

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 Easter

Year A

7th May 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Recently I visited a grade one class in the Parish - one of those questions asked of me when they could ask me anything 'What is God really like?'

That is a very profound question, asked by children and adults alike. Answers range from the image of an old man in a white robe with a beard to "the big guy up there." The thing is, yes, it is a profound question, but is your answer 'profound' and personal? Answers seem frivolous and Easter calls us to make a personal response to 'what is God really like?'

The disciple's questions flowed from Jesus' constant reference to God as "Father." That title in itself, tells us something about God. It tells us that God, like a father, is the source of Jesus' being and existence.

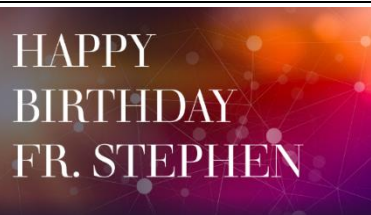
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he is about to return to his Father. He also assures them that they also will have a place with the Father. However, like us, they still are not sure what this father is like. Jesus responds to their lack of understanding and suggests: "Look at me!" His life is lived for others. He is one who cares for those in need rather than walks past them, who forgives rather than condemns, who endures misunderstanding without retaliating, who tolerates the pettiness of others without being snide. Why is it so hard for us to realise that this is what God is really like?

How do you experience God now? worth pondering The disciples want to know what God is like. Jesus says, "Look at me!" May there be opportunities for you to ponder this week,



Stephen ofm

For our parish, we have decided to begin offering the chalice from PENTECOST 2023. In order to prepare for this, training for ministers will be offered in the coming weeks. This training aims to empower ministers to prudently wipe the cup, turn the cup and pass it to you to 'take and drink'. We are not allowed by the Bishops of Australia to 'intinct'- (i.e., take the host and dip it into the Chalice). Please think and pray about this re-introduction, and if you are comfortable, come forward to receive the Precious Blood.



Fr. Stephen, the parish (and schools/colleges) wish you a happy birthday! Thank you for all the support and time you put in to the parish, parishioners and visitors. We wish you well, and pray you have a great day, and make sure you take some time to yourself!



PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

Fri 05	6:30pm Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Mary's Church 6:30pm Primary School Youth, Primary School Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall
Sat 06	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 07	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 Baptism at St. Mary's, Woodend 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's, Woodend

NEXT WEEK

Mon 08	7:00am Mass at St. Joseph's North Ipswich 9:00am 160yr Mass St. Mary's College at St. Mary's Church
Tues 09	9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt 3:30pm Primary School Atrium, St. Mary's Primary School
Wed 10	9:00am Infant/Toddler Atrium, Leichhardt Presbytery 9:00am Mass, St Mary's, Woodend 9:30am Adoration, St Mary's, Woodend 9:30am Mass at St. Brigid's, Rosewood 5:00pm Prayer Group at Parish Office
Thur 11	9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Pentecost Planning Meeting at Parish Office 6:00pm Mass, St. Boniface Church, Marburg
Fri 12	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights 6:30pm Primary School Youth, Primary School Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall



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

PASTORAL NEWS

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

Recently Deceased: John Gauldi, Edward Zammit, Joy Whyte, Marjorie Welsh, Pat Donlevy, Graham Taylor.

Anniversaries: Chris Wilson, James Hartley, **Deceased members of CWL, William O'Keeffe** and those in our Book of Life.



Can you pledge an hour between 9pm – 7am?

EVENING PRAYER – FRIDAY 9th JUNE

To celebrate the Feast of the Body & Blood of Jesus, join us for 'The Presence', which will be held in St. Mary's Church from 6:30pm Friday 9th June until 8:30am Saturday 10th June.

- 6:30pm – 7:15pm Evening Prayer with Fr. Stephen
- 7:15pm – 8:00pm Sausage Sizzle outside the church
- 8:00pm – 8:00am Exposition, Adoration, and private prayer.
- 8:00am – 8:30am The Rosary & Benediction

Signup Link - bit.ly/adore23

AN UPDATE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK

When the COVID pandemic struck, I joined other bishops in deciding for a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Now that the pandemic seems to be receding, it is good for us to reflect not only upon the Sunday obligation but upon the meaning of Sunday itself. To call the first day of the week Sunday recalls the Roman name, but from the first Christians always called it the Lord's Day, in honour of the Risen Christ who is the true light of the world and the source of life.



