

**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. Jose Panampuzhu CMI  
**Operations Manager:** Benjamin Leschke

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord****Year A****2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023****Dear Parishioners,**

Thank-you to the many who came to the Second Rite of Reconciliation last Monday night: a beautiful celebration of the Lord's mercy and love. Thanks to all those who helped in any way preparing and presenting the Liturgy!

Here we are.... the last few days of Lent: thank-you for joining me in strong reflections during Lent 2023 and allowing the challenge of the Scriptures and Liturgy to touch our lives! As we begin Holy Week, we hear in the gospel that people were all enthusiastic: "Hosanna, Son of David, alleluia, king, prophet." There are flowers, trumpet blasts, nervous animals, dancing children, cloaks, colours, royal purple. However, by week's end, Jesus is hanging on the cross: What a radical change, from the flowers to the mud, from the headlines to a cold, humid cave.

How often has this story repeated itself in human history? All the good intentions at the beginning, the new life, the fresh start, the first blessings, are often hemmed in by betrayal and sin, pride and greed, lust and ill-will.

Jesus underwent it all - What happens to us, happened to Jesus in a very strong way. What happens to us happened pure and raw to Jesus. Trying to establish good, he was overrun by evil; trying to establish peace, Jesus was overcome by violence. This is a man rejected, beaten, and nailed to wood like a piece of flimsy material. Who is this man and why was he so hated?

The hymn in Philippians 2 probably offers the best likeness of him (have a good listen to the Second Reading!). Jesus was in the form of God, but out of love for others he took on the form of a slave so that he might serve them. What about this was so objectionable? Does he represent an idea of God that is too different from the one with which we have grown comfortable? As a man for others, does he put our own selfishness to shame? Does his desire to serve challenge our propensity to control? Is this why he has been rejected? This week ends with a huge **YES, I DO BELIEVE!**

I invite you and indeed many to gather for the Easter Triduum - may we all experience a stirring this week, and thus become "strong in our faith". Let's continue to pray for each other,

*Stephen ofm***PARISH CALENDAR****THIS WEEKEND**

**Fri 31** 5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's Church, Woodend  
4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt

**Sat 01** 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 02** 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)  
10:00am RCIA Morning Tea, Parish Office  
10:30am Baptisms at St. Mary's Church, Woodend  
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend

*School holidays  
are here!*

**NEXT WEEK**

**Mon 03** 7.00am Mass at St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich  
12.00pm Funeral Prayers – Romualdo Velasquez  
7.00pm Evening Prayer St Mary's Church, Woodend

**Tues 04** 9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt  
6.00pm Easter Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

**Wed 05** 9.00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend  
9.30am Adoration, St Mary's Church, Woodend  
NO Mass at St. Brigid's Hall, Rosewood  
11.00am Funeral Prayers – Margaret Martin, St Mary's

**Thur 06** 7.00pm Holy Thursday Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend  
8:00pm Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church, Woodend  
9:00pm Night Prayer, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

**Fri 07** 10.00am Stations of the Cross, Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt  
10.00am Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Woodend  
10.00am Stations of the Cross, St Boniface Church, Marburg  
3.00pm The Passion of our Lord, St Mary's, Woodend  
3.00pm The Passion of our Lord, St Brigid's Hall, Rosewood



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

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Martin, Karen Molloy, Romualdo Velsaquez, John Boyd-Boland ofm  
**Anniversaries:** Vince Elmore, Margaret Heffernan, Mavis Green, and those in our Book of Life.



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

## EASTER LITURGIES



### Monday, 3rd April - Evening Prayer & Reflection

7.00pm St Mary's Church, Woodend

### Holy Thursday, 6th April

7.00pm St Mary's Church, Woodend

### Good Friday, 7th April (Stations of the Cross)

10.00am Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt

10.00am St Boniface Church, Marburg

10.00am St Mary's Church, Woodend

### Good Friday, 7th April (The Lord's Passion)

3.00pm St Mary's Church, Woodend

3.00pm St Brigid's Hall, Rosewood

### Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil - Saturday, 8th April

9.00am Morning Prayer, St Mary's Church, Woodend

10.00am Practice for Easter Vigil Mass

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

### ----- EVENING PRAYER FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Monday night (3<sup>rd</sup> April) please come along to our Evening Prayer & Reflection as we begin Holy Week. We commence at 7pm in St. Mary's Church. Parishioners are invited to this important liturgy as we prepare for the Triduum.

