

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

1st Sunday of Lent

Year B

18th February 2024

Dear Parishioners,

A few reflections to begin LENT 2024: - "Lent comes to make its prophetic appeal, to remind us that it is possible to create something new within ourselves and around us, simply because God is faithful, always faithful, for he cannot deny himself, he continues to be rich in goodness and mercy, and he is always ready to forgive and start afresh." —Pope Francis

THE HOPE OF LENT is more than our hope that we will get through it, that we will come to the end of it. We can see Lent as an obstacle course we need to navigate in order to get to the great feast of Easter. But while the Lenten season is indeed preparation for our Easter celebration, the hope of this season is that we will find our lives transformed by the many ways we encounter God's word, by the richness of the Scripture readings chosen to encourage, to challenge, to confront, to comfort.

Focusing only on the end goal would cause us to miss so much along the way. Lent is not only about penance, deprivation, spiritual struggles, and rooting out sin in our lives. Those are often the things we do during Lent. The greatest hope of Lent lies in what God does. Lent is a time to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary, to be surprised by God's mercy when we least expect it. As the season begins, think about the hopes you have for Lent this year. Think about what changes you want to see in your life, in the world. Let the words of Pope Francis guide you on a journey of bringing those hopes to fulfillment.

There's something attractive about Lent beginning in the middle of an ordinary week, catching us in the midst of our daily occupations and asking us to take time out to find God there. Lent does not take us away from our ordinary lives, but rather it invites us to bring a new and holy attention to those activities.

"Let us allow ourselves to be wrapped in God's mercy which comes to meet us; as we keep our gaze fixed on the passion and death of the Lord, let us receive in our heart God's boundless love and, in silence, await the resurrection." —Pope Francis

Often the best way to understand the love of God is to reflect on what we would be willing to do for someone we love dearly, or what another would do - or has done - for us. Never forget that human love is an image of divine love.

"Prayer is like speaking with a friend: In prayer, one opens one's heart. Following his face-to-face with God, Moses went down the mountain reinvigorated, saying, 'I got to know the Lord better.' And that strength allowed him to resume his work of leading the people to the Promised Land." —Pope Francis

My hope for you is that these 6 weeks, you will get to know the Lord better!

Pope Francis reminds us that our faith is rather a love affair, a dream, a joyful, passionate embrace that doesn't stop to ask about worth or merit or judgment. When we are caught up in the ecstasy of love, we lose our tendency to stand outside ourselves and consider each action, each thought. When we can bring this to our faith life, we discover the wonderful things God has in mind for us, for our loved ones, for our future.

Please make the most of this beautiful time in the Church year: use it well; remind yourself of, and even rediscover, God's love for you.

Try and come to the Stations of the Cross at least once, set aside the night for the Parish Reconciliation Service and read the Sunday Scriptures Happy Lent!

Stephen ofm



ALL PARISH EVENT –NIGHT AT THE THEATRE – 7TH MARCH

Our first social and fundraising event for the parish this year will be a theatre night, held at the Ipswich Little Theatre on Thursday 7th March at 8pm. \$30 per person, and it will be a series of one act plays. Please come along for an enjoyable evening and if you can bring a plate of food to share. Invitation open to all! **Ticket contact: Mary Smith on 0418 155 132. Payment Link - <https://bit.ly/ipswichfundraise>**



Please type 'Theatre' as the reason and enter your details. Add the total amount for the tickets (multiples of \$30).

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK	
Fri 16	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	Mon 19	7:00am Mass, St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
	5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Woodend	Tues 20	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
	6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary U/Cover Area 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall	Wed 21	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Stations, St Mary's No Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 6:00pm RCIA Lenten Discussion, Parish Office
Sat 17	4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt	Thur 22	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 7:00pm Prison Ministry Info Evening, St Joseph's Church
	4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	Fri 23	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 1:30pm Prayer Service, Jeffrey Connell, St Joseph's, Nth Ipswich
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights		5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Woodend 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary U/Cover Area 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall
Sun 18	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 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend		



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

PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Jeffrey Connell, Jim Hannant and Vyleen White.

