

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

4th February 2024

Dear Parishioners,

I am sure someone has said to you “Grin and bear it” - this harsh bit of advice is more military than religious. However, it does carry some truth. There are times when there is no way to avoid hardship, so all we can do is find some way of dealing with it. This is the situation in today’s reading from Job. He experiences life as burdensome. To make matters worse, life is too short to be able to get beyond the difficulty. So, what does he do? What might most of us do in similar situations? Complain. Some weeks a large proportion of my time is listening to complaints – it is so easy to be sucked into this and only hear complaints or give them too much authority. Let’s make 2024 a year of ‘building-up our community’!



There is really nothing wrong with complaining. The problem is to whom and for how long. A large number of the Psalms are complaints or, to use the theological term, laments. To complain to God can be a profound prayer, for it admits our human inability to fix everything, and it presumes that God can and just might fix the problem. The psalm response continues this train of thought with a prayer of confidence that God will fix it. The Gospel reading then provides examples of how Jesus did just that.

These are not merely stories of past events. Rather, they trace a profound yet difficult-to-accept religious belief: when we are overwhelmed by hardship, we should turn to God and place our need in God’s care, believing that God wants what is best for us. Perhaps, the rest is out of our hands, but we must believe that we are in God’s hands and, therefore, safe.

As we enter this week, let’s surrender all to God.

Have a great week,

Stephen ofm

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children’s Liturgy of the Word begins this weekend. 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. 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!



We need more catechists. 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 come along to our information session.

Parish Office on Wednesday 7th February at 3:30pm

No obligations, just come along and hear what it is all about! 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 02	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	Mon 05	7:00am Mass, St. Joseph’s Church, North Ipswich
	4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt	Tues 06	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
Sat 03	4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend		8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Adoration, St Mary’s
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend	Wed 07	9:30am Mass, St Brigid’s, Rosewood
	(St. Mary’s Primary Staff Commissioning)		3:30pm Children Liturgy Leaders Meeting, Parish Office
	6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights		5:00pm Prayer Group, Parish Office, Woodend
	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph’s Church, North Ipswich		6:00pm RCIA Session 11 – lent & Ash Wednesday, Parish Office
Sun 04	8:00am Mass, St. Brigid’s Parish Hall, Rosewood	Thur 08	9:00am Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend
	(St. Brigid’s Primary Staff Commissioning)		6:00pm Mass, St. Boniface, Marburg
	9:00am Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend	Fri 09	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend		



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

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

PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Eleanor Carless, Timothy Hepi, Marjorie Cusack, Margaret (Pat) Slattery.
Anniversaries: Leo Slattery and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

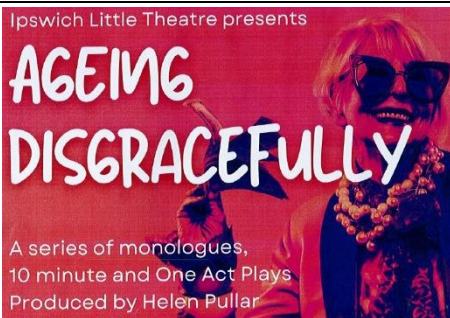
ST. MARY'S PRECINCT – Our new 'Parish Centre' is well underway. This week we saw most of the internal besser-blocks from the maintenance shed removed. Once the demo work has been completed, the floor will be termite proofed, and a new slab will be pinned – this makes the building compliant to today's standard.



PARISH PROPERTIES - The grass is growing and so are the gardens! Dan is working tirelessly to keep on top of things. This time of the year the rain and humidity are perfect conditions for grass growth, and a pain for mowing! Thank you to those who have let the Parish Office know of long grass at some of our properties, Dan is on top of it.



ALL PARISH EVENT – GET YOUR TICKETS NOW



NIGHT AT THE THEATRE – 7TH March

Our first social event for the parish this year will be a theatre night, held at the Ipswich Little Theatre on Thursday 7th March at 8pm. The cost of the theatre is \$30 per person, and it will be a series of one act plays. Please come along with your fellow parishioners for an enjoyable evening and if you can bring a plate of food to share it would be appreciated.

To purchase a ticket please contact Mary Smith on 0418 155 132.

Ticket Payment Link - <https://bit.ly/ipswichfundraise>

Once you select the payment link please type 'Theatre' as the reason and enter your details. Then add the total amount for the tickets you are purchasing (multiples of \$30).

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

LENTEN LITURGIES (ALL ARE INVITED)

Monday 12th February

Burning of Ashes Liturgy – Students from Schools/Colleges

Wednesday 14th February (Ash Wednesday)

Morning Mass – 7am St. Joseph's, North Ipswich

Morning Mass – 9am St. Mary's Church, Woodend

Morning Mass – 9am St. Brigid's, Rosewood

Monthly Mass - Thursday 8th February at 6:00pm

Our smaller church communities celebrate Mass once a month. Everyone is welcome to come along!

St. Boniface Church

Owens Street,
Marburg, Qld 4306



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

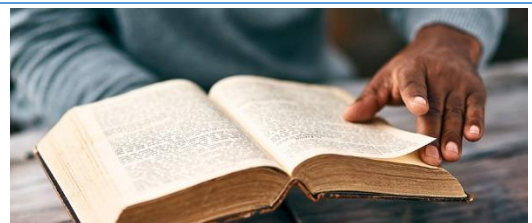
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time– Yr B

1st Reading	Leviticus 13.1-2, 45-46
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Psalm	32:1-2, 5, 11
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2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 10.31 – 11.1
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Gospel	Mark 1.40-45
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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

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:

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.

- 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.

- Prep and Year One Children: Monday afternoon from 3:30pm 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

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>

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS

When you get some spectacularly good news, do you burst with excitement and want to tell the people all around you, hoping to share your joy?

Do you think children and young people need to hear about God?

If you've answered yes, think about joining Moira Crowson and becoming a Christian Religious Instructor (CRI) in a local State School. Training is provided and an approved Curriculum is set with lots of resources to pick and choose how you tell the story of God to students in a school / year level pretty much of your choosing because the unmet need is great.

If you're interested in knowing more, remember how Jesus told Andrew and Peter to "Come and see".

There is information and training available next week. Module 1 & 2 Training is on Thursday 8th Feb at the Catalyst Church (Suttons Building), 142 Pine Mountain Rd, Brassall. Registration Link - shorturl.at/rANTU

If you would like to chat about what this all means and how you can get involved, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a time for a cuppa and chat with Moira!



THIS SUNDAY



The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 4 in 2024 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B).

Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God.

Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

NEWS & UPDATES

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Weekday Mass times and locations are being adjusted to accommodate our parish schedule, numbers currently attending Masses, and to ensure our schools are able to participate in our weekday Masses throughout each term. New weekday Mass times will be announced early next week via Flocknote and Facebook.

Monthly Masses are as follows...

Monthly Masses

Marburg Mass at St. Boniface Church

Will occur monthly, on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm, February to November.

10 Masses each year

Pine Mountain Mass at St. Michael's Church

Will occur monthly, on the last Saturday of the month at 8am, February to November.

10 Masses each year. During November this Mass will be 9am to allow for Blessing of Graves.

I will monitor these Masses to ensure they remain suitable. There are times when the priests have meetings in Brisbane or one priest is away, so changes that are made to weekday Masses will be made via the newsletter, and Facebook. Thank you for understanding. **Stephen ofm**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM HELPERS NEEDED - We are seeking assistance from volunteers to assist with our 2024 Sacramental Program.

We are still developing our program for this year and are looking for fresh ideas and some fresh faces to help. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in finding out more!



PALMS - Have you any DRIED Palms from last year – if so, please put them in envelope and pop them into the Collection basket and they will be burned for our Ashes this year.

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.

OPEN SESSION WITH FR STEPHEN - on 15th February @ Ipswich Catholic Community Parish Office (Woodend): 6.30pm to 8.00pm. This is time if you wish to chat to Fr Stephen and give him feedback on the Parish, ideas you might have, suggestions for the future, things that concern you, share compliments or give constructive feedback or have a cuppa with him and 'chew the fat'. Anyone is most welcome

FEEDBACK SOUGHT - If anyone has any constructive feedback on how we might improve the Christmas Masses, email Fr Stephen sbliss@bne.catholic.net.au This is a personal invitation to you! I received 2 emails this week.

YOU'RE INVITED TO PREPARE FOR EASTER - by joining with fellow parishioners in reflection and discussion during Lent. Once a week for six weeks, groups of around 4-10 people will meet to reflect on the Gospel reading for the week and discuss how the themes in the readings relate to our own experiences. Everyone is welcome. More information about days and times of the groups in next week's newsletter. If you would like to form or host a group, please contact the Parish Office or speak to one of the Priests.

PIETÀ—LENTEN PROGRAM 2024 - Embark on a transformative Lenten journey with short daily reflections. Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Perfect for individual or group prayer. We have 40 copies available at \$10 each (covers book and postage and handling. To pre-order, please leave your name on the sheet at the welcome desk. Books arrive next week and will be in churches Sat/Sun 10th & 11th February.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - This year, the Ipswich Catholic Community is hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st March at St Mary's Church at 10am. We invite you all to join us on this special occasion when we will be praying for peace and security for all people throughout the world. 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.

GIVING TREE (CHRISTMAS COLLECTION) - Donations made – Parish Ministry (\$1950.80), St. Vinnies (\$3033.40), Hospice (\$1882.20). Thank you for your gifts, these funds will be disbursed to the relevant groups in the coming weeks.

PLANTER BOX UPDATE - Donations made to date are \$5,183 (86% of our goal)!

Thank you to all who have given already!

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.

www.bit.ly/ipswichfundraise

