

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 Panampuzha CMI
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke

The Ascension of the Lord

Year A

21st May 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The feast of Ascension that we celebrate today is the crown that Jesus receives for his redemptive mission on earth. As Christians we believe that he is ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father. But in today's gospel Jesus says, "I am with you always till the end of the world." So now comes the question; what is the ascension of Jesus all about and what is the kingdom of God.

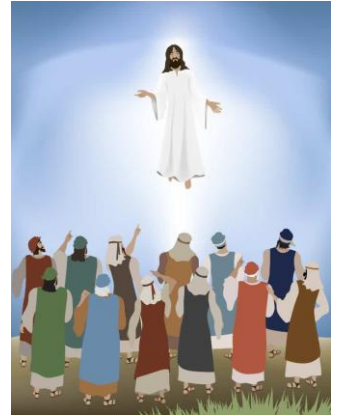
We see in the Old Testament a God who always moved with the people of Israel in the night in the form of a light house and in the day in the form cloud. When we come to the New Testament, we see Jesus as a person who also moved with the people, and 'people gathered around him where he was.'

So, what was the difference between Jesus before and after the ascension? Some theologians put it in this way, "After the ascension Jesus is not physically present where he was; but he is present where we are." Some theologians also argue that everyday is Advent for us. Literally speaking advent is the time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Biblically speaking, people waited the coming of Jesus in two ways. First was the historical birth of Jesus which took place 2000 years ago. And the second coming of Jesus, that Jesus himself says "Only the Father knows it's time."

So, what is the advent we wait for? Perhaps these important words spoken by Jesus at the time of his ascension help us understand this question, "I will be with you always." So we wait, as everyday is Advent for Christians.

Jesus, after the ascension, is where we now are, and we should welcome him everyday into our lives. Are you aware of the presence of Jesus in the persons and incidents you meet in your daily life? Are you able to say, like Archbishop Romero of El Salvador, "Jesus is suffering when my people are suffering." Are you able to meet and greet Jesus in the suffering people whom you meet in your daily life.

When we are able to meet Jesus in our society and in the people who are in need of us, then the celebration of ascension is a feast that affects us in a profound way. Let us implore the grace to listen to the risen lord to see him whenever he comes to us in our daily life. Happy feast, everyone!



Fr. Jose, Assistant Priest

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

Fri 19 PUBLIC HOLIDAY – IPSWICH SHOW
NO YOUTH TONIGHT

9:00am Samoan Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church
4:30pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt

Sat 20 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 Heights

7:30am Mass at St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
8:00am Mass at St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood

Sun 21 9:00am Mass at St. Mary's, Woodend (& Children's Liturgy)
10:30am Baptism Preparation, Parish Office, Woodend
10:30am Baptism at St. Mary's Church, Woodend
5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend

NEXT WEEK

Mon 22 9am Mass at St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
9:00am Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt

Tues 23 10:00am Funeral Mass (Martha Ferguson), Immaculate Heart
3:30pm Primary School Atrium, St. Mary's Primary School

Feast – Our Lady Help of Christians
8.30am Rosary, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend
9.30am Adoration, St Mary's Church, Woodend

Wed 24 9:00am Infant/Toddler Atrium, Leichhardt Presbytery
NO MASS at St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood
3.30pm Sacramental Program (Eucharist), St. Mary's Church
5:00pm Prayer Group at Parish Office
6:00pm Sacramental Program (Eucharist), St. Mary's Church

Thur 25 9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend
5:30pm Pentecost Planning Meeting, Parish Office
9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights

Fri 26 6:30pm Primary School Youth, Primary School Hall
6:30pm High School Youth, Parish Office St Francis Room



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

PASTORAL NEWS

Please pray for those in our parish who are unwell. We also pray for ...

Recently Deceased: Carolina Janita, Dot Smith, John Gauldi, Edward Zammit

Anniversaries: Alma Ryan and Mary Lunney, Frances Elmore, Leigh Lowry, and those in our Book of Life.



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

We have only had one parishioner pledge, please let us know if you can assist us!

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Email Communication – On occasion parishioners will let us know that they haven't received their weekly digital newsletter. When organisations send out emails to large groups of people at once (our newsletter goes to 1,784 email addresses), carriers like Telstra, Optus, Gmail, and even BCE, scan the email to block anything that may look like a scam. 99% of our emails get through, but sometime a few don't because the carrier thinks it might be unsafe. The best way to ensure you receive emails from us is to add us to your safe sender list or contact list in your email program. Please add mail@flocknote.com to your safe senders list or contact list. You may need to google how to do this as every mail carrier is different. They can also assist you with your safe senders list.

Planned Giving Envelopes - Parishioners using envelopes for planned-giving each week, your June to December envelope pack is now available in your church. These are alphabetised by surname (highlighted yellow) to make them easy to find. If you can't find your envelopes, please contact the Parish Office on 3281 2133. Please note that your envelope number has changed and now begins with the number 2.

Each year more and more parishioners are moving from envelopes to electronic giving, helping reduce parish costs (each set of envelopes cost approx. \$20) and making counting each week much easier. Thank you to those givers who have been able to make the change! For those still giving via envelope, if you would like to discuss how you can move to electronic giving, please contact Benjamin at the Parish Office. Electronic Giving is extremely safe as it is a **bank-to-bank** process.

