

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 of Lent

Year B

3rd March 2024

Dear Parishioners,

I was walking with someone the other day and they were sharing with me their great passion for reading newspapers – I used to love on a Saturday morning to read the Courier Mail, the Australian and the Sydney Morning Herald – it was a real treat! Here we are on the cusp of Autumn and it is hard to even get a newspaper! How often I am part of conversation lamenting that there is no newspaper in Ipswich! To my surprise, this person shared with me if I become a member of the National Library I can access any newspaper and read it whenever – so this past week I signed up (If you are interested I can give you details later!) and enjoying something for free!



The great twentieth-century theologian, Karl Barth, once advised Christians to pray with the Bible in one hand and the daily newspaper in the other. He meant, in part, that faith and daily life interpret each another. “Drink deeply of the Word,” St. Ambrose once told his people. “Soon you’ll find yourself craving more.” He was right, of course. God’s word forever illumines our path - a shining “pillar of fire” by night, daily bread for our journey. Yet our experience of the world’s perils and opportunities also shapes our response to that word. We’re reminded that God’s love for the world didn’t result in indifference and neglect, but in the word sent to “pitch a tent among us,” to share our flesh, to taste the world in all its salty, roiling complexity. Word and world: they belong together for us.

The God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob is passionately focused on humankind, intent on participating in our history, hungry for relationship with every person. Do we recognise God in whatever might be happening in our lives at this time? How do you allow God’s word to impact your life? Somewhere in this Newsletter are some powerful words of reflection from Pope Francis - have a read of these as they are a great reflection for Lent!

Lent reminds us that Christians form a community gathered in contemplation around God’s Word - and that means we’re also gathered in meditation on the world, its goodness and grandeur, its beauty and brutality. Lent is a call to pay attention, to see creation as God does, to gather our faith not only from God’s promise (where it begins), but also from God’s presence in the low, vast murmur of human life that tugs at our hearts, heads, and hands. Be prepared for some surprises – God is with you now as you read this! Read the Bible and the newspaper (in whatever fashion!) and see where God is reflected!

Enjoy your week, **Stephen ofm**

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



Our first social and fundraising event for the parish this year will be a theatre night, held at the Ipswich Little Theatre this 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

	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights 10:00am World Day of Prayer, St Mary's Church, Woodend
Fri 01	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
Sat 02	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
Sun 03	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 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

NEXT WEEK (NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES)

Mon 04	9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am Funeral Phyllis Bradley, St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
Tues 05	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Parish Choir Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend
Wed 06	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Stations, St Mary's 8:30am Rosary, 9.00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, R'wood 10:00am, Prayer Group, Parish Office 6:00pm RCIA Lenten Discussion, Parish Office
Thur 07	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 9:00am Mass, St Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
Fri 08	9:00am 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



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PARISH PRAYERS



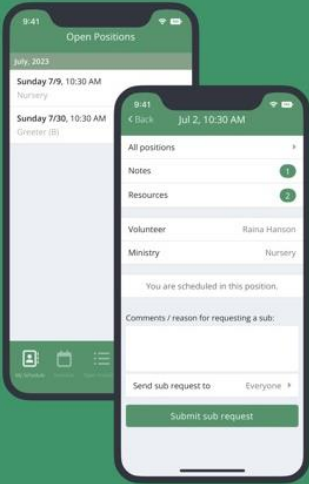
Recently Deceased: Phyllis Bradley, Samantha Brooks, Mark Stevenson, Laurel Daniells, Robyn Gordon and Eileen Turner.

Anniversaries: Trevor Potbury, Joan Zammit, Margaret Wanstall, Kevin Crane 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 at Mass 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 - It's not too late to come along and see what our newest activity is all about! We rehearse on Tuesdays from 3:30pm until 4:15pm at St. Mary's Church - all school aged children from Year 3 upwards are invited to come and experience the joy of music ministry! **Please note - there will be no rehearsal on Tuesday the 5th March - I will be attending a funeral on the Darling Downs.** My apologies for that, but I hope to see you on Tuesday the 12th March! If you would like to learn more about the ICC Junior Choir, contact Kathy Bianchi at 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

Choir Rehearsals - Preparing for Easter - Two Choir rehearsals have been planned to prepare the music for the Ipswich Catholic Community Easter Triduum liturgies. All parishioners are welcome to come along and join in this ministry from 6:00pm until 7:30pm at St. Mary's church on Tuesday 19th March, and Tuesday the 26th March. Hope to see you there!