Anniversaries: Peter Byrne, Mary Byrne, Eileen Matthews, James Mulkin, Michael Mulkin, Graham & Brian Lawton, Lawton & McAnalen families and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - Is your Safeguarding Training due for renewal? If so, join the Office for Safeguarding Services on Wednesday the 6th of March from 6.30pm to 8.00pm for the first 2024 Safeguarding Training webinar. Registration and attendance at the webinar will satisfy your Archdiocesan Safeguarding Training requirements. All volunteers who have training due up to 31 March 2024 will be sent a Flocknote message with the invitation link. <https://bit.ly/aobsafe24>



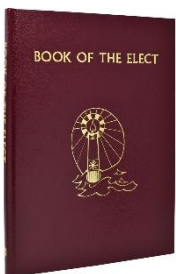
Ministry Rosters & Volunteers – Our volunteer coordinators are busy preparing the ministry roster for the next 3 months. If you have not ever volunteered but are interested now is the time to let us know! Please contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer in a ministry.

PARISH MUSIC NEWS

JUNIOR CHOIR - There has been some interest from parishioners recently about the possibility of having the younger members of our congregations being involved in music ministry. Whilst children who attend our Catholic schools have opportunities to carry out this ministry, not all children have the chance to participate using their musical talents. There will be a meeting at St. Mary's church on Tuesday 20th February commencing at 3:30pm for children (and parents/guardians) who love to sing and would be interested in committing to the musical activities of the Ipswich Catholic Community, by initially singing in a junior choir at the 9:00am mass at St. Mary's once a month. At this stage we envisage a weekly practice on Tuesday afternoons during term time. School aged children from Year 3 and up are most welcome. Please come along to this wonderful opportunity! If you interested but unable to attend, or have questions, please reach out to Kathy Bianchi (Parish Music Coordinator) music@ipswichcatholic.au (**we had to change the contact email from last week's newsletter.**)

MUSICIANS APPEAL - We have a wonderful team of Music Ministers, both musicians and singers, who commit to their Ministry with such generosity and grace. They are rostered monthly, with many fulfilling numerous positions. We would welcome any new musicians who would like to join our team and use these gifts in worship. We can provide resources and support to assist in this path to Ministry. If you are interested, please contact Kathy at music@ipswichcatholic.au

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY



Rite of Election: This Sunday, our four catechumens (*Lisa, Nathan, David and Jonas*) and three candidates (*Shiralee, Benjamin and Brett*) will enter into the Rite of Election at 3 pm at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Archbishop Mark Coleridge will lead this celebration for all the catechumens and candidates across the archdiocese. This step is called "election" because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on God's election, in whose name the

Church acts. The four catechumens will inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect, acknowledging that God calls them by name. As they are called to walk with us as new disciples toward our God, please pray for them, their sponsors and their families.



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Second Sunday of Lent – Yr B

1st Reading	Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18
Psalm	115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9
2nd Reading	Romans 8:31-34
Gospel	Mark 9:2-10

OPEN SESSION WITH FR. STEPHEN

Thank-you to the 12 parishioners who came to the meeting on Thursday night. There were 3 apologies and 9 written submissions. A lively discussion took place on topics ranging from car park courtesy, schools-parish relationship, maintenance around the Churches, some suggestions to improve liturgies, newsletter, hospitality extended to visitors and hospitality shown to others(sign of peace). The meeting was positive and engaging and I am interpreting the numbers as parishioners 'are happy' with how we are growing as a parish!



WEEKDAY MASS TIMES – I am still working on the weekday Mass schedule. Thank you to those who have provided feedback.

Stephen ofm

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (ATRIUM)

MINISTRY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The Catechesis of the Shepherd is a Christian formation process for children between the ages of 0-12. The central aim of this process is to help a child nurture their own personal relationship with God. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is grounded in scripture and liturgy of the Church framed by the Montessori method, using hands-on sensorial materials of education. It is a sacred space where children are welcomed to enjoy an environment that encourages and nurtures their natural curiosity to know God more deeply.



The Infant and Toddler Atrium is held in the old Leichhardt Presbytery, next to Immaculate Heart Primary School at 22 Old Toowoomba Road, Leichhardt.

