

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 3362 8765
ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au | ipswichcatholic.au
Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM
Assistant Priest: Fr. Minje Kim
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

19th November 2023

Dear Parishioners,

One picture we can grasp from this weekend's first reading and Gospel is "Care for others with our capabilities." In the first reading, we see a wife whose works completely constitutes the network of care and support that keeps the entire community alive and together: her husband, her children, her servants, her neighbours, even the poor of the neighbourhood. Her example of care for others overlaps with St. Theresa of Calcutta who often said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Her speaking of care for others echoes through us with one clear message: There is always one capability/talent we can do to care for others with.



The Gospel this weekend shows the three servants and their master. The first two servants remembered their master's big expectations towards them as well as what they had been given by the master. Subsequently, the two men pondered how to meet with the master's expectations with the given talents. On the other hand, the last servant remembered what he had but that was all. This servant did not remember "WHY" he held that one talent.

Through this last servant, we check on whether or not we remember the ultimate reason why we have been given our talents by God. As all gifts are meant to be open and used, we are invited to use our capabilities for God, others and ourselves. Although we may think we do not have much, there is one small value that we have and can use too

Fr. Minje

MEMORIAL GARDENS



Memorial Gardens – Two new gardens have been dedicated to 'Deceased Parishioners', and 'Sick Parishioners'. We have ordered the plaques. When they arrive, Fr. Stephen will bless them – date to be announced. There are several other gardens planned; 'Stillborn Children', 'Miscarriages', 'Nursing Homes', 'Parish Pets'.

Parishioners are invited to participate in this important project. Each garden costs approx. \$1,750 to cover the cost of the timber frame, soil, plants and flowers.

If you would like to donate toward this project, please place an envelope labelled 'gardens' on the collection plate or online using the link below. Our goal is \$6,000 for 4 more planters.

www.bit.ly/ipswichfundraise



PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK		
Fri 17	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights	Mon 20	7:00am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich	
	6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary School Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall	Tues 21	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Primary Age Atrium, St. Mary's Primary School	
Sat 18	10:00am Mass & Graves Blessing, Glamorgan Vale Cemetery	Wed 22	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, Adoration St Mary's 9:00 Infant & Toddler Atrium, Leichhardt Presbytery 9:30am NO MASS at St Brigid's, Rosewood 5:00pm Prayer Group at Parish Office, Woodend 6.00 RCIA, Parish Office, Woodend	
	4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt		Thur 23	9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church, Woodend
	4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6.30pm Mass, St Boniface Church, Marburg		Fri 24	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary School Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall
Fri 19	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 9:00am Mass (Children's Liturgy), St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am Baptisms at St Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend			



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Help Guide - <https://bit.ly/3N6QtGp>

PARISH PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Teila Rose Ardill, Kenneth James Diете, Desmond McGrath, Thomas 'Jack' O'Rourke, Brenda Hansell, Anna-Maria Marmotta.

Anniversaries: Joan Lindh, John Maguire, Remedios & Cresenciano Parica, Betty Badke, John Maguire, and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Planned Giving & Collections - Our loose collections have been very strong over recent months, and we pray this continues. Our electronic giving (CC and DDR) and envelope giving have also remained strong, however in recent months several of our parishioners have passed away, which unfortunately has had an impact on collections. The contributions of these parishioners have been a blessing, and we pray that perpetual light shines upon them as they celebrate their reward in heaven!

If you are not currently on the planned giving program, I do ask you to consider participating. As little as \$5 a week makes a big difference. **Please pick up a DDR or CC form from the Welcome Desk today.** Thank you to everyone who supports our parish and our priests!

Benjamin Leschke

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

The BOOK OF LIFE

During the month of November we hold in prayer all who have passed away in our parish in the last year. We also pray for all those who have died; family and friends.

Located in each church is the book, which parishioners may add lists of names of deceased friends and loved ones.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Feast of Christ the King – Yr A

1st Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17
Psalm	22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28
Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46

Communion from the Chalice

On the First Sunday of Advent, we will reinstate 'communion from the cup' across the Parish. The Precious Blood will be offered at all weekend and weekday Masses. During COVID the communion cup was withdrawn as a precaution and this is the first time our parish is reinstating it. Several months ago, I asked parishioners if they were ready for the cup to return and there was an overwhelming yes, however some parishioners expressed concerns, especially some Communion Ministers who would normally consume what is left after communion.

