

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

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Year A

16th April 2023

Dear Parishioners,

As Easter people we journey now towards Pentecost – we will hear stories from the Sacred Scriptures of Jesus’ appearances: the challenge for us is to reflect on how Jesus “appears” to us. I was recently at a meal and one person at the table was very sceptical about religion – interesting that these people seem to always sit next to the priest!

Scepticism is a characteristic of a critical mind. Some claims are just too fantastic to trust: no salve can relieve you of all pain; no investment is certain to double your money; no politician can keep all promises; no one comes back from the dead. Who of us can fault Thomas for his initial scepticism?



Thomas has been known throughout history as “the doubter.” However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us. Because of his absence when Jesus stood in the midst of the community, Thomas was expected to believe in the word of others.

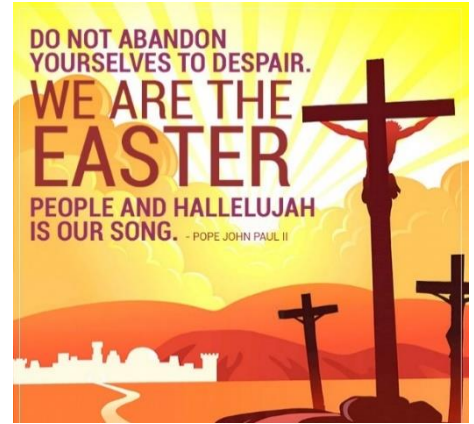
Like Thomas, we are torn between believing because of an experience of Jesus and believing in the word of others. We all would prefer a direct, profound experience. However, that’s not what we’re offered. But within the community we can indirectly experience Jesus - his goodness, his unselfish service to others, his desire to bring people together in peace and harmony.

I had that experience last Friday in watching the Youth present the Stations of the Cross. Knowing many of those young people personally I had a profound moment of “wow” ~ God is certainly working through these young folks in their reverence and understanding of the story they were sharing. I hope Parishioners realise all the work they put in, and I hope you too are proud of their efforts!

Today’s first reading provides a glimpse of such a believing community devoted to “the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Like our Thomas, we might be sceptical at first, but it is within a family or community of kindness and generosity that we can have our own experience of the risen Jesus.

May the honesty of Thomas inspire us this Easter of 2023. Have a great week,

Stephen ofm



PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

Fri 14	No Youth Tonight – Returns 21 st April
Sat 15	4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
	4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's, Woodend
	5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's, Woodend
	6:00pm Mass at Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
Sun 16	7:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
	8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's, Rosewood
	9:00am Mass at St. Mary's, Woodend (& Children's Liturgy)
	10:30am Baptisms at St. Mary's, Woodend
	5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's, Woodend

NEXT WEEK

Mon 17	7:00am Mass at St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
Tues 18	9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
	10.30am Funeral (Moira Perrett) St Mary's, Woodend
Wed 19	9:00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend
	9.30am Adoration, St Mary's, Woodend
	9:30am Mass at St. Brigid's, Rosewood
	11:00am Funeral (Cath Wood) St. Mary's, Woodend
	3:30pm Sacramental Program Session 1 – St. Mary's Church
Thur 20	6:00pm Sacramental Program Session 2 – St. Mary's Church
	9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend
Fri 21	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
	6:30pm FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH – Primary School Hall



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

Recently Deceased: Cath Wood, Barbara Cash, Moira Perrett, Alice Keyes, Lorraine Mahon, Margaret Martin
Anniversaries: Neal Crozier, Uava Susitina Tofilau, Vince Elmore, Margaret Heffernan, those in our Book of Life.

I thank the many people who were involved in the preparation of our churches and liturgies at Easter - the musicians, the servers, the cleaners, the office staff, the computer operators, the lectors, the eucharistic ministers – so many – and of course you for participating in the Easter Ceremonies.

Stephen ofm



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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL UPDATE

St. Mary's Conference - As forecast in our last update, the demand for our assistance has increased significantly since this time last year, COVID and Floods aside. In the January quarter we have seen a nearly 30% increase in the number of people coming to us looking for help, resulting in, unsurprisingly, a nearly 30% increase in the value of assistance we have provided. In the 10 weeks we have been operating this year St Mary's and St Barbara's Conferences have helped nearly 440 families and provided over \$46,500 in direct financial assistance i.e., food vouchers, rent assistance, white goods, school expenses and over \$18,000 in In-kind assistance.

We are extremely appreciative of the ongoing and very generous support we receive from the Ipswich Catholic Community and quite simply would not be able to offer this level of assistance without your contributions. Can I ask that you continue to support our good works with your financial donations, your donations of groceries each Sunday at Mass and with your prayers.

