.30pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church	
			6.30pm Primary & High School Youth



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

PARISH UPDATE



SAFEGUARDING AUDIT - By the time you are reading this, we will have completed this year's safeguarding audit. Although we have refined our processes a lot since safeguarding first became an everyday thing for the Parish (2018), there is still a lot of paperwork involved!

Thank you Maree for assisting me in pulling the necessary paperwork together.

In the coming weeks I will provide an update from the audit. Our main area of improvement is ensuring we update our records before volunteers start in new ministries.

EASTER ASSISTANCE

PALM SUNDAY (2 April): We are seeking help from parishioners in providing large palm branches to decorate each of our churches – please let us know if you can help – please email or phone the Parish Office before next weekend.

FLOWERS: If you would like to donate towards the flowers for Easter, please make your donation using the QR code or donation link below.



Donations can also be dropped into the Parish Office or placed in an envelope marked 'Flowers' on the Collection Plate.

<https://bit.ly/ipswichdonations>

YOUTH MINISTRY



Connect Youth

**Next Friday Night – 24th March
Movie & Sausage Sizzle**

6:15PM – 8:30PM

Movie starts at 6:45pm

“Disney’s Pinocchio”

Location: Ambrose Place St Edmund’s College

Next Friday (24th March) our youth are hosting a Parish Movie Night!

Everyone is invited!

There will also be a FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE. We have several new youth leaders doing the cooking!

The movie is Pinocchio, starring Tom Hanks; movie starts at 6:45pm and ends approx. 8:30pm.

Come along and be a part of this great family parish event and help support our youth ministry!



PASSION PLAY - Practices are underway and continue Sunday night from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. We still need more people! If you have signed up, please show up! Practice is in St. Mary’s Church. All high school students are strongly encouraged to sign up!

LAST FRIDAY NIGHT - Our high school youth, had a dodgeball night. It was such an amazing night filled with exhilaration. It was fantastic to see around 40 young people from our parish attend. It was also wonderful to see leaders from St Edmund’s and St Mary’s College participate and contribute to the building of great relationships with our younger youth.

Our Primary School Youth Group had a nerf battle. It too was such a great night filled with so much fun and fellowship. Overall, everyone at both youth groups had an exciting night and all of the youth leaders are eager for our next youth night – BBQ & MOVIE NIGHT!!!!



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 18th May to Sat 3pm 20th May


Where: Riverlife Centre, 47 Jennifer St, Seventeen Mile Rocks


Please contact the Parish Office if this is of interest to you.


**ONLINE ENROLMENT
SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

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

ipswichcatholic.com/children

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

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

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



STATIONS of the CROSS

Tuesday – 9.30am Immaculate Heart

Wednesday – 9.30am St. Mary’s

Friday – 5.30pm St. Mary’s

Forgiveness is quite possibly the most difficult and yet essential action necessary for anyone living in community. Unless we’re hermits, that includes all of us. Throughout the accounts of Francis’ life, we see examples of how the first friars were inspired by him to resolve their differences. Forgiveness was always rooted in the virtues of love and humility.

“One day, two of the brothers came upon a mad-man who started throwing stones at them; and when one saw a stone aimed at the other, he intercepted it, wishing rather to receive the blow himself. Indeed, each was ready to give his life for the other. This and similar things were possible because they were so deeply rooted in mutual love: each one humbly revered his brother as a father or mother; and those brothers who held some office or were distinguished by some special gift appeared the most humble and unpretentious of all....”

Life in community always has its rough spots. But as with the Gospel, the ideal is always there, difficult as it is. We need to hear Jesus’ words about forgiveness until we stop asking the question, “How often must I forgive?”

—from the book [Lent with St. Francis: Daily Reflections](#) by Diane M. Houdek

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Yr A

1st Reading	Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm	130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
2nd Reading	Romans 8:8-11
Gospel	John 11:1-45



RCIA UPDATE

(Reflection by Faye Marsden, RCIA Catechumen)

I have always been envious of those who have had a faith to follow as I had never been brought up in a religious environment. Finding my home here in Ipswich with my partner and deciding to start my faith journey has been amazing.

The RCIA journey has been welcoming and accommodating to those who started with no knowledge of religion. I have learnt so much along my journey.

Everyone at the church has been so welcoming and I have really felt part of the church family.

I would like to thank everyone involved over my RCIA journey; they have made it a very special experience.

“But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”

Luke 15:32





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

Recently Deceased: Fr. John Boyd-Boland OFM.

Anniversaries: Carmel Leadbetter, Joan Carroll, Harry and Dorothy Matthias, Frank Nolan, and those in our Book of Life.



EASTER LITURGIES

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, 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

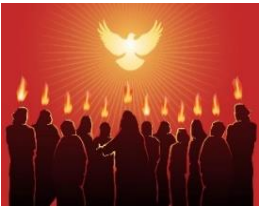
5.30pm Mass at St Mary's Church, Woodend

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH - Volunteers who are new to ministry, or existing volunteers who wish to change 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.

ARCHBISHOP'S DINNER FOR MEN: This is an evening event that provides a space for men who are discerning their vocation together and connect with each other. This year's dinner will be held on April 13th at Wynberg in New Farm. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will be sharing his journey to the priest hood.

Email vocation@bne.catholic.net.au to express interest.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY
MULTICULTURAL MASS**



We look forward to celebrating our cultural diversity once again as a parish community on **Pentecost Sunday 28th 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, 27th April at 6:30pm in the Parish Office. Please come along, it would be nice to see some new faces too!**



TALK ABOUT
IN THE IPSWICH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The Talkabout team is preparing the next issue for the end of April. To keep people informed of parish activities we need your contributions. Please email articles, news and photographs to Robyn at robyn@mansol.net.au Articles by 18th April would be appreciated. Thank You!

CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir practice for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil will be held in St Mary's Church, on Tuesday Nights, 21st and 28th March and 4th April from 6pm to 7:30pm. All Singers are Welcome!

CHRISM MASS: On Thursday, 30th March at 7.00pm, at Cathedral of St. Stephen, Brisbane. Parking available



Thu lives in Vietnam and when he was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg.

Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu. He was a rice farmer who also took care of his wife (Linh) after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around both joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.



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

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.