Everyone will need to make their own decision if they wish to receive from the cup, and Communion Ministers are asked to contact the Parish Office if they have concerns consuming what remains after communion. We will be offering 2 cups at each Mass, and there will only be a small amount of wine put out. My preference is that the cup runs out toward the end of communion, so there is no Precious Blood remaining. We are also reminded that Jesus Christ is 'whole and entire' under both the form of bread and under the form of wine. We can choose to consume the Host, or the Host and Precious Blood, however no matter the choice, we still receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord regardless.



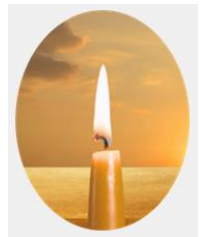
Stephen ofm

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Franciscan Friars invite you to Light a Candle for peace in the Middle East. When you light your virtual candle, you will be bringing the light into the darkness, and prayers of hope, healing and peace to the children, women and men in the Middle East whose lives have been changed forever.

Please use the link below or light a votive candle in St. Mary's Church.

<https://stanthonysguild.org/candle-for-the-middle-east>



CONNECT YOUTH

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Thanks to the youth leaders who were able to attend the Safeguarding Training last Sunday! Those who weren't able to make it will be contacted soon to arrange another time.

Every Friday Night During School Term

Dinner Provided

Primary School Youth

St. Mary's Primary School Hall

6:30pm – 8:30pm

High School Youth

St. Mary's College Hall

6:30pm – 8:30pm



In the vibrant tapestry of our young people, we highlight the importance of community. Community is like a sacred garden, where people bloom, by being nurtured by the waters of compassion and understanding. Through our shared prayers, thoughts and laughter at youth, we cultivate a sense of belonging, echoing the teachings of Jesus, to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Through this, each week, I am blessed with the opportunity to witness the beauty of the individual growth and journey of all our young people. All year 12 students across our parish community graduated high school this week, as they step into their next chapter of life, I encourage them to continue to grow from the seeds of our faith. For them to journey forward in life by holding the catholic values they learnt close to their heart, by being beacons of light to all and embracing all the fullness that life has on offer.

Stewart England

Christmas Nativity Rehearsals

This year the children of our parish community will be telling the Nativity Story at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. We invite and encourage all students who were in prep to grade 6 in 2023 to be part of this. If any parishioners have any children, grandchildren or friends who are of this age, please bring them along. We will first meet on the 28th of November at 3:30pm in St Mary's Church. Practices will run for an hour, and we will practice every Tuesday up to Christmas Eve, same time and place. Hope to see many young people be part of the most important and beautiful story ever told. Rehearsals for the Nativity Story at St Joseph's will commence in early December. Dates and times to be confirmed.



ATRIUM UPDATE

This week the children continued their preparation for Advent and Christmas by sharing their thoughts of some of the Infancy Narratives such as the Annunciation (younger ones) and the Flight into Egypt (older children). The primary school aged Atrium will finish next Tuesday as the following Tuesday Karen and I will be assisting with the preparation for the Christmas Eve Nativity story. See notice in the newsletter for more information regarding rehearsals.

We look forward to welcoming children in 2024 and if you would like your child to be part of this ministry please contact the Parish Office or go to the Parish website to register your child. Thank you to all the adults who continually support this ministry for children. Please note the infant/toddler group will continue until the 29th November.

We welcome our newest member!



REFLECTION

The readings for this week, taken as a whole unit, can be seen as difficult for modern hearers (and they probably were for the original audience.) The first reading praises a good, hard-working woman, who, by her efforts, earns honour for her husband.. How would a woman, struggling with a failing marriage hear this today, and would she feel condemned by it? How would a husband, who feels that she is to blame for the problems in their marriage, hear this?

The Psalm, asking for peace for Jerusalem is hollow today, as the army of Israel, some of whom claim to be God's people, is inflicting horrors on innocent people in the name of revenge. This is hardly the way to earn God's blessing.