# H O L Y W E E K



PALM SUNDAY

EXCITEMENT



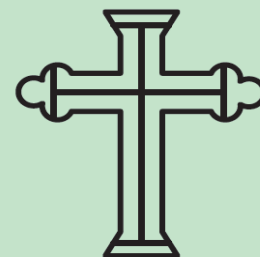
PASSOVER THURSDAY

CONFUSION



GOOD FRIDAY

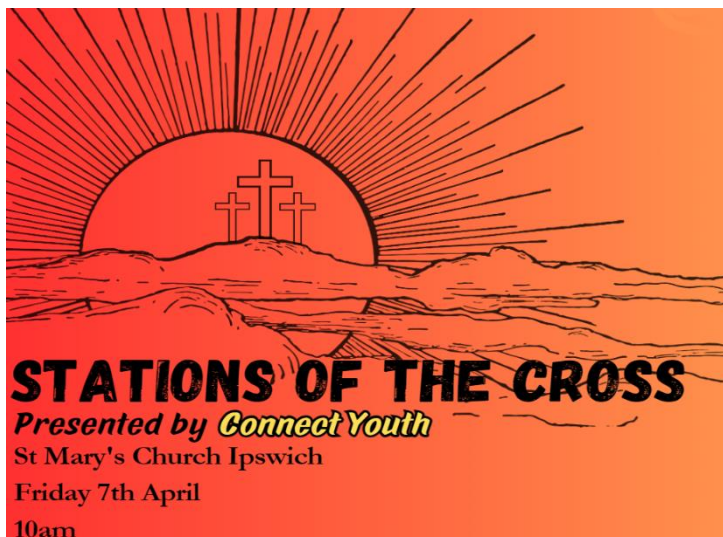
DESPAIR



EASTER SUNDAY

JOY

## YOUTH MINISTRY



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS (PASSION PLAY)

Practices continue this Sunday night from 6:30pm – 8pm. We still need about 8-10 more girls to help with our liturgy! Practice is in St. Mary's Church. All high school students are strongly encouraged to come along and participate!

### Good Friday 10.00am (St. Mary's)

Parishioners and visitors are invited to attend the Stations of the Cross in St Mary's Church at 10am on Good Friday. The Stations of the Cross usually has over 200 people who come and participate in this liturgy, presented (acted out) by the youth of our parish.

**FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH RESUMES ON FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL**

## REFLECTION – PALM SUNDAY

### PALM SUNDAY – THEN EVERYTHING CHANGES!

On the night of Palm Sunday in the year 1212, St. Clare left her home and walked through the darkened streets to the gate that led to her new life. I'm sure it was scary for St. Clare; following St. Francis into complete poverty and complete service of others.... What a drastic change for anyone!

This weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday, the wonder and excitement of Jesus entering into Jerusalem, which drastically changes to, 'Crucify Him!', only a few days later. Jesus accepts this dramatic change, and shows us how we too can respond to persecution. His final words on the cross help us understand better.

On Monday evening, our liturgy will recount the 7 last words of Jesus; through reflection we begin to understand the sacrifice He made for us. For many centuries, Christians have celebrated the office of Tenebrae during Holy Week; the liturgy includes a series of readings and prayers. After each reading is completed, one of a series of candles is extinguished until in the end only one is still lit - and the rest of the church is in complete darkness.

Finally, at the end of the very last prayer, out of the darkness is heard a loud noise, representing the crash of the earthquake at the death of Jesus on the cross, the final candle (our Paschal Candle) is extinguished. It is a shocking and moving experience which helps us enter the significance of the cross.

Monday night will be the last time the current Paschal candle is lit, signifying Christ entering into death. His light has gone, we are alone... for a short while.

