

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

21st January 2024

Dear Parishioners,

The Word of God this weekend invites us to reflect on repentance. In what ways have we repented? Many of us may consider genuine repentance as the recognition of how sinful an action, emotion, belief, or way of life is and how it affects our relationship with God. Yes, it is true, as the people of Nineveh showed in the first reading. Yet, we can find the meaning of repentance from another angle. One of the implications of repentance is "turning away from the direction towards which we have moved," so it requires a complete change in direction, like making a U-turn.



Prophet Jonah clearly illustrates this image of repentance. God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, but he did not. He went in the completely opposite direction. However, Jonah realized he was on the wrong track and 'CHANGED' the direction toward Nineveh. The experience of repentance through the complete change in direction enabled Jonah to inspire and support utterly the people of Nineveh to change their direction in order to conform with God's will.

Our lives are the totality of moving from one side to another. We unconsciously and intentionally move to realms that are against God's will. However, our Lord always pours His Grace and Mercy upon us to be able to thoroughly change the direction and move back to Him. This weekend, let us check ourselves based on the direction we take. Is that direction towards God's will or not? If we find ourselves on the wrong path, let us change our direction thoroughly and immediately in various ways, such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Rosary prayer. After we change our direction to God's will, we can be fully ready to believe the Good News, as the gospel reading says. **Fr. Minje**

CHILDREN'S LITRUGY OF THE WORD

Our Parish offers children from pre-school to year 7 the opportunity to attend **Children's Liturgy of the Word**. This ministry is offered each Sunday at the 9:00am Mass at St Mary's, Woodend. The children leave the assembly at the beginning of Mass and return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Children's Liturgy of the Word for 2024 will begin on Sunday 4th February. Our priests will invite children forward at the appropriate time during the Mass. Parents are also invited to attend if they want to come along to see what it is all about. Just come forward with your kids! If you would like to learn more about this ministry or would like to be part of the team of adults who work with the children, please contact the Parish Office and register your interest. We are always looking for new volunteers with fresh ideas as to how to share God's Word with the children.



PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Fri 19	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights 11:00am Funeral, Cecil Halpin, St Mary's Church, Woodend	Mon 22	No Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 11:00am Memorial Mass, Sheelagh Castley, St. Joseph's Church
Sat 20	4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights	Tues 23	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 12:00pm Funeral, Allan Killeen, Centenary Memorial Gardens
Sun 21	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am Baptism, St Mary's Church, Woodend 11:30am Baptism, St Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	Wed 24	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Adoration, St Mary's 9:30am NO MASS, St Brigid's, Rosewood 5:00pm Prayer Group, Parish Office, Woodend 6:00pm RCIA Session 12, Parish Office, Woodend
		Thur 25	9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church, Woodend 11:00am Funeral, Ralph Cea, St. Mary's, Woodend 1:00pm Funeral, Pat Slattery, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
		Fri 26	Parish Office Closed, Australia Day Holiday 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights

Australia Day Mass – Friday 26th January 9am, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights.



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PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Margaret (Pat) Slattery, Dallas Hayden, Ralph Cea, Allan Killeen, Sheelagh Castley, Cecil Halpin, Marilyn Cassin, Frances Lesley Tebble, Mary Ringelstein.

Anniversaries: Anthony Nugent, Brian Rashleigh, Neal Crozier, Leo Elmore, Susitina Uava Nick Tofilau, Frances Hannant, Kathleen & Frank Nolan, and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES – We have a few 2024 Planned Giving envelopes not yet collected. If you are expecting envelopes but cannot find them, please reach out to the Parish Office.

ST. MARY'S PRECINCT – Temporary fencing has gone up around the old maintenance building, in preparation of its renovation to the new Parish Centre. The work will take several months to complete, however upon completion we will have a gathering space for everyone in the parish to enjoy! The toilets in the maintenance building are now out of action, therefore we have arranged portable toilets at the rear of St. Mary's church opposite the columbarium. We have installed several sandstone blocks in the carpark to prevent vehicles from driving into the gardens, these blocks also add more safety along the footpath wall. Several sandstone blocks have also been installed along the grassed area near the grotto which can be used for seating. In the coming weeks, turf work will commence (following eradication of all lawn grubs) in front of the church. The recent rain has helped soften the soil, so now is the time to replace the dead grass.