The Lord's Day was the weekly Easter and the weekly Pentecost, because on the first day Jesus Christ rose from the dead and breathed the Holy Spirit into the Church. It was the day that looked back to the first day of creation and forward to the last day of the Lord's return in glory. Even in times of persecution, Christians remained faithful unto death to the assembly of the Lord's Day. The spontaneous practice of the early days eventually became Church law. Yet it is not law that draws us to Mass but the Lord's desire to eat the Passover with us (cf Luke 22:15). The deepest reason we go to Mass on Sunday is not because we have decided or because the Church's requires it but because we are drawn there by his desire for us. In coming to Mass, we surrender to the Lord's love and let ourselves be drawn by him who wants to speak to our heart and share his feast with us.

Therefore, in the Archdiocese of Brisbane from Pentecost Sunday of this year (28 May) the pandemic dispensation will be withdrawn, and the Sunday obligation will be restored, so that all of us, responding to the Risen Lord's call, may say with one heart and voice, "This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24). ✠ Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Rosewood Show - Each year volunteers help out at the gates for the Rosewood Show, giving us an opportunity to raise some funds for the parish. The Rosewood Show is on Friday 30th June & Saturday 1st July. Volunteers are needed to assist with entrance and check-in. This year four-hour shifts will be rostered at each of the three gates. This will allow some time for a break and so you can go for a bit of a wander yourself! Funds raised will go to St Brigid's Restoration Fund. If you can assist, please put your name down using the online form – bit.ly/rosewoodshow or by calling the Parish Office.

This is a great fundraiser for the parish!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday 19th May

Ipswich Show Holiday

9:00am Mass – Miraculous Medal Church

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY

ERROLL ELLIOTT

(Miraculous Medal Church)

FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - On the 24th May we celebrate this important feast. Join us for the rosary from 8:30am, and Mass from 9am in St. Mary's Church. Please come along and join us for this special day.

Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians:

Grant, O Mary, Help of Christians, the graces of which we stand in need. (Mention your intentions.) May we serve Jesus with fidelity and love until death. Help us and our loved ones to attain the boundless joy of being forever with our Father in heaven. Amen.

A Special Thanks – I wanted to offer a word of thanks to Clint from Clean Plumbing who maintains and assists us with all our plumbing needs. In recent months, Clint has fixed a lot of infrastructure issues at short notice. We had 2 significant leaks after the Easter Vigil at St. Mary's, and Clint was on site at 5:30am on Easter Sunday and had us back up and running in no time. He also helped us fix additional problems at several other sites. It's reassuring that a local business such as Clint's is responsible to our needs as a church, and nothing is ever a problem for him. Thanks Clint!

Fr. Stephen

MULTICULTURAL – PENTECOST MASS



PENTECOST SUNDAY MULTICULTURAL MASS

We look forward to celebrating our cultural diversity once again on

Sunday 28th May at 10.00am

St. Mary's Church

ALL ARE WELCOME

PLEASE COME & JOIN US

Everyone is invited to wear the national costume / traditional dress from your homeland to our Pentecost Mass on May 28th. We hope to see a myriad of Australian sporting teams represented as well as a sea of colourful, international garments in the church. We are urgently seeking cultural groups to come forward and share one aspect of their homeland. Perhaps sing a hymn in their language, a liturgical dance / procession common to their culture or be willing to co-ordinate volunteers in a liturgical or celebration task on the day.

Do you have a symbol of cultural significance that you would like to bring and join the Offertory Procession, or do you have a national flag you would like to process with (on a pole) to place in the provided flag stands? A short 'rehearsal' after the Saturday vigil Mass (6:30pm on 27th May) will be held for groups participating in the liturgy.

After Mass, there will be a celebration gathering on the oval behind the Parish Office (same place as last year). This will include a sausage sizzle, coffee van, entertainment, drinks/water, plus icy poles for the children. The planned "Dessert Station" will rely on the great Aussie "parishioners bring a plate" custom. Will everyone please bring a plate of dessert "finger food" to share? Individual servings of slice, cake, pudding, etc...that people can self-serve would be most appreciated.

CALLING ALL DANCERS — groups of "Bollywood" / Filipino / Irish / Kabuki / etc, dancers from all nations are needed to share your talents joyfully entertaining our community at the celebration after Mass. Just come, provide your music to the DJ on site! Once you've danced, you can go directly to the front of the sausage queue!