**Benjamin**



## SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

### ONLINE ENROLMENT SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

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

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

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

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

### MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

#### The Resurrection of the Lord – Yr A

<b>1st Reading</b>	Acts 10:34a, 37-43
<b>Psalm</b>	118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Colossians 3:1-4
<b>Gospel</b>	John 20:1-9



#### Reflection by Nathan, RCIA Candidate

The RCIA journey has been a fantastic experience that I would recommend to anyone interested in discovering the Catholic Faith. From the very first meeting I felt a strong connection with my fellow RCIA 'newbies' and was quickly at ease knowing that although we were all on our own paths individually, we were all joined in walking together and encouraging each other forward.

A real highlight of my RCIA journey is meeting the many incredible Catholic people and experiencing such amazing friendship and support. From the very beginning I've been really touched by the warm welcome I have received from so many down-to-earth, genuine, decent people. The acceptance and interest shown by the RCIA leaders, the priests, sponsors, other candidates and catechumens and the congregation of St Mary's has been deeply moving.

I love the richness and beauty of the Mass and the vibrant, diverse multicultural congregation that joins together united in worshipping our Saviour. I look forward to becoming a full member of the Parish and hopefully, welcoming others in as I've been welcomed myself.



#### Reflection by Briley, RCIA Candidate

Progressing into my adult life I have longed for the need to grow in my faith but unsure how to progress on this journey. A little over a year ago I reached out and was welcomed into the RCIA program and from the initial stages until now it's been an incredible experience.

Meeting regularly with others on the same journey and engaging in discussions I have been enlightened to believe that others have similar questions and queries surrounding the journey to becoming a Catholic. Each meeting these questions are unpacked and the teachings or learnings we are provided at these sessions allows the queries to be answered.

I am very grateful for all experiences and opportunities provided to us by the RCIA community and have felt more and more at home each time I see those within the Catholic community. My words of advice to anyone wanting to progress on your faithful journey of becoming a Catholic is to reach out to the parish and enquire. I'm aware of how daunting the feeling is of wanting to progress on your faithful journey, but you will be welcomed.



“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

**St. Francis of Assisi**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

There is NO MASS on EASTER MONDAY.

You are welcome to bring some bells to ring at the Holy Thursday Mass – please ring them whilst the GLORIA is being sung, also bring them to the Easter Vigil to ring loudly during the Gloria.

If you would like to donate money towards the flowers for Easter, please drop into the Parish Office or place on the Collection Plate (marked “Easter flowers”)

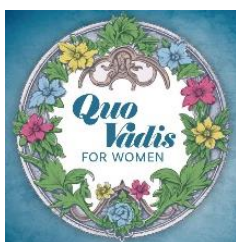
**Do You Want to Be an Altar Server**

Any child of any age wishing to become an altar server please make contact to the parish office by email with an expression of interest. There will be more information in the coming weeks in regard to a training session.

**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, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre

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

Register now: [app.tickets.org.au/eb/QV4W2023](http://app.tickets.org.au/eb/QV4W2023)

**A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS:** Brothers and sisters, in the course of this week, let us cling to the certainty that God can forgive every sin.... The certainty that with Jesus there is always a place for everyone. That with Christ things are never over. That with Jesus, it is never too late. With God, we can always come back to life. (HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 10, 2022)

**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 13<sup>th</sup> at Wynberg in New Farm. Archbishop Mark will share his journey to the priesthood. Email [vocation@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:vocation@bne.catholic.net.au) to express interest.

**HOLY LAND COLLECTION FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

On April 7<sup>th</sup> 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 today, and you can return them on Good Friday or over 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](mailto: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 Night, 4<sup>th</sup> April from 6pm to 7:30pm. All singers are welcome!

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Please remember to return your donation envelopes as soon as possible.

**RAFFLE:** At each of our churches this weekend we will have tickets for sale in this burn-etched image of the Christ-face on a timber 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 in the Parish Office.



**POTS NEEDED:** One of our parishioners has kindly offered to sell some plants and donate the proceeds to the Parish. We need pots to make this happen. If you have any pots that you don't need, please drop them to your church or at the parish office. Thanks for supporting this generosity!



**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.