Parish Office – The gardens between the Parish Office entrance and presbytery have been cleared to increase the grassed area, and to allow the space behind the entry wall to be cleaned up and some new trees will be planted. This change will not only freshen up the entrance to the Parish office, but also solve the damming of water on the presbytery veranda. We pulled a large rat nest out of the old garden, so a refreshed garden will make it less likely for rodents or snakes to gather in the area. This work will take place over the coming weeks.

AUSTRALIA DAY

The Story of Australia

This is the Story of Australia - the story of an extraordinary nation.

The Story begins 60,000 years ago. New chapters are written every day.

On Australia Day, we reflect on our history, its highs and its lows.

We respect the stories of others.

And we celebrate our nation, its achievements and most of all, its people.

We're all part of the story.

<https://cms.australiaday.org.au>



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

**If you celebrate, we hope
you celebrate well!**

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

Freedom in God

Francis was a paradox in his own day. In many ways, he might not have seemed a very free person. His health was never terribly strong. The friars could take up a great deal of his time, and not all of them were saints! And yet Francis was one of the freest people who ever lived. He had no fronts to put up, no masks behind which to hide, no image to maintain except that of a sinner open to the grace of God. Celano and other early biographers emphasize that Francis appealed to men and women of all economic and social classes. Most people felt extremely at ease in his presence. The only ones who did not were men and women who wanted him to endorse their self-deceptions about where they stood before God and in relation to others. Are you enjoying the freedom that God wants you to have? If not, what needs to change?

—from the book *Peace and Good: Through the Year with Francis of Assisi* by Pat McCloskey, OFM



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time— Yr B

1st Reading	Dt 18:15-20
Psalm	Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9
2nd Reading	1 Cor 7:32-35
Gospel	Mk 1:21-28

Darkness is necessary. All life germinates in the dark, and we spend fully one half of our lives in that state. Without pervasive darkness there would be no need for light, and still there are places and realities that light cannot illumine. Lightlessness also bears different aspects. It is the impenetrable cloak of mystery that hides the Holy and shades our lives with the nuance of not-knowing. Such darkness can both isolate and integrate us under its shadow. When plunged into blackness, our first instinct is to reach out for one another. Should we turn our headlights off, linger long enough in unknowing, and let our eyes adjust to the dimness, we might discover that most especially in dark times we are not alone.

In the dark we all stumble, and when we tread a path into the shadowlands of suffering, we walk carefully on holy ground. The enigmatic backdrop for all enlightenment, darkness must be revered, and darker times gift us with opportunities to love, cloaked as burdens.

—from the book *Wandering and Welcome: Meditations for Finding Peace*

by Joseph Grant

CONNECT YOUTH

Friday Night Youth Returns on Friday 16th February (Term 1, Week 4)

Primary School Youth | High School Youth

Youth Leaders for 2024

Are you young, over 18 and passionate about having a positive impact in the life of young people? Then Youth Ministry Leadership might be for you! If you want to be a youth leader in the Ipswich Catholic Community and make Jesus more alive in our community during 2024, please email ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au and I will be in contact with you!



Stewart England

With leadership, every action is a brushstroke on the canvas of a shared vision. Leadership is about painting a picture of a better tomorrow. Effective leadership is measured in the hearts touched, the minds opened, and the lasting impact left on the tapestry of time. Last weekend I got the opportunity to immerse myself as a leader at Ignite Summer Camp 2024. Summer Camp was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever gotten to be part of. We were fortunate enough to have three young people from Ipswich attend the camp. I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to not only grow as a leader of faith but grow as a person. The opportunity to build relationships with many members of youth from across the whole Archdiocese was incredible and rewarding. I learnt so much as a leader, and I am very excited to bring the qualities, values and ideas that I gained back to our parish community.

Stewart England



Summer Camp 2024, 'Stayin' Alive', was a transformative experience for me. I made instant connections with the girls in my cabin and small group. I had such a fun time doing the diverse activities and the rallies, especially Women and Men's Day. Honouring Night, where the boys honour the girls at dinner, was a different but great experience for me. My favourite night was the last night, with Adoration and Prayer Teams. It was amazing to see everyone worshipping God in Adoration and lining up for Prayer Teams. While I was receiving prayer, a weight on

my arms felt like a gift from God, which led to a heartfelt emotional experience. I was surrounded by supportive friends who gave me amazing hugs. That night I felt a transformative connection with God that changed my life. The last night was my highlight and the whole camp was such a transformative journey.

