

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 Panampuzhu CMI
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke

5th Sunday of Lent

Year A

26th March 2023

Dear Parishioners,

I really hope you are making use of the gift of Lent - a time to reflect on the strength of our relationship with God. Reflecting on the Scriptures for this weekend we are reminded of opportunities to believe in Jesus as opportunities to live. In the first reading listening intentionally - It is not ghosts that come out of these graves, but a second chance at life. Ezekiel compares the reestablishment of ancient Israel after the exile with the dead rising alive from their graves. They are filled with God's spirit, God's power of life, and they have a second chance at living. Only the graciousness of God could imagine such a marvel; only the power of God could accomplish it. Jesus performs an even greater marvel. He actually brings Lazarus back from death, giving him a second chance at living.



We are given many 'chances' in our lives, most especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation..... we will celebrate the Second Rite on Monday night to which I extend an invitation to you to reflect and name your need for God's forgiveness.

Once again, only the graciousness of God could imagine such a marvel; only the power of God could accomplish it. Jesus is that graciousness and that power, as he declares: "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). After its reestablishment, Israel was not immune to failure, nor was Lazarus exempt from eventual death. That was not the point. The point was a demonstration of divine generosity at that particular moment. As seen in the Gospel reading, the point is Jesus' self-identification: "I am the resurrection and the life." What follows is paradox: Those who live in him will not die; even if they die, they will live.

Joined to the one who is the resurrection and the life, we too will be raised from our graves and be transformed into a new life. We will never again face failure, as did the Israelites, or death, as did Lazarus, for the Spirit of Jesus will live in us.

I look forward to us as a Community experiencing God's graciousness through our celebration of Reconciliation on Monday night. Will you join me? Have a good 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, misunderstandings, 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 have 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

Sat 25
8.00am Mass at St Michael's Church, Pine Mountain
9am -1.30pm RCIA Retreat St Mary's Parish Office/Church
10.00am Baptism at St Mary's Church, Woodend
4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church, Woodend
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend
6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Hts

Sun 26
7.30am Mass at St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Church Hall, Rosewood
9.00am Mass at St. Mary's Church (incl Children's Liturgy)
10.30am Baptism Preparation at St Mary's Parish Office
10.30am Baptisms at St. Mary's Church, Woodend
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend
6.30pm Youth Passion Play Practice, St Mary's Church

NEXT WEEK

Mon 27 7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
7.00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation St Mary's Church, Woodend

Tues 28 9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
9.30am Stations of the Cross, Immaculate Heart Church
6.00pm Easter Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

Wed 29 9.00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend
9.30am Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Woodend
9.30am Mass at St. Brigid's Hall, Rosewood

Thur 30 9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church, Woodend
6.30pm Finance Council, Parish Office, Woodend

Fri 31 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights
5.30pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church



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

PARISH UPDATE

SHARING THE WORKLOAD - Over the 3 years, the Parish Office team have invested heavily in automating many of our administration processes. We have also built a number of processes to better manage the administration of the sacramental life of the parish. Today, we make greater use of online forms, online payment methods, and have developed several email templates, used to ensure families who enquire about Baptism, and the Sacramental Program, receive the necessary information in a timely manner and in a consistent format. This has helped us manage large workloads.

To ensure we can help families quickly, parents and guardians are asked to complete the online forms and necessary supporting documents in a timely fashion. On many occasions the parish team are having to make regular follow-ups with families who aren't completing forms, following their initial enquiry. We want to help you so please help us! If you get stuck with a form, or need assistance, we are always here to help! Thanks for sharing the workload!



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. The office has received offers for North Ipswich, Rosewood and St Mary's Churches – can anyone provide for Miraculous Medal and Leichhardt?

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

PASSION PLAY - Practices are continuing this 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 their last youth night for the term where they had a Neon Disco. The night was upbeat and exhilarating. Over 45 young people attended which is sensational! The youth leaders had such a great time hanging with the young people this term and are eager for next term.

Our Primary School Youth Group also had their last youth night for the term. The young people who attended the primary school youth played some games and had an absolute blast of a night filled with many surprises.



FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH RESUMES ON FRIDAY 21st APRIL

REFLECTION

A Word from Pope Francis

I invite you to think for a moment, in silence, here: Where is my interior necrosis? Where is the dead part of my soul? Where is my tomb? ...And to remove the stone, to take away the stone of shame and allow the Lord to say to us, as he said to Lazarus: "Come out!"



A QUICK REFLECTION POINT:

- What darkness - a grudge? resentment? old wound? - am I holding on to?
- What would it cost me to welcome God's invitation to let it go?

Quo Vadis for Women

Where is God calling you?

Quo Vadis means 'where are you going?' Discern the answer at this one day retreat for women aged 18-35.

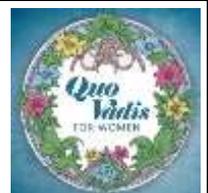
Quo Vadis is a retreat day for women who are discerning their vocation to hear from those who are already joyfully living religious life. The day will include morning tea and lunch and will conclude with a mass together.