Planned Giving Pledges – Each year parishioners who participate in the planned giving program let us know how much they would like to give. We use this information to help with our budget and to provide a summary of giving at the end of the year. In recent years we have not been able to easily provide summaries to planned givers as we have been using spreadsheets. From next week we will be updating this information in our Flocknote database, as this will make things much easier for everyone. We hope to have this work completed by 30th June. When finished, planned givers will be able to login and see their contributions if they have given us an email address.



As we load this information into your record, you will receive an email from us, confirming what we have on file. You don't need to do anything; it is just for your records. However, if you do notice information that is wrong, please let us know and we will update it for you! The email will look a bit like the image to the above.

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

ROSEWOOD SHOW - Each year volunteers help 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. 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!**

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.

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

Please note – there will be NO 7.30am Mass at St Joseph's, and NO 9.00am Mass at St. Mary's on that day.



CONNECT YOUTH

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CHALLENGE

**FRIDAY
26th May
6:30 - 8:30PM**

PRIMARY YOUTH
FIREFIGHTERS
St Mary's Primary School Hall

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
BASKETBALL & CHALLENGE NIGHT
St Edmund's College Hall

Ipswich Catholic Community

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students from Prep to Grade 6 are invited to come along for Primary School Youth every Friday night during the term.

Dinner is provided and the night runs from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Parent's, it is a great way to start the weekend and get a few hours to yourself!

Please bring your friends!

Jean Sajeeve (Youth Animator)

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Last week the high school youth group had pretty 'sweet' night with our Chocolate Night! The young people competed in a chocolate biscuit stack, chocolate egg and spoon race, a choc dash and a chocolate cake eating competition. Everyone had a great time snacking out to some chocolate while getting to hang out with their mates. Real keen for next our next youth night!

Stewart England (Youth Animator)

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - (First Communion)

Formation sessions commenced this week and continue until Wednesday 7th June. These children are at Mass this weekend to celebrate the Rite of Enrolment, please make them feel welcome!



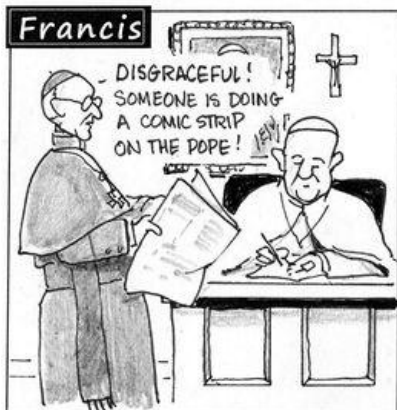
“O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself like this and hide under the form of a little bread, for our salvation.”

St Francis of Assisi

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Ascension of the Lord – Yr A

1st Reading	Acts 1:1-11
Psalm	46:2-3. 6-9. v.6
2nd Reading	Eph 1:17-23
Gospel	Mt 28:16-20



PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

Pentecost is a feast day celebrated 50 days after Easter. The word Pentecost is rooted in Greek for “fiftieth.” In the New Testament, Pentecost was the occasion of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as described in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1–31 and therefore, in the Christian liturgical year, it became a feast commemorating this occasion.

DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Traditional interpretation holds that the Descent of the Holy Spirit took place in the Upper Room, or Cenacle, while celebrating the day of Pentecost (Shavuot). The Upper Room was first mentioned in Luke 22:12–13.

This Upper Room was to be the location of the Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion.

The descent of the Holy Spirit (Paraclete). Paraclete means advocate, intercessor, teacher, helper, comforter.

All of these describe the third Person of the Trinity. These meanings show us why it’s important to meditate on the profound impact of Pentecost.

It will change the way we view God and improve the way we live.



PENTECOST REFLECTION

Surrender - We hold on to many things that keep us from the Lord. Our plans, agendas, fears, past, and worries often distract us from God. Surrender to the Lord and allow God to take control of our life.

Silence - We will not be able to hear the Spirit in the world's craziness if we can encounter him in Silence. Be still before Jesus.

Senses - We need to use the natural things that the Lord has given us in order to work and move in the Spirit. Pray to see and hear what the Lord wants to reveal wherever he chooses to reveal it.

Sensitivity - Pray, pray, pray that you are able to experience the Breath of God. At times God will hit us over the head but most of the time he doesn't. He is often subtle unless we grow in our sensitivity to him, we often miss him.

Sifting - Pay attention, take everything in, and sift it, listen, and look. Sift what you are experiencing in prayer. God will break through.

Saturate - Come Holy Spirit.

Step Out - Within one week, tell someone something that God's Spirit has shown you. Begin to move in the Spirit.

Reflect - The Holy Spirit is equal parts God in the Trinity and the fulfillment of love between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit was given to us by Jesus and sent as a farewell gift—present before his ascension to heaven. The Holy Spirit is a teacher, companion, guide, and friend to those of us in the spiritual life seeking to follow Jesus with our whole hearts and minds.

Pray - Dear Holy Spirit, help me to turn to you in all things for help and guidance in my daily life. May I listen for your voice, prompting, and action. Help me to respond to your grace and goodness. Amen.

Ageing Wisely Seminar –

Free seminar on estate planning and retirement planning.

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

Where: St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich

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.

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.



The Catholic Charity **Aid to the Church in Need** has launched their "Nigeria: Young. Faithful. Crucified" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal or scan the QR code.



Thank you!

Thank you most sincerely for the amazingly generous giving towards our parish appeals for the HOLY LAND and PROJECT COMPASSION during Lent and Easter.

You contributed

\$ 2,544.95 to GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND APPEAL

\$10,459.60 to CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION