

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

2nd Sunday of Lent

Year B

25th February 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Some spiritual writers and psychologists tell us how important it is to live in the present. Still, many of our decisions are made with an eye toward the future. Life commitments are always future oriented. Each newborn child carries promises for the future. Because we are part of the emerging universe, we are always called into the future. Today's readings also carry implications for the future. Some people are just not able to think about or even plan for the future. I see that in Church circles as well.

Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son; he was Abraham's legacy and future dynasty. Isaac's death would have put an end to Abraham's memory in the future. Consequently, this was more than a test of obedience. Abraham was presented with a choice: Choose Isaac and all that the future might bring to your family and memory through him. Or trust that the promise God made - that your descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky - would be fulfilled even if Isaac dies. God asked Abraham to place his future in God's hands. *Is it hard for you to place your trust in God?*

Some scholars believe that the real meaning of Jesus' transfiguration lies in its effects on the disciples who witnessed it. In this experience they came to see Jesus in a significantly new way. They saw that he has somehow associated with Moses, an agent of the law, and Elijah, a great prophet. In other words, Jesus was somehow associated with the very core of Jewish religion. The disciples did not understand how, nor did they grasp what "rising from the dead meant." Still, they placed their future in his hands. Let us place our trust in God now and hopefully that will lead us into the future. Enjoy your week.

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 (NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES)	
Fri 23	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	Mon 26	9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend
	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	Tues 27	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 10:30am Funeral Samantha Brooks, St. Mary's, Woodend 3:30pm Junior Parish Choir Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend
Sat 24	8:00am Mass, St. Michael's, Pine Mountain 4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	Wed 28	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Stations, St Mary's 9:00am, Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 10:00am, Prayer Group, Parish Office 6:00pm RCIA Lenten Discussion, Parish Office
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights	Thur 29	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
Sun 25	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood	Fri 1	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 10:00am World Day of Prayer, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 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
	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am Baptism Preparation, Parish Office, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend		

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 have been sent the training link in Flocknote.**



SUBSCRIBE - ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews

Add mail@flocknote.com to your safe sender list.

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

PARISH PRAYERS



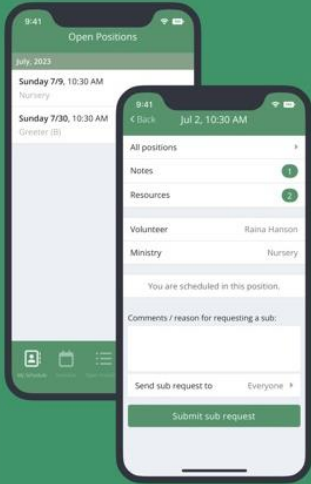
Recently Deceased: Samantha Brooks, Jeffrey Connell, Mark Stevenson, Laurel Daniells, Robyn Gordon, Eileen Turner and Jim Hannant.

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

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Modify Your Schedule

Request a sub if you can't make it, or fill open positions



Ministry Rosters & Volunteers – Our volunteer coordinators have completed the rosters for March – May. These are now published and available on the MSP app. If you haven't logged in to manage your rosters, please use the link below. We have also emailed everyone their login details in the event you have forgotten them! Link - <https://bit.ly/ipswichmsp>

Your Volunteer Coordinators (see them with any roster questions)

Saturday

4:30pm Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt	Kevin Bianchi
5:30pm St. Mary's, Woodend	Yvonne O'Brien
6:00pm Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	Kathy Matthew, Sue Mitchell

Sunday

7:30am St. Joseph's, North Ipswich	Maree Coyne
8:00am St. Brigid's, Rosewood	Bernadette Lenihan
9:00am St. Mary's, Woodend	Bernadette McAndrew
5:30pm St. Mary's, Woodend	Jan Allery

PARISH MUSIC NEWS



JUNIOR CHOIR - Five children braved our first meeting and were led through some games and music activities, and we have learned two new hymns already! We will be rehearsing every Tuesday afternoon during term time, from 3:30pm to 4:15pm at St. Mary's Church. This group will lead the music on the fourth Sunday of each month at St. Mary's 9:00am mass. If your child loves to sing and would like to be involved in this ministry, we invite school aged children from Year 3 and upwards to come along next week to see what it's all about. Happy singing!

Kathy Bianchi (Parish Music Coordinator) music@ipswichcatholic.au

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 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

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES Take effect from Monday 26th February



Monday	9am St. Mary's Church
Tuesday	9am Immaculate Heart Church
Wednesday	9am St. Mary's Church 9am St. Brigid's Church
Thursday	9am St. Mary's Church and St Joseph's 9am <u>when</u> a school Mass is scheduled
Friday	9am Miraculous Medal Eastern Heights



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Lent – Yr B

1st Reading	Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm	Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel	John 2:13-25

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian. ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

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

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.

Youth Car Wash Fundraiser: On Sunday the 17th of March, the Youth will be running a Car Wash and BBQ Fundraiser at St Mary's Church. The fundraiser will run from 8am – 12pm. If you attend 9am mass at St Mary's on the 17th of March, there is an opportunity for you to pay for your car to be washed during mass so you can drive away with a clean car. It will cost at least \$10 per car to be washed and \$2 for a sausage on bread. Thank you in advanced for your support to our youth. Please support our efforts in fundraising.

Stewart England

NEWS & UPDATES

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



WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18 | Romans 8:31–34 | Mark 9:2–10

Written by Michael McGirr

When Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain, they experienced something quite extraordinary. The transfiguration gave them a glimpse of what it meant for Jesus to be the son of God. It is hardly surprising that Peter said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here.' The Gospel also tells us that Jesus' friends were frightened, and this is also easy to understand. They were overwhelmed. Nevertheless, it's not long before Jesus reminds them that he is destined to die. His friends must come down from the mountain and walk with Jesus through all the ordinary and arduous days and weeks that lie ahead.

We can all say 'it is wonderful for us to be here' no matter where that happens to be. Life is full of wonder. That doesn't mean it is always easy. We live in the arms of a very deep mystery. God's love enfolds us.

Throughout Lent, we are called to support Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. This year, Project Compassion celebrates 60 years of partnership with some of the most marginal communities in the world. With your help, we have walked alongside literally millions of people in dozens of countries.

This week we encounter the story of Ronita who lives in Quezon City, part of metro Manila in the Philippines. Becoming a mother at a young age meant that her schooling was cut short. Her husband, Lean, leaves for work at 3am and returns at 9pm, earning less than \$US10 per day in a demanding job in waste disposal. On such a small income, Ronita and Lean, along with two young children, are able to rent a room of about 10 square metres.

With your help through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia has been able to support the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to run the Alternative Learning System program. This program has meant that Ronita has been able to continue her education. The FCJ sisters provide a safe space for many young people such as Ronita to finish school and find better jobs. Ronita has had the opportunity to change her life.

Caritas Australia believes that the world can be transfigured to become more like the kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. We can encounter people whom others choose to ignore. When we do so, we discover that here too are children of God. We are asked to listen to them.



Ronita (22) smiles as she holds her sons, Egzy Grey (3) and Clark (5), in their small home in Quezon City, Philippines. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