St Paul was warning the Thessalonians - and us - not to waste time speculating about the date of the return of Jesus. Many people or groups over the years have proclaimed that they have this knowledge, despite Scripture warning otherwise. He reminds us that we should live good lives and so be ready whenever Jesus returns.

St Matthew's Gospel seems unfair to the cautious servant who put his master's money away safely till his return, then was punished for not risking it in investments, as the other servants did. Does this mean that we shouldn't use the talents God has entrusted to us in an active way, but just hold them close to ourselves? No. It has been said that God has given us brains and He doesn't want them back in mint condition, but well-used. May He show us how/when/where and for whom He wants us to use what He has given us so that we can give a good account of this when we meet Him, either here or in Eternity. **Judith Holznagel**

NEWS & UPDATES

2024 Franciscan Calendars Have Arrived - The recommended sale price is \$6.00 each or you can buy 2 for \$10. All funds raised through the sale of these calendars supports the work of the Franciscans.

Advent Reflections \$6 each - This year's Advent resource invites us to explore more deeply what it means to allow God to come to birth in us. Pick up your copy from the Welcome Desk!

INVITATION FOR MUSICIANS - Are invited to a gathering on Wednesday the 22nd November commencing at 4:30pm to celebrate St. Cecilia's day (the patron saint of music) and thank you for sharing your gifts with us.

WEEKEND RETREAT - Reflect upon the God who constantly chooses to come to us in loving relationship. Hosted by Grace Harwood. Fri 15 Dec 2023 at 6pm – Sun 17 Dec at 3pm OR Fri 12 Jan at 6pm – Sun 14 Jan at 3pm. Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston. Cost: \$400. grace@dragonflyministries.net.au or 0409 524 283

CEMETERY LITURGIES

18th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves - 10:00am at Glamorgan Vale Cemetery

25th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves - 9:00am at St. Michael's Cemetery, Pine Mountain

WHAT IS THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING?

The Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King, also called the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, on the last Sunday of the Liturgical year. The Feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas*, to respond to a world that was rejecting Christ and was being dominated by secularism. Pope Pius hoped that the establishment of this feast would bring about the following:

- That this annual celebration would assist the faithful to gain strength in their true King, Jesus Christ.
- That leaders and nations would recognise that they are bound to submit and give respect to Christ the King.
- That nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state. In these times when we are challenged in our faith and our ability to worship together, let us remember that Jesus Christ is Our King who reigns forever.
- That individuals should honour and recognise Jesus as their 'Sovereign King' and emulate his total gift of self, perfectly embodied on the Cross. In imitation of their thorn-crowned King, individuals can help bring love and relief to those who suffer and help to proclaim the Good News of the Reign of Christ in the world today.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

This year Christmas falls on a Monday, so to ensure parishioners and visitors can plan, we have listed all our Mass times for the regular weekend of 23rd & 24th December, and Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th December) and Christmas Day (Monday 25th December). We have also listed our 2 important Parish Advent Liturgies.

23RD & 24TH DECEMBER WEEKEND MASSES 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:30pm - Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
4:30pm Reconciliation - St. Mary's Church, Woodend
5:30pm - St. Mary's Church, Woodend
6:00pm - Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights

Sunday Mass

7:30am - St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
8:00am - St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood
9:00am - St. Mary's Church, Woodend

**THE ADVENT THEME FOR THIS YEAR
GOD IS NEAR**

CHRISTMAS MASSES & LITURGIES SAVE THE DATE

Advent Liturgies (all of Parish)

Friday 8th December 7pm – Parish Evening Prayer
Monday 18th December 7pm – Second Rite of Reconciliation

Christmas Vigil (Eve) – Sunday 24th December

4:30pm – Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
4:30pm – St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
6:00pm – St. Mary's, Woodend
6:00pm – St. Brigid's, Rosewood
Midnight Mass – St. Mary's, Woodend

Christmas Day – Monday 25th December

7:30am – Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
9:00am – St. Mary's, Woodend
No evening Mass Christmas Day