Parking is available out the front to ensure parents with prams and strollers have safe access to the facility.

0 to 3 years gather on Wednesdays 9:00am to 9:45am

3 to 5 years gather on Wednesdays 10:00am to 11:00am

These sessions have already commenced so please come along!

Our Primary School Atrium is held in the classroom underneath the early year's classrooms at St. Mary's Primary School, Woodend. The building behind our Parish Office.

These sessions commence 26th February:

Prep to Grade 1 gather on Mondays 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Primary age (6-12 years) gathers on Tuesdays 3:30pm to 5:00pm

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 by visiting the parish website.

<https://ipswichcatholic.com/faith-in-action/formation/the-atrium>



CONNECT YOUTH

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

Primary School Youth – St. Mary's Primary Undercover Area

(Drop off & Pick up using school drop off driveway – St. Mary's Church Carpark)

High School Youth – St. Mary's College Hall



Ignite Launch 2024 is just around the corner! It is a huge day at Dreamworld, riding the rollercoasters, hanging out with your friends, and an epic dance party after Dreamworld has closed! It's all about getting your best mates together, making a stack of new friends and having a day you won't forget about anytime soon. At the night rally the young people will have the opportunity to experience life changing and faith impacting encounters. Ignite Launch is on May 18th, 10am – 8pm. If you wish to attend, or have any questions, please call or email the Parish Office to submit an expression of interest.

Calling all high schoolers! This year the youth will retell the story of Jesus' death. Practices for the Passion Play Liturgy will commence on the 3rd of March, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, at St Mary's Church. Practices will repeat every week after, same time and place up to Good Friday. There are many different ways for the young people to be involved in this liturgy. All high school aged children are encouraged and asked to be involved in this liturgy. If you have any questions, please call or email the parish office.

Reflection... This week we entered the season of Lent. This season offers a profound opportunity for reflection and personal growth. As a young person it is very easy to get distracted by social media, peer pressure and the pressure of success. The Lenten Season is a time to rid ourselves of distractions and focus on becoming more wholesome and genuine people. Lent isn't just a time to 'give up' something, moreover it is a time to make a commitment to a positive change. It is a time to reflect on Jesus' journey in the desert and to reflect on the concept that we aren't perfect and that we do make mistakes. Lent invites us to deepen our prayer life, embrace our imperfections and to work hard on our mistakes. Through this time of sacrifice and repentance we journey towards Easter with open hearts and engaged minds. **Stewart England**

PROJECT COMPASSION

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.

Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations



Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

PRISON MINISTRY - Are you searching for a practical and meaningful way to live your faith? Have you ever thought of joining the good work that ordinary men and women are doing in the Archdiocese by visiting prisoners in local correctional centres each week? A special evening is being held for people who may be interested in knowing more about joining this voluntary ministry. **Please come along to St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich Thursday 22nd February at 7pm.** Hear stories from four of Centacare's male and female prison chaplains. A nice supper will be served, there is no obligation if you attend. Please RSVP by Tuesday 20th February by contacting the Parish Office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - This year the Ipswich Catholic Community is hosting the World Day of Prayer. We welcome all parishioners to join us on Friday 1st March at 10am in St. Mary's Church. The theme this year is "I beg you....bear with one another in love". Morning tea will follow in the Parish Office. There will also be a liturgy in Rosewood on Friday 1st March at 10am hosted by St. Luke's Anglican Church in John Street. Any questions about the Rosewood liturgy phone Carmel on 0400 713 789.

PILGRIMAGE I am leading a Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi at Easter for teachers in Franciscan Schools around Australia. There are 30 people on the Pilgrimage. Whilst I am away, Fr Minje and a Supply priest will look after the Parish. Fr Stephen

THANK YOU to each of our Schools and Colleges for helping to prepare the Ashes this year. Each child in our schools wrote a 'Lenten promise' I promise to be kind, I promise to smile more; I promise to give up chocolate; I promise to listen to Fr Stephen these promises were burned in the fire along with the palms and were part of the ashes you received on Ash Wednesday. The ashes will be in the Sanctuary area of each of our Churches through Lent. Fr Stephen

