

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

11th February 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Every year I look forward to Lent, although I'm not sure why. I grew up in a Parish where Lent was a community affair – we had Stations of the Cross on a Friday night, Benediction, and Father would give us all an ice-cream for coming to prayers on a Friday night – maybe this is where I got my love for ice-cream! Everyone, adults, and children, tried “giving up something.” Although one girl in my year six class gave up her little brother, most people denied themselves some culinary delight (except for the ice-cream). Lent was a deep breath that you took, held for six weeks, and let out at noon on Holy Saturday. Can you relate with this?

There is also the hope for some slight signs of improvement. I am always on the lookout for a better self. Lent triggers an “I can do better” tape within me and connects with my early childhood memory of The Little Engine That Could: “I think I can, I think I can, I think I can...” [Remember Thomas the Tank engine?].

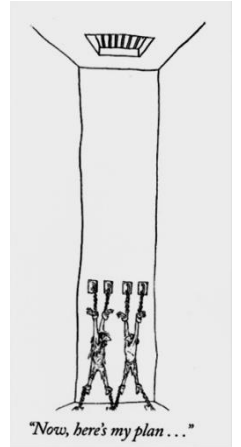
A New Yorker cartoon shows two men in a dungeon without windows or doors. They are manacled to the wall by their wrists, ankles, and neck. Both have long beards; they have obviously been there a while. One is leaning over to the other and whispering, “Now here's my plan.”

This cartoon recently made me laugh and when I have described it to others, they laughed. There is something essentially human about a burst of hope in a hopeless situation. It shows us who we are: people without a way out who are planning a way out. Where does this deep hope come from?

Václav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, was once asked, “Do you see a grain of hope anywhere in the 1980s?” He began his lengthy answer with, “I should probably say first that the kind of hope I often think about, especially in situations that are particularly hopeless, such as prison (e.g., the manacled planner), I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us, or we don't; it is a dimension of soul, and it is not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation.”

Hope is not a response to what we observe or how we estimate what is going on. Hope is an inner quality we bring to life. Our Church, our Parish and I am guessing you as well need hope. As we enter this season of Lent, may hope be real for you and may that hope be found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. I am looking forward to Lent – but as I write this, I am looking forward to sharing in your hope for a better Parish. Have a great week,

Stephen ofm



ALL PARISH EVENT – 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. \$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.

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 09	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	(Weekday Masses will change from Mon 19 th February)	
	4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt (Immaculate Heart Primary Staff Commissioning)	Mon 12	7:00am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
Sat 10	4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	Tues 13	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend		7:00am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
	6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights	Wed 14 ASH WED	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Adoration, St Mary's 9:30am Mass, St Brigid's, Rosewood 6:00pm RCIA Session 11 – Lent & Ash Wednesday, Parish Office
	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich (St. Joseph's Primary Staff Commissioning)	Thur 15	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:30pm Open Session with Fr. Stephen, Parish Office
Sun 11	8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood		9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights
	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	Fri 16	6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary U/covers Area 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend (Colleges Leadership Team Staff Commissioning)		



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

PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Vyleen White, Eleanor Carless, Timothy Hepi, Marjorie Cusack, Margaret (Pat) Slattery.

Anniversaries: Leo Slattery and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

EMAIL SCAM WARNING - A reminder to all parishioners and visitors that our priests and our parish never personally reaches out to individuals to ask for donations of any kind. Scam emails often appear to be from someone you may know and trust, but their request is out of the ordinary. Simply put, if the information in the email is not in our Parish Newsletter (paper or electronic) it is likely a scam! If you ever receive something from us and want to clarify it is really from us, contact the parish on 3362 8765 or email ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au

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>



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) ipswich.music@bne.catholic.net.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 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 ipswich.music@bne.catholic.net.au

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

LENTEN LITURGIES

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 – 9:30am St. Brigid's, Rosewood



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Sunday of Lent – Yr B

1st Reading	Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm	24:4-9. See v.10
2nd Reading	1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel	Mark 1:12-15

THIS SUNDAY – 11th FEBRUARY 2023

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - This Sunday will pay tribute to the invaluable work that Catholic health institutions undertake not just in Australia, but around the world. In his message to mark the 32nd World Day of the Sick on February 11, Pope Francis reflected on the way serious illness could cause vulnerability, uncertainty, and insecurity. This year's theme is "It is not good that man should be alone", taken from the Old Testament book of Genesis. "The first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness," Pope Francis said in his statement. "To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers – with creation and with themselves.

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. 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!



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 on 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

We are launching the youth year this Friday, 16th of February! The theme of Ipswich's Youth Ministry for 2024 is 'Together We Soar'. This year we plan to soar not only as the youth but as a whole parish. Our focus is to rise up and embark on many opportunities that will help us be more embedded with our Catholic Values. This year I have the vision and hope that each young person in our parish will soar to a closer relationship with Jesus and will be witness to life changing experiences.

We ask for your prayers and support for the youth as we soar through 2024.

Together
we soar

Stewart England

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus extends His hand and touches [the leper]....To touch with love means to establish a relationship, to enter into communion, to become involved in the life of another person even to the point of sharing their wounds. With that gesture, Jesus reveals that God, who is not indifferent, does not keep himself at a "safe distance."

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

PROJECT COMPASSION – COMMENCES NEXT WEEKEND

For over 60 years, Caritas Australia has worked hand in hand with the most marginalised and remote communities in Australia and overseas to confront the challenges of poverty. This year, the theme For All Future Generations is inspired by the story of the burning bush in the book of Exodus (Exodus 3:1–20).

Please take home a Project Compassion set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

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.



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

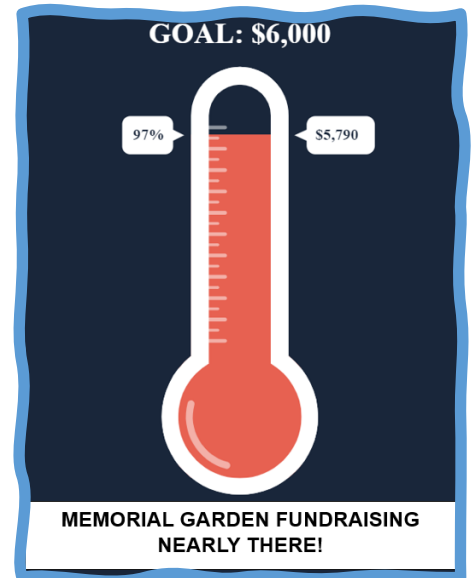
We are still developing our program for this year and are looking for fresh ideas and some fresh faces to help. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in finding out more!



PALMS - Have you any DRIED Palms from last year – if so, please put them in an 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 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!



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. We are still obtaining details on the groups that are meeting. If you are hosting a group, please contact the Parish Office.

PIETÀ—LENTEN PROGRAM 2024 - Embark our Lenten books have been all purchased and collected. Those who are collecting this weekend, please check the Welcome Desk in your church.

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.

ARCHBISHOP MARK - This week the students have returned to Holy Spirit Seminary to begin their new year of formation. The new students are few in number and the whole community is small these days. It's a far cry from when I entered the seminary in 1969 when we were many. But that was just before the collapse in numbers which began in 1970 and has continued ever since. There are many reasons for this, but one thing is clear: we can't have the Catholic Church without the sacramental priesthood in one form or another. The question now is, in what form? Pray for the seminarians we have and for a great increase in vocations to all the ministries of the Church, new and old. Four new seminarians – Kalepo Misi, Edward Mbonu, Penitito Sagato and Antony Sebastian – were welcomed to Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary at the Commissioning Mass at Holy Spirit Chapel, Banyo, on Sunday.