Our Parish Multicultural Mass will take place on Pentecost Sunday (28 May). This day has become a special time for all parishioners of all cultures to come together to celebrate our unity of community. We invite you to join us at this Mass, but perhaps just as importantly, we need your help to make this day happen ... perhaps you can carry a candle in the liturgy or carry a flag in the procession or cook a sausage or help set up. We also need your help in contributing to the cost of the Sausage Sizzle, Drinks, etc. Your contribution can be placed in the Collection Basket in an envelope marked 'Pentecost/Multicultural Celebration'. Let us celebrate with the Holy Spirit who will bring our diversity in unity.

If you, or your group, can assist with any of the areas above or want to be helpful on the day, then please volunteer by contacting the Parish Office by email: ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au or by phone 07 3281 2133. Just leave your name and contact details and a committee member will be in touch. There are plenty of tasks to share around including set up and clean up.

You Can
Help!

Long term Foster Care – would you be interested in caring for a young boy in the Ipswich area and offering a loving, stable home? No qualifications needed apart from a Blue Card. Some training around foster care will be provided through OzChild as well as opportunities for 1:1 assistance and support. If this is of interest to you or you would like further information to help in your consideration, please contact Darlene from OzChild on 0499299253. Thanks for considering!

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For further information and an itinerary and application form, please email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au



SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

Our Next Monthly Mass

Thursday 11th September at 6:00pm

Our smaller church communities celebrate Mass once a month. Everyone is welcome to come along!

St. Boniface Church

Owens Street,
Marburg, Qld 4306



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Sixth Sunday of Easter – Yr A

1st Reading	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm	66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20
2nd Reading	1 Peter 3:15-18
Gospel	John 14:15-21

LET ALL THE EARTH CRY OUT
TO GOD WITH JOY.

PS 66

LAMPS ABLAZE – APOSTOLIC PRIORITIES FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Summit 2023 is a 3 day event for our Archdiocese; parishioners, educators, parents, support staff, catechists, lay leaders, religious and clergy, this event is for everyone. The Summit is intended to empower, inspire and equip delegates to engage in the mission of the Church. We will converge in the city's inner-west as I share my vision and priorities for the Archdiocese. (Please contact our Parish Office if you are interested in attending)



Lamps Ablaze: Apostolic Priorities for the Archdiocese of Brisbane

Priority Five: Engaging Anew with First Nations Peoples

The injustice done to First Nations peoples in this country is a running sore at the heart of the nation. It is contemporary Australia's original sin... We need a genuinely new engagement of the Church with the First Nations peoples, especially in an Archdiocese like this where the Indigenous presence is strong. A new engagement will mean, first of all, listening to Indigenous voices, and believing that we can learn if we really listen. In the past, non-Indigenous Australia has struggled to believe that we could learn anything from First Nations peoples. They could learn from us, but not we from them. That has to change, both in the Church and in Australia more generally. Then the listening and learning need to lead to action.

WITH
LAMPS
ABLAZE

Download the whole document at tinyurl.com/lampsablaze

Archbishop Mark writes:

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The Spirit of Truth

In the Gospel reading, Jesus promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will always be with us and is the Spirit of truth. It is the Holy Spirit that leads us to the truth about God and ourselves. Any meaningful engagement with First Nations Peoples must begin with the truth. Indeed, the concept of Truth Telling is a key strategy of Reconciliation Australia. Truth telling means the "process of openly sharing historical truths after periods of conflict to allow societies to move forward in a more inclusive way, based on justice and human rights." So, let's begin with some truth telling...

Oh Brigid, may your protection never fail. Spread your mantle over our parish, and cover us with God's joy and peace, let our faith and hope never cease.



Shine your light where there is darkness, strengthen our community and heal all within us that may need healing. Protect our project to restore our church, home to those who have gone before us, and those who established a vibrant catholic community. St. Brigid, pray for us.

Rosewood Update

Public consultation continues on our proposed works to fix St. Brigid's Church.

We invite parishioners and friends to make a submission to help support the work we need to undertake, to be able to use our beautiful church once more.

You can find out how to make a submission by contacting communications@bne.catholic.net.au or visiting the Council website: ipswichplanning.com.au/making-a-submission-about-an-application



Ageing Wisely Seminar - Free seminar on estate planning and retirement planning.

When: Tuesday 30th May, 9:30am – 1:30pm

Where: St. Joseph's Church

Morning tea/lunch provided free of charge.

This event is organised by the Archdiocese in partnership with Holy Cross Funerals, as a free service to parishioners. RSVP to Parish Office by 19th May please.

Congratulations

On Friday night, 54 children from the Parish celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We wish them well as they continue their faith journey!