

## 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](mailto:ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au) | [ipswichcatholic.au](http://ipswichcatholic.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Minje Kim  
**Operations Manager:** Benjamin Leschke

Feast of Christ the King

Year A

26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Dear Parishioners,

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King. In a world filled with various forms and types of leadership and authority, we look to Jesus as our true king, the one who reigns with love, compassion, and selflessness. The gospel passage from Matthew 25 presents a powerful image of Christ as the ultimate king and judge. He separates the sheep from the goats, not based on their wealth, status, or achievements, but on their acts of love and mercy. The king we honour is one who identifies himself with the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned. He calls us to recognize his presence in the least of our brothers and sisters.

Ezekiel's prophecy paints a picture of God as the good shepherd, caring for God's flock. This passage reminds us that our king is not distant or indifferent but deeply involved in our lives. God seeks out the lost, binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak. Our shepherd-king knows each one of us by name and desires that none of us should be lost. Sounds nice doesn't it - but do you or can you draw comfort from this phenomenon?

As we celebrate today's feast, we are challenged to examine our lives. Do we recognise Christ as our king and allow him to reign in our hearts? Do we follow his example of humble service and selflessness in our leadership roles, whether in our families, communities, or workplaces? In a world that often values power, wealth, and success, Christ's kingship stands in stark contrast. He reigns not by force but by love. He leads not with arrogance but with humility. He serves not for personal gain but for the well-being of others. This is the kind of leadership that our world desperately needs.

As we honour Christ the King, let us surrender our lives to His loving rule. Let us allow Jesus to be the King of our hearts, guiding us in acts of kindness, compassion, and love. Let us be a community that serves the least among us, recognising the presence of our King in their faces. May Christ the King empower and strengthen you.

**Stephen ofm**

## MEMORIAL GARDENS

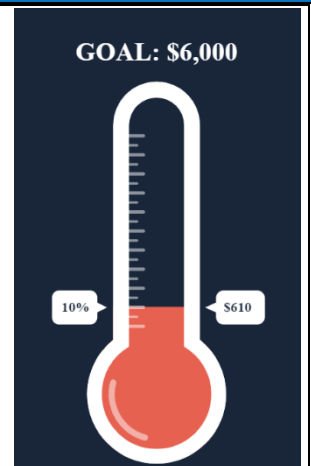


**Memorial Gardens** – Two new gardens have been dedicated to 'Deceased Parishioners', and 'Sick Parishioners'. We have ordered the plaques. When they arrive, Fr. Stephen will bless them – date to be announced. There are several other gardens planned; 'Stillborn Children', 'Miscarriages', 'Nursing Homes', '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](http://www.bit.ly/ipswichfundraise)



## PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
<b>Fri 24</b>	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Edmund's Ambrose Theatre	<b>Mon 27</b>	7:00am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 10:30am Funeral Delphine Duggan, Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
<b>Sat 25</b>	9:00am Mass & Graves Blessing, St. Michael's Pine Mountain 4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 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	<b>Tues 28</b>	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Nativity Rehearsal, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
<b>Sun 26</b>	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 10:30am Baptism Preparation, Parish Office, Woodend 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend	<b>Wed 29</b>	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, <b>No Adoration</b> St Mary's 9:00 Infant & Toddler Atrium, Leichhardt Presbytery 9:00am Rosary, 9:30am Mass, St Brigid's, Rosewood 10:30am Funeral Michael Stack, St. Mary's, Woodend 5:00pm Prayer Group at Parish Office, Woodend
		<b>Thur 30</b>	9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church, Woodend
		<b>Fri 01</b>	9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 10:30am Funeral Valmai McDonald, St. Mary's, Woodend



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

## PARISH PRAYERS

**Recently Deceased:** Michael Stack, Valmai McDonald, Delphine Duggan, Teila Rose Ardill, Kenneth James Diets.

**Anniversaries:** Tina Tiberi, Jack Coogan (17<sup>th</sup> November), Eileen Volkman (21<sup>st</sup> November), Joan Lindh, John Maguire, Remedios & Cresenciano Parica, and those in our Book of Life.

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

**WHS (All Churches)** - Our parish recently underwent a workplace health and safety audit, and we have been advised that our parish performance was very high. We have a few small areas we will work on and are just awaiting confirmation in writing before we proceed.

This audit focused on our procedures, and our environments, and was facilitated by a qualified external auditor. Several documents we provided the auditor were our 6 monthly fire extinguisher and fire blanket reports. All our churches are equipped with this equipment due to candle use, and basic safety precautions. Early next year we will be providing additional training to sacristans (and any other parishioner interested) at each of the churches who may need to make use of this equipment. Watch the newsletter for details.