When: 9am-5pm Saturday, 29th April 2023

Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre

Cost: \$55pp (includes morning tea and lunch)

Register now: app.tickets.org.au/eb/QV4W2023



WELCOME
GOODBYE

This weekend we welcome Fr Jose back to our community, and farewell Fr Ejikeme. We thank him for helping us for the past couple of weeks and wish him well back in Caloundra Parish.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU – With my close friend Fr. John Boyd-Boland passing last week, I had hoped for some time to withdraw a little and reflect on the positive impact Fr. John has had on my life and my ministry. I took a few moments here and there; however, we are a very busy parish, and my ministry seems to grow each year!

I would like to thank everyone who passed on their sympathy by way of your prayers, your words, and your gift of flowers. It is heartfelt to know that even during grief, others are here for you during difficult times.

Lent is to be a wilderness to us, which at times is a challenge to recognise when surrounded by all the wonder our family and friends bring. Thanks to everyone, and please continue to pray for the repose of Fr. John's soul.

*A heartfelt
Thank You* ❤️

Stephen ofm

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Yr A

1st Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm	22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
2nd Reading	Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel	Matthew 26:14-27:66 / 27:11-54



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



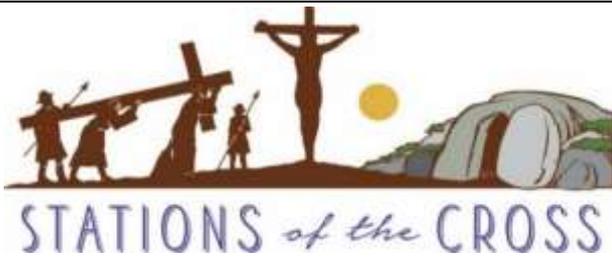
Holy Communion for baptised children in Year 4 and above will be celebrated in **June**.
The program commences Wed 17th May.



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

RCIA UPDATE

(Reflection by Sonia Chapman, RCIA Catechumen)
My journey to becoming Catholic started after I had children. So, I had them baptised, but I realised that was not enough. I would need to lead by example. So, I started the RCIA program. On my first night I was nervous, but my nerves were calmed when I saw so many other faces looking back at me all wanting to join the Catholic faith. Fortnightly we would meet and discuss aspects of catholic faith and tradition. When asked to choose a saint for confirmation, it gave me further insight into the faith. I was able to research so many people's stories about their faith and journeys. This program has given me a strong sense of community, by welcoming me, teaching me, and supporting me through my journey.



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

Eyes to See With

Reflect - Certainly, healthy vision is valuable, helping us to remain safe, attentive, alert, and responsive. With the help of our eyes, we take in the wonders of God's creation and respond to our neighbours in need.

Pray - God of Vision and Light, Your designs are wonderful and perfect! Some of us have been gifted with excellent eyesight. Some of us need assistance to see, and some of us cannot see at all. We pray for those with impaired vision and eye diseases and for those without sight. We also pray for those who care for them, such as optometrists and ophthalmologists. Thank you for the gifts we have and for those who tend to me. Amen!

Act - No matter the condition of your eyes, God is tending to you. Pause and consider how eyesight—or your struggles with it—help you to know and connect with God. Say a prayer of gratitude for what you have and ask for the ability to adapt to changes in your vision. If your vision is not impaired, how can you assist those who cannot see clearly?





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

Recently Deceased: Fr. John Boyd-Boland OFM.

Anniversaries: Mavis Green, Raymond Davies, Joan Carroll, Harry and Dorothy Matthias, 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 will share his journey to the priesthood. Email vocation@bne.catholic.net.au to express interest.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BELLS: You are welcome to bring some bells to our **Holy Thursday Mass and Easter Vigil Mass**. The bells are rung while we all sing the Gloria. This liturgical practice symbolises that following the Gloria on Thursday, there are no bells rung until Easter. The world is silent...

HOLY LAND COLLECTION FOR GOOD FRIDAY

On April 7th we celebrate Good Friday. This is a unique day when we recall the love of Jesus unto death for us, when he shows us the extent to which God is in solidarity with our suffering humanity. Can we use this occasion to recall our need to be in solidarity with those suffering around us, and in a particular way with the suffering Church of the Holy Land?

Help us continue to serve those who need help in the Holy Land

Support for the church in the Holy Land is an historic mission. Since the time of St Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked.

Good Friday Envelopes are available for collection at the churches from this weekend, and you can return them next weekend or on Good Friday or Easter.



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!

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please remember to return your donation envelopes as soon as possible. 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 by calling 1800 024 413.

RAFFLE: At each of our churches on this weekend and next we will have tickets for sale in this burn-etched image of the Christ-face on a cross. Tickets \$1.00 each. Cash only. Proceeds will go to Project Compassion. Thank you to Carole Aoude for this donation. Drawn 3/4/23



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.