Kathy Bianchi (Parish Music Coordinator)

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Yr B

1st Reading	2 Chronicles 36:14-17a 19-23
Psalm	Ps 137
2nd Reading	Ephesians 2:4-10
Gospel	John 3:14-21

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Does the Lord feel at home in my life? Do we allow Him to “cleanse” our hearts and to drive out the idols, those attitudes of cupidity, jealousy, worldliness, envy, hatred, those habits of gossiping and tearing down others? Do I allow Him to cleanse all the behaviours that are against God, against our neighbour, and against ourselves...? ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 8, 2015

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (ATRIUM)

This week we commenced the Atrium for the Preps to year 6. The children in Prep and Year one came together last Monday and spent their time exploring the Atrium room and all that it has to offer. On Tuesday the Primary School age children commenced and this was a very large group! It is a delight to see so many children coming to the Atrium from various schools in the Ipswich area. Our 0-3 years group on a Wednesday morning is a smaller group this year and therefore we have lots of vacancies for this age group. Give the Parish a call or visit the parish website if you have a young baby or toddler and would like to know more about this special ministry for young children.



The Atrium is based on the Maria Montessori method of learning and the main emphasis for the children is not so much about ‘teaching’ the child about Jesus, but introducing the child to the person of Jesus, using Scriptures and Liturgy. The approach to the child is about building a relationship with God while using hands on materials to aid their understanding.

You may wonder why the word Atrium has been used to name this work. This was a term used by Maria Montessori because it reminded her of the early church where the community would often gather in an open courtyard or atrium of a private house. As the establishment of Churches began to increase, there was a space dedicated to those who desired to be baptized which was referred to as The Atrium. They would gather in this space and celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and receive formation before being initiated into the Church. The children that come to the Atrium are also seeking to be prepared for their participation in the life of the Church and we meet this need through the many activities that are presented to the children. For more information, please contact the Parish Office

Infant and Toddler Atrium is held in the old Presbytery, 22 Old Toowoomba Road.

0 to 3 years gather Wednesday 9:00am to 9:45am | 3 to 5 years gather on Wednesday 10:00am to 11:00am

Primary School Atrium is held in the classroom underneath the early year’s classrooms at St. Mary’s Primary School.

Prep to Grade 1 gather Monday 3:30pm to 4:30pm Primary age (6-12 years) gather Tuesday 3:30pm to 5:00pm

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.

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.

EASTER LITURGIES

Monday, 18th March - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

7.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend

Monday, 25th March - Night Prayer & Reflection

7.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend

Holy Thursday, 28th March

7.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend (Mass)

9.00pm St Mary’s Church, Woodend (Night Prayer)

Good Friday, 29th March

10.00am Stations of the Cross, Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt

10.00am Stations of the Cross, St Boniface Church, Marburg

10.00am Stations of the Cross, St Mary’s Church, Woodend

3.00pm The Lord’s Passion, St Mary’s Church, Woodend

3.00pm The Lord’s Passion, St Brigid’s Hall, Rosewood

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil - Saturday, 30th March

9:00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary’s, Woodend

5:30pm Mass at St Mary’s Church, Woodend

Easter Sunday, 31st March

7:30am Mass at St Joseph’s Church, Nth Ipswich

8.00am Mass at St Brigid’s Hall, Rosewood

9.00am Mass at St Mary’s Church, Woodend

5.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Church, Woodend



Mass at St Joseph's Church, Thurs 7th March 9am - All welcome to come along to the St Joseph's Primary School Commissioning Social Justice Group.

Volunteers - We have a number of trained volunteers with blue cards who visit the many aged and sick persons in our Nursing Homes in the Ipswich area. If you have a family member or close friend in one of these homes and they would like to receive a visit from a volunteer to pray with them and receive the Blessed Eucharist, please contact St Mary's parish office on 07 3362 8765 or on email ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au

150th Anniversary of the Cathedral of St Stephen - on the weekend 10/11 May 2024, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Umberto Clerici will perform Mass in C minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in the Cathedral. There are three different times and tickets are available from the QSO website <https://qso.com.au/events/2024/special-events/special-event-mozart-mass>

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY – RCIA

Two Sundays ago, a huge number of pilgrims on the RCIA journey of faith from all over the Brisbane Archdiocese, gathered at St Stephen's Cathedral for the Rite of Election, officiated by Archbishop Coleridge.

Seven individuals from the ICC, accompanied by family members, sponsors, and our RCIA Team attended the ceremony.

The RCIA journey, as often, began with a spark of curiosity and a desire to explore their faith more deeply. Over time, through prayer, reflection, and gentle guidance by our priests and support Team, they embarked on a transformative path of self-discovery and spiritual growth. With unwavering dedication, they embraced the challenges and joys that came their way, allowing themselves to be guided by the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit.

Behind every individual is a network of love, encouragement, and prayer that has helped sustain them on their journey. We express our gratitude to families and loved ones, and to our parishioners who have, and will continue to support them in every step of the way.



As our Elects continue on this sacred journey, we pray that they may feel God walking with them always and that their hearts be open to the wonders of God's love.

As a Parish community, we continue to pray for Benjamin, Brett, David, Johannes, Lisa, Nathan and Shiralee, that their hopes for Easter Celebrations when they are welcomed into full communion with the Church continue to grow, and that they experience God's love in abundance for themselves and their loved ones as they journey ever closer to the heart of God. **Lawrence Risati**

Project Compassion - Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.



"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

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.