The parish office has air conditioners regularly cleaned (hospital grade cleaning) by an external company, and all electrical systems in all buildings are tested every 6 months by qualified electricians using a 'rapid injection test' to ensure our switch boards meet the relevant requirements. All our churches and properties performed well! If you do have any questions about WHS, please contact the parish office directly – 3362 8765 | [ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au)



Benjamin Leschke

## SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

### What happens to Mass Offering and November Envelopes?

Each week in November we receive intentions from parishioners asking our priests to remember their deceased loved ones. Our priests offer Mass (and pray) for anyone who is listed on an envelope.

At daily Mass, our priests continue to pray for those who have passed away, and for anyone our parishioners asks to be remembered; those names placed on envelopes, and all the names listed in our Book of Life.

Remembering those who have died is an important part of our faith, and we are blessed to have priests who can offer daily Mass and remember them in their prayers daily. Thanks to Fr. Stephen and Fr. Minje!



### MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

#### First Sunday of Advent – Yr B

1st Reading	Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
Psalm	79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel	Mark 13:33-37

### 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.



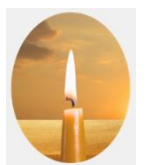
Stephen ofm

## 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 recently! Those who couldn't make it will be contacted soon to arrange another time.**

**Every Friday Night During School Term  
Dinner Provided**

#### Primary School Youth

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

St. Edmund's College – Ambrose Theatre

6:30pm – 8:30pm

#### High School Youth

FINISHED FOR THE YEAR

If I had to describe our relaunch and reformation of Youth Ministry in the Ipswich Catholic Community for 2023, I would describe it as enriching. This year, youth ministry has grown significantly, and we have been able to set up a foundation for us to grow upon in the years to come. Over the coming weeks our youth animators will be meeting with Fr. Stephen and Benjamin to finalise planning for youth ministry in 2024.



We will continue to grow on what we have created this year, and look forward to new additions. We hope to continue to inspire all parishioners and captivate our youth. The goal for Connect Youth in 2024 is to focus on the basis that our youth aren't just the future of the church; rather, they are only part of it, and are helping lead the church right now. Without the 'now' there is no future. Let us all look forward to forming our youth, and help them engage and contribute in building our parish community in the many years to come. Together, we all can further shape our great parish.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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. A rehearsal for the Nativity Story at St Joseph's will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December straight after Mass.



## ATRIUM UPDATE

Tuesday this week was the last session for 2023 for the Primary School aged children. Thank you to the adults who have assisted with this age group during the year. Your help is appreciated, and we look forward to your presence in the Atrium in the coming new year. Most of all we thank the parents for supporting their children's faith formation and it has been a privilege to be with the children. We are continually inspired by their responses which continually encourages our personal faith journey.



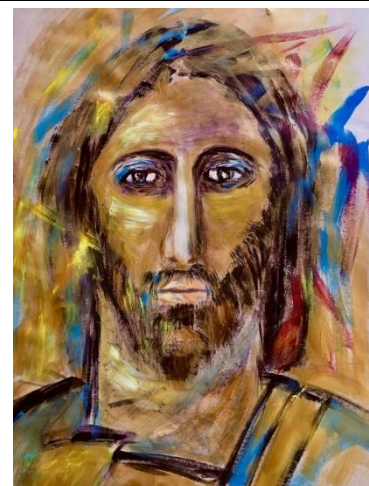
The Atrium will commence sessions in mid-February 2024. If you would like more information regarding this ministry please phone the Parish Office or visit <https://ipswichcatholic.com/faith-in-action/formation/the-atrium/>



Our Infant/Toddler session and the 3-6 years will meet this coming Wednesday for their last day for 2023.

## CHRIST THE KING

O Lord our God, You alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations.  
We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things.  
Protect, O Lord our King, our families and the land of our birth.  
Guard us we pray Most Faithful One.  
Protect us from our enemies and from Your Just Judgment.  
Forgive us, O Sovereign King, our sins against you.  
Jesus, You are a King of Mercy.  
We have deserved Your Just Judgment  
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.  
We trust in Your Great Mercy.  
O most awe-inspiring King, we bow before You and pray;  
May Your Reign, Your Kingdom, be recognized on earth. Amen.



## 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!

**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](mailto:grace@dragonflyministries.net.au) or 0409 524 283

## CEMETERY LITURGIES

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

### Musician's gathering 22nd November 2023

On Wednesday (Feast of St. Cecilia, patron saint of music) we hosted a gathering of some of our wonderful musicians to say, 'Thank You!'. It was a lovely way to share some fellowship and connect in such a relaxed way. We sang in praise, discussed the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons, and shared stories of the challenges we face in our ministry. We have been blessed with several new musicians in past months and have been encouraging and supporting them in their roles, building confidence in this most important ministry. Of course, we would welcome more so please consider becoming part of our vibrant team - we would love to have you - even if you could play only one hymn!



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER WEEKEND MASSES

#### 4<sup>th</sup> 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