Paul Cervetto, President

St. Joseph's Conference - As Paul has stated, we also have had an increase in requests for assistance although not as large an increase, about 14%. We provided financial help to 160 families for food, fuel, furniture, pharmacy, education expenses and rent to the value of \$12,434.33. Also, we gave food parcels (from donations from the Ipswich Catholic Community) worth \$3,210 for which we are most grateful. As well we gave Vinnies store vouchers and fuel vouchers worth \$1,050. We are also extremely thankful for any donations that parishioners are able to make. May God bless you all.

Lyn Molenaar, President

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our 8 Youth Animators are excited to get back to youth!

Friday night youth begins again next Friday, 21st April from 6:30pm.

Primary School Youth & High School Youth

St. Mary's School Hall



Prayer Group: Lecto Divina (Sacred Reading) is a way of reading the Scriptures as a form of prayer. A very small group of us attempt to do this weekly on Wednesdays, 5pm-6pm in the Parish Office. We do this using 'Break Open the Word' which analyses the readings for the coming weekend and allows us to gain greater meaning when listening to the readings. Come along and join us!

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.

A Word from Pope Francis: The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022

Celebrating World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2023: We invite you to consider supporting the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2023 on the 30th of April. We want to highlight the international resource pack, which can be found at www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com This website contains various prayers for vocations, social media posts, and resources for priests, children, teenagers and parents.

May Mass Counts: Every May each Parish in the Archdiocese undertakes a counting census for all weekend Masses. The purpose of this count is to track attendance in all parishes, to gain greater insight into movements between Masses and changes in attendance of Masses. Last year our Parish performed extremely well and showed signs of growth. Let's pray that this May we see the same growth we have been praying and working for.



Congratulations to our newly initiated

We were excited to share this special sacramental moment of initiation with Sonia, Juniene, Faye, Shannon, Hanh, Ly, Briley, Benjamin, Sam, Ashlea, Nathan, and Jane.

Welcome to the Catholic Church, welcome to the Ipswich Catholic Community! May the light of Christ guide you on your life journey! We look forward to seeing you around our wonderful community!

Rosalia & Lawrence



REFLECTION

Mercy Falls Like Rain

“As the rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth and making it yield...so the word does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do” (Isaiah 55:10–11).

Jesus made the essential requirement for the forgiveness of sin rather clear and definitive here: As you do it, it will be done to you. If you do not do it, it cannot be done to you. We are merely and forever inside of the divine flow, just like Isaiah’s “rain and snow.” Forgiveness is constant from God’s side, which should become a calm, joyous certainty on our side. Mercy received will be mercy passed on, and “will not return to me empty, until it has succeeded in what it was sent to do.”

—from the book *Wondrous Encounters: Scriptures for Lent*, by Richard Rohr, OFM, page 30



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

Sacrament of Confirmation

Enrolments Close

Monday 17th April 3pm.

Program begins Wednesday 19th April.

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Easter – Yr A

1st Reading	Acts 2:14,22-33
Psalm	16:1-2,5,7-8,9-10,11
2nd Reading	1 Peter 1:17-21
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35



Divine Mercy Sunday (The Feast of Mercy)

Saint Faustina’s Diary (*Divine Mercy in My Soul*), contains at least 14 passages in which Our Lord is quoted as requesting that a “Feast of Mercy” be officially established in the Church.

There is a very close link between the meaning of the Divine Mercy image and the liturgy of the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday). On that day the Gospel reading throughout the Church is about the appearance of the Risen Christ in the Upper Room, and about the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation. The rays of blood and water flowing from the Saviour’s pierced Heart and the wounds on His hands and feet recall the events of Good Friday.

On Sunday, 30th April 2000, (the canonisation of Saint Faustina and Feast of Divine Mercy), Pope John Paul II announced to the world, “It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter (first Sunday after Easter), which from now on throughout the Church will be called ‘Divine Mercy Sunday’.”



TALK ABOUT

IN THE IPSWICH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

LAST CALL: 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!

GOOD FRIDAY ENVELOPES: Please return these if you still have them. Thank you for your generosity.

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

POTS NEEDED: If you have any pots (for planting) that you don’t need, drop them to your church or at the parish office.

EXERCISE GROUP: Seeking EOI in Centacare Exercise group for over 65’s, Tulmer Place Mall. Event Space 1, Ipswich City Council Administration Building. 10:30am to 11:30am most Friday’s. Eligibility through My Aged Care - Social Support Group Funding. Contact Desrae 3362 8700 for information.

