

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

4th Sunday of Lent**Year B****10th March 2024****Dear Parishioners,**

We normally take great pride in making our own decisions. As we age, this becomes more real 😊. When we did this as children, it was a sign we were growing up; as adolescents, it was a proclamation of independence. Now as adults, when making decisions, we demonstrate we are self-directed. The problem doesn't seem to lie in decision making itself, but in the options given to us. And there is the rub. Often these options are not of our choosing. This can cause decision-making to be very difficult.

Today's Gospel is all about making decisions. Options are placed before us. We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society. This could include making money at any cost, denying hospitality to those who knock on our door, or harbouring an attitude of superiority over others. We either choose to live in the light with the insights our faith provides, or we simply accept the values that bombard us each day through the media, namely: Me first. What's mine is mine. What's in it for me? Not in my back yard.

If we look carefully, we will realise the way of life Jesus promotes is based on the dignity of each person, who is made in the image and likeness of God. Actions that dismiss, demean, damage, or destroy human life are contrary to the teaching, life, and example of Jesus. Accepting his way brings forth a new society called "the reign of God." Rejecting it will likely keep society as is. Which will it be for you? You decide! It is worth me saying again, even if only for my own ears: We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life that he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society.

Go gently with yourself!

Stephen ofm**PARENT NIGHT FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

This year the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Parish on the evening of Friday 10th May at St Mary's Church. **THERE WILL BE AN INFORMATION NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH AT 7:00PM TO 8:00PM IN ST MARY'S CHURCH.**

Children from each of the Parish Primary Schools and other (Government and Private) Schools in Ipswich are invited to participate. Children in Years 3 and 4 or Primary children who have 'missed out' over the years are also very welcome to join the Program.

ENROL NOW - ipswichcatholic.com/children



The Program this year is different: preparation will occur on Sunday 21st April. The children are invited to attend the 9.00am Mass at St Mary's, and then stay for the day to be prepared till about 3.00pm. I have listened to the feedback over the last two years and families have found it hard to participate in the prep-sessions (over 4 weeknights). The one day program is for children only, and if you cannot attend this session, then you will have to decide to hold over your child's preparation till next year.

There will be an information night for the Sacrament of Eucharist and the one day session for the children next term. Parents of children from outside of this Parish who wish to join the program will need to make an appointment with Fr Stephen through the Parish Office. If you would like to help in the Program, please make contact through the Parish Office.

Stephen ofm**PARISH CALENDAR**

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK (NEW WEEKDAY MASS TIMES)	
Fri 08	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	Mon 11	9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend
	5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Woodend		5:30pm School Aged Baptism Prep, Parish Office, Woodend
	6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary U/Cover Area	Tues 12	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall	3:30pm Junior Parish Choir Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend		
Sat 09	4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt	Wed 13	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Stations, St Mary's
	4:30pm Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church, Woodend		8:30am Rosary, NO Mass St. Brigid's, Rosewood
	5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend		10:00am, Prayer Group, Parish Office
Sun 10	6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights	Thur 14	6:00pm RCIA Lenten Discussion, Parish Office
	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich		9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
	8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood		6:00pm Mass, St. Boniface, Marburg
	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	6:30pm Finance Council Meeting, Parish Office	
	10:30am Baptism St. Mary's Church, Woodend	Fri 15	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights
5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Woodend		
6:30pm Passion Liturgy Practice, 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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Help Guide - <https://bit.ly/3N6QtGp>

PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Phyllis Bradley.

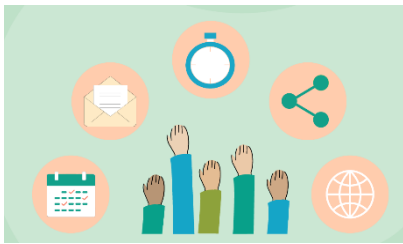
Anniversaries: Graham & Brian Lawton, Frank & Kathleen Nolan, Carmel & Peter Leadbetter, David Dodds, Trevor Potbury, Joan Zammit, and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mass Boxes – Each week several volunteers from across the parish come to the Parish Office on a Friday to collect the Mass Boxes for each Mass. These boxes contain the reader's folder, presider's folder, newsletters, and several other items needed for the weekend. Generally, they will be taken to each church and set out ready for weekend Mass. Often we also have notes for Coordinators, Sacristans, and Computer Operators. If you serve in one of these 3 ministries, please look out for important information that may assist you.



Mass Box Volunteers – When you arrive at the church, please go through the box, and set out important notices for the weekend. If you do arrive at the church and the alarm is off (some churches have alarms), that is perfectly fine, they will often be off because our schools use our churches. They are aware that Mass Box Volunteers are usually out on a Friday afternoon. Thank you to our Mass Box Volunteers for helping us prepare for Mass each week!



Ministry Rosters – Over the next 6 weeks, we will be reviewing all volunteers and their assigned ministries to ensure they are up to date and reflect the preferences of our volunteers, and to see if we need more volunteers in any area. The recent roster process helped identify some gaps where availability listed against some volunteer records may have been out of date. To ensure we do this accurately, volunteers with emails (98% of our volunteer group) have been emailed a list of their ministries and the Mass we have them attending. It is important that each volunteer confirms this information and advises us of any changes.

If we don't hear back, we will assume the information is correct and your roster coordinator will continue to use this information for the next roster period. Volunteers without an email listed will be contacted by phone so we can confirm your details.

Finally, I want to point out that sometimes the roster isn't right the first time. Managing preferences of 300 volunteers with 7 Masses each weekend is not an easy task, and our staff and roster coordinators put a lot of time in preparing the rosters. Please be mindful of the time the team puts in, and don't take your frustrations out on them. We are a big Parish with lots of moving parts, and any problem, no matter how big or small can be fixed. We just need the time to look at the roster and chat with other volunteers to make any changes. Thank you to everyone who does volunteer, we know it can be hard on you too, your time and talents are an integral part of parish life, and you are an essential part of the team too!

Benjamin Leschke
Operations Manager

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! I hope to see you on Tuesday the 12th March! If you would like to learn more about the ICC Junior Choir, reach out to me on the email below.



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)

music@ipswichcatholic.au

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

NEXT MONTHLY MASS

Thursday 14th March 6pm
St. Boniface Church, Marburg



NURSING HOME VISITS

We have several volunteers who visit Nursing Homes in the Ipswich area. If you know someone in a nursing home who would like to receive a visit from a volunteer. Please contact the Parish Office.



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Yr B

1st Reading	Jeremiah 31.31-34
Psalm	Psalm 51
2nd Reading	Hebrews 5.7-9
Gospel	John 12.20-33

EASTER LITURGIES

Volunteering at Easter – Every year at Easter, there is a lot of planning and a lot of last minute activities that occur before our Holy Week Liturgies. Each year we also have the challenge of filling the roster – we need to balance our regulars who have served reliably for several years, with new volunteers who want to also assist at one of more of our liturgies. To help us better plan for Easter this year, we are asking all volunteers to use the following form to list your availability.

<https://bit.ly/easter24ips>

We will commence drafting the Easter roster on Monday 18th March and our goal is to have the roster for our Easter Liturgies finalised and published by Friday 22nd March. **Please submit your availability before Monday 18th March.**

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



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (ATRIUM)



All groups are preparing for the Easter celebrations with various presentations and materials. The younger ones (0-3) explored the landscape model of Israel and heard the names of the three major cities of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. This work highlights that Jesus was a real person in a particular time. The Prep and year one children were very busy looking after the environment by dusting and watering the plants in the Atrium. They were also presented with items that are used in the Mass i.e. the Chalice, Paten etc.

The Primary school aged children worked with the large wooden model we have of the City of Jerusalem, while listening to the Passion story of Jesus, and identified the various buildings Jesus was taken before he was crucified. Some of the children are also reflecting on the different versions of the Passion and Resurrection stories as told by the Gospel writers. All these activities in the Atrium serve as an invitation to and preparation for the liturgical life they will share with adults in the Church. The catechists prepare the environment, and the preparation becomes the prayer of the adult with the children. The sessions for the Prep and Primary school age children are full for this term. However, if you are interested in enrolling for term 2 please contact the Parish Office for details.

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

0 to 3 years Wed 9:00am to 9:45am | 3 to 5 years Wed 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 Mon 3:30pm to 4:30pm Primary age (6-12 years) Tues 3:30pm to 5:00pm



CONNECT YOUTH

Friday Night Youth

Primary School Youth – St. Mary's Primary Undercover Area | 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 advance for your support to our youth. Please support our efforts in fundraising.

Practices for the Passion Play Liturgy are continuing this weekend, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, at St Mary's Church. Practices are still repeating 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. We would love to have more young people involved!

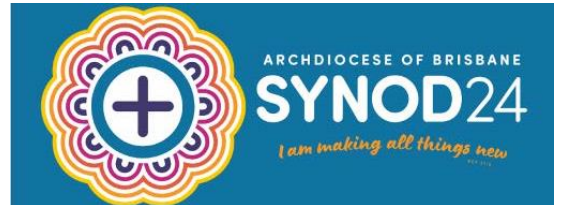
The Message Stick - An ancient and culturally significant instrument of welcome and acceptance, is travelling around the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The Message Stick holds an invitation for parishioners across the Archdiocese to come together on Pentecost Sunday 2024, at the Cathedral to celebrate St Stephen's 150th Anniversary. The South Country Deanery (our deanery) is the next stop, and the Message Stick is due to arrive on Tuesday 12th March, and it will travel around our deanery until Monday 1st April. **Everyone is invited to attend 9am Mass at St. Mary's on Wednesday 13th as we receive the Message Stick in the Parish.**



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE SYNOD24

"I am making all things new" Rev 21:5.

This year the Archdiocese will celebrate SYNOD24 to mark the Implementation Phase of the Plenary Council. Together we'll discern the practical and Spirit-led actions that we, as the Archdiocese of Brisbane, need to undertake to be a more co-responsible church on mission. These actions will take into consideration what is already happening across the Archdiocese that should be affirmed, what learnings can be harnessed and shared, and where the gaps and needs are.



SYNOD24 will take place over two sessions, September 6th and 7th and October 11th and 12th, with the Opening and Closing Masses open to the public. More information on the SYNOD24 journey will be released regularly, so head to www.aobsynod2024.com to refresh yourself on the Plenary Journey so far and to learn more about SYNOD24.

RCIA (Brett) - Hi and thank you for reading my short message. I am one of this year's Candidates in the RCIA program. I'm here because - I wanted to be with others to grow in my Christian faith, to try and draw nearer to God, to worship and follow God more diligently and learn more of the Catholic Church and its ways. I am a Baptised Protestant Christian who wishes to come into the fullness of faith in God through and with the Catholic Church.



Separately, I really enjoy listening to each week's new episode of "The Coming home network" on EWTN YouTube - it's fascinating and really helpful listening to other people's Life Journeys with God, also I listen to "Day by Day" by Father Randy Sly and I find Bishop Robert Barron's videos and writings to be pretty incredible although sometimes "a bit over my head" - I listen to these when I am commuting one hour to work. Attending Mass at St Mary's Ipswich and St Patrick's Toowoomba. For me the best part of RCIA has been praying together as a group and hearing other candidates sharing their nice stories and insights. Thank you everyone.



RCIA (Lisa) - Embarking on the RCIA journey and becoming Catholic was never something I thought I would ever do. I always felt a calling to follow Jesus but circumstances in my life and choices I had made in the past had always stopped me. Over the past few months going through the RCIA program with Fr. Stephen, Fr. Minje, Rosalia, Lawrence, the other Catechumens and Candidates and our sponsors has been life changing and has deepened my relationship with God. I can't wait for my baptism, being able to receive Holy Communion for the first time & starting my new life in Christ.

Chrism Mass

Thursday 21st March

7:00pm

Cathedral of St. Stephen's. All Welcome!



Archbishop Mark Coleridge
invites you to the annual



THEATRE FUNDRAISER NIGHT

A wonderful social evening was enjoyed by 95 parishioners at the Ipswich Little Theatre on Thursday. It was a different evening with many monologues and one act plays performed over the 2 theatres. Thank you to all who supplied the supper and a big thank you to the parishioners who donated all the raffle prizes.

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

What will be our next social occasion?

If you have any suggestions please contact the Parish Office, maybe a parish picnic or a Bush dance.

