

**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](mailto:ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au) | [ipswichcatholic.au](http://ipswichcatholic.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Minje Kim  
**Operations Manager:** Benjamin Leschke

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent****Year B****17<sup>th</sup> March 2024****Dear Parishioners,**

If you have any Irish blood in you or long for a pint of Guinness - Happy Feast of St Patrick! The Catholic Church in Ireland is like ourselves, going through a huge transformation. Restructuring and reconfiguring, reimagining and relevance are words I hear the friars of Ireland use often. St Patrick models for us action in faith and a desire to share the Good News of Jesus - a worthy thought for us today in how we live our faith!



The other day when I was leading the Stations of the Cross I was quite moved by the prayer - I wondered if at any stage Jesus would have asked, "do I have to die?" Probably many of us have asked this question in some way .... Today's Gospel account implies this in John 12:27, "I am troubled now." Despite his passion for living, Jesus was more passionate about the transformation that would take place later.

The example of the grain that must die if a harvest of wheat is to be produced is a perfect metaphor to make this point. Just as the grain is insignificant compared with the possible harvest, so - our faith assures us- there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us. And yes, in order to move from this life to that splendid future, we will have to die, just like the grain.

Our Lenten meditations will focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, to concentrate solely on suffering and death is like examining the death of the grain without any thought of its transformation and the bountiful harvest that will come. We must not minimise Jesus' suffering. However, it was precisely by means of his having been lifted up on the cross in suffering and death that he was lifted up in glory and exaltation. This is why we claim that death is not the end of life, but the gateway to new life. So as difficult as it might be to leave the life we love, like Jesus, we must die in order to enter new life.

So, enjoy living the best you can this week!

**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](http://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)**

<p>9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights 11:00am Memorial Service, Kevin Grayson, St Mary's, Woodend</p> <p><b>Fri 15</b> 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</p>	<p><b>Mon 18</b> 9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend 7:00pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation, St Mary's, Woodend</p>
<p><b>Sat 16</b> 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</p>	<p><b>Tues 19</b> 9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Parish Choir Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend 5:00pm Samoan Choir practise, St Mary's, Woodend 6:00pm Easter Mass Choir Practice, St Mary's, Woodend</p>
<p>7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 8:00am Youth Car Wash &amp; sausage sizzle, St Mary's, Woodend</p> <p><b>Sun 17</b> 9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am No Baptisms St. Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:30pm Passion Play Liturgy Practice, St Mary's, Woodend</p>	<p><b>Wed 20</b> 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Stations, St Mary's 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass St. Brigid's, Rosewood 10:00am, Prayer Group, Parish Office 6:00pm RCIA Lenten Discussion, Parish Office</p> <p><b>Thur 21</b> 9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend</p> <p><b>Fri 22</b> 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, Reco Rally, Padua College</p>



**SUBSCRIBE - [ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews](http://ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews)**

Add [mail@flocknote.com](mailto:mail@flocknote.com) to your safe sender list.

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

## PARISH PRAYERS



**Recently Deceased:** Colin 'Jim' Gee, Sr Mary Britton RSM, Rudolf Hamm, Kevin Grayson, Phyllis Bradley.

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

## OPERATIONS UPDATE



**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 for your patience and 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

### Choir Rehearsals - Preparing for Easter -

Calling all Choir members, and any other parishioners who would like to be involved, to our two Choir rehearsals in preparation for the ICC Easter Triduum liturgies. We hope to see you on Tuesday the 19th March and Tuesday the 26th March at St. Mary's church from 6:00pm until 7:30pm.



**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! The first Mass we will lead the music will be at the 9:00am mass at St. Mary's on Sunday the 28th April. For further information please contact Kathy at [music@ipswichcatholic.au](mailto:music@ipswichcatholic.au)

**Kathy Bianchi (Parish Music Coordinator)**

[music@ipswichcatholic.au](mailto:music@ipswichcatholic.au)

## SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

### 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

#### Palm Sunday – Yr B

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 50.4-7
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 22
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Philippians 2.6-11
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 15.1-39



Archbishop Mark Coleridge  
invites you to the annual



**Chrism Mass**  
Thursday 21st March  
7:00pm  
Cathedral of St. Stephen's  
All Welcome!

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> March and our goal is to have the roster for our Easter Liturgies finalised and published by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. **Please submit your availability before Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Monday, 18th March - 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation**

7.00pm St Mary's Church, Woodend

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March - Night Prayer & Reflection**

7.00pm St Mary's Church, Woodend

**Holy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

**Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

**Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> 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)

This week we centered on the person of Jesus when speaking with children about God's love. We focus especially on Jesus as the Good Shepherd and use two parables. The Parable of the Good Shepherd John 10:3-5 and the Parable of the Found Sheep.

When the parable is presented to the children, we often observe that the children recall the words of the parable 'he calls each of his sheep by name and leads them out'. In the parable of the Found Sheep the children are often taken by the fact the shepherd goes in search of the one sheep that is lost while leaving the rest of the flock. Initially, we don't mention that the Good Shepherd is Jesus, however, the children soon recognise that we are referring to Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls us by name and protects us. This parable in the Atrium is central to the celebration of a child's celebration for their Sacraments. The prayerful response to the parable of the Good Shepherd is further nurtured by offering a reflection on another shepherd of long ago in Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need". Bernadette McAndrew



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

**0 to 3 years Wed 9:15am to 10:15am**

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**

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 are in need of a few more males to take on some of the roles. We would love to have more young people to come along and be involved!

As we come towards the end of the school term, a lot of young people will be experiencing a great deal of stress and pressure with their schoolwork, whilst also feeling a sense of an excitement as we draw closer to Easter and the holidays. During stressful times we often find ourselves navigating a whirlwind of emotions, ranging from anxiety to frustration and confusions. The weight of these expectations and commitments can feel overwhelming. Yet through all of the struggles and pressure, we are able to grow resilience, discover inner strength and develop as individuals. Through our times of stress and worry, we are reminded to turn to Jesus through prayer and devotion. Through Him we will find comfort and be freed of worry. As we enter the final weeks of this Lenten Season and prepare for the death and resurrection of the Lord, we are called to be people who are always striving to seek personal growth and to develop meaningful connections with our faith.

**Stewart England**

**Parish Reconciliation Service** - Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Like all religious experiences, it takes preparation. Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the most natural way to celebrate God's forgiveness and love.

**Parish Reconciliation Service – yes, the whole Parish is invited to gather at St Mary's on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.**

The service is an opportunity to join our sisters and brother in asking for forgiveness and healing during this important time of the year. During the service we will reflect on the words of the Prophet Joel: Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart ... (Joel 2:12)

"In preparation for Easter, we are all invited to begin anew with souls nourished from the gift of the divine mercy and forgiveness God has for everyone. While going to confession throughout the liturgical year is important, Lent is a great time to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent, in the liturgical year, is known as a penitential season. As Catholics, we are asked to give up various items or habits and commit to activities that bring us closer to God and our community. Confession is a natural step to cleanse ourselves from sin and start