Did You Know.... Archbishop Mark Coleridge recently released 7 Apostolic Priorities for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. We will explore these a little more in the coming weeks and months.

They are Teaching Prayer, Reshaping Parish Communities, Bringing Cultural Communities to the Centre, Responding to Abuse and the Abused, Engaging Anew with First Nations Peoples, Implementing Integral Ecology, and Embedding Synodal Governance. (With Lamps Ablaze – Archdiocese of Brisbane)

PARISH NEWS – ST. BRIGID’S PRECINCT

St Brigid’s Church is thought to be the oldest and largest wooden church (still in use) in the southern hemisphere and is beloved by its faithful parish. At capacity, the church can accommodate 1,000 people. The church was officially opened in February 1910, by Bishop Duhig. In July 2020, the church was deemed unsafe due to movement of the foundations and other structural issues and has been unoccupied and closed for use since.

The Archdiocese has been working with the parish and a team of technical consultants to restore the building for the St Brigid’s community. Much investigation has been done to determine the best way to reinstate the Church with longevity for future generations of the faithful. Plans have now been submitted to Ipswich City Council for approval and we want to provide the parish with an outline of our proposal.

What are we proposing?

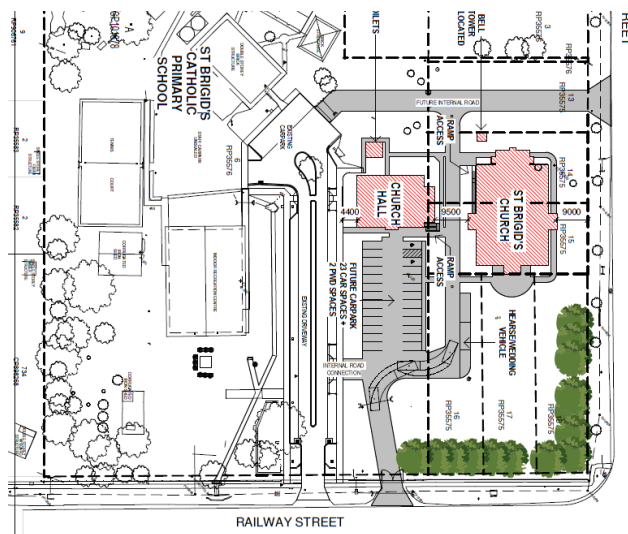
Following extensive investigation into all available options, we are proposing that:

- The best location for the church is the site of the existing unoccupied presbytery.
- A lot of work has been done in determining that this is the best site, including:
 - A short, single sliding movement is preferred to protect the integrity of the church during and after the relocation.
 - It is safer for the people working on relocating the building compared with other methods considered.
 - The location avoids the more flood-prone areas on site which led to the original structural problems.
 - Heritage-value view lines to Railway Street are able to be retained.
- This means that the existing unoccupied presbytery will need to be demolished.
- The Archdiocese investigated all options available for the presbytery which included alternate uses and locations for the building, including for Outside School Hours Care or for the school use itself. However, the building is unable to achieve compliance with current building standards for these purposes.
- The presbytery was built around 1957 and is not listed on the State heritage register. Ipswich City Council does identify the dwelling on the Local Character Place. Extensive research from a heritage consultant has demonstrated that the dwelling is of negligible cultural and heritage significance.

What can you do?

- Send any questions you might have to communications@bne.catholic.net.au, with the subject line ‘St Brigid’s Church’.
- Consider sending a submission of support to the Ipswich City Council to help us improve the likelihood that the council will approve the church’s reinstatement. Submissions can be made from 28 April 2023 until 24 May 2023 and will need to include the Application Number: 10432/2022/OD
- You can make a submission by filling in this online application form. <https://www.ipswichplanning.com.au/making-a-submission-about-an-application>
Alternatively, submissions may be sent via email to plandev@ipswich.qld.gov.au or lodged in person on the Ground Floor, 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich or posted to Ipswich City Council, PO Box 191, Ipswich QLD 4305.
If you need assistance with your submission, please contact communications@bne.catholic.net.au
- We’d love to hear your stories of memories created at St Brigid’s over the past hundred years, whether it was your confirmation, wedding, baptism, or the community itself. You can send your stories to ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to restore St Brigid’s Church for the parish and community more widely. The plan below is a ‘future concept’ of the site. Our focus is obviously the church relocation however the council have asked us to indicate our approach to a carpark.



O God, you give us joy, through the power of the intercession of St. Brigid. Graciously grant that we may be assisted by her merits and her example as we restore our church, blessed in her name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.