Hannah Currey

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (ATRIUM) MINISTRY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

We are looking forward to welcoming children to the Atrium in 2024. The sessions we will be offering are as follows:

- Prep and Year One Children: Monday afternoon from 3-30 to 4-30pm (this session will suit those children who have just commenced in the Atrium in 2023)
- Year two to Year Six Children: Tuesday afternoon from 3-30pm to 5-00pm
- Babies to 2.5 years: Wednesday mornings 9-00am to 9-45am
- 2.5 years to 4 years: Wednesday morning 10-00am to 11-00am

Sessions on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon will be held in a room underneath the St Mary's Primary School Early years classrooms and commence on February 26th 2024.

Sessions on a Wednesday morning in a building next door to Immaculate Heart Primary School, Old Toowoomba Road Leichhardt. Sessions will commence on Wednesday 7th February

If you would like to learn more about this ministry for our young children, please contact the Parish Office and they will provide a number for you to contact. Alternatively, you can find information from the parish website <https://ipswichcatholic.com/faith-in-action/formation/the-atrium/>



ST VINCENT'S DE PAUL REPORTS

St Mary's - During the quarter the St Mary's and St Barbara's Conferences assisted 492 families in the Ipswich and Rosewood area. We provided \$31,256 in direct financial assistance such as food vouchers, purchasing second hand household appliances and assisting with some rent and other bills. We also provided \$3,610 in clothing and furniture through the Vinnies store and Vinnies warehouse, as well as \$7,351 in other In-Kind donations, including the food donated here at the parish churches each Sunday. On the weekend before Christmas we were also able to deliver Christmas hampers, valued at over \$12,390 to 79 families in the area. This was only able to be done with the very generous contributions from the 2 colleges, St Edmunds and St Mary's, as well as the primary schools at Rosewood, Leichhardt and St Mary's.

We have lost a number of our members this year who have had to retire for various reasons, which will put additional pressure on the few of us that remain. If there are any parishioners or you know of anyone who would be willing to join our merry crew and donate a couple of hours each week or fortnight either on a Monday at Rosewood or Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday at the Ipswich Support Centre at West Ipswich, please give me a call on 0418 618604 and I would be only too happy to discuss exactly what is involved.

Last year our 2 conferences conducted over 1700 interviews with people seeking assistance. From those interactions we were able to assist directly and indirectly over 4700 people. The value of assistance provided was over \$200,000, which is truly incredible. This year again looks to be a very busy one for the Society here in Ipswich and your ongoing support will be needed and appreciated more than ever. To quote our founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam "Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands."

Paul Cervetto St Mary's Conference Ipswich

St Joseph's - During the quarter October to December St Joseph's Conference assisted 143 families (189 adults and 186 children). The total financial assistance given was \$8714.25. This includes payment for food, rent, prescriptions and back to school expenses.

Vouchers were also given out for clothing from Vinnies stores to the value of \$775 and furniture from the warehouse valued at \$505.

Food hampers from the donations received from parishioners were distributed with a value of \$2820. We remain ever grateful to you all for your continuing generosity.

We also delivered 23 Christmas hampers to families in our area. St Joseph's school community was once again a major contributor to our Christmas food appeal. Without their support we would not be able to provide these hampers.

Thanks once again for all the support we are given and thanks to Fr Stephen and Fr Minje for promoting donations for our hampers.

Lyn Molenaar, St Joseph's Conference

OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.



Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

NEWS & UPDATES

St Edmunds Old Boys Twilight Bowls Night - Saturday 3 February - Ipswich Bowls Club - Merle Finimore Avenue, Queens Park Ipswich. Arrive 4.00pm for a 5.00pm Start. \$30 per bowler, includes 1 beer and a Barbeque Dinner after (7.00pm). 4 Person Teams, but single bowlers welcome. Contact Andrew McGrath at amcgrath59@hotmail.com or call 0438 164 452.

World Day of Prayer - at St Mary's Church on Friday 1st March – more details to follow.

2024 Franciscan Calendars - RRP \$6.00 each or you can buy 2 for \$10. It's not too late! We have approx. 30 calendars left. If you can't find one in your church, please contact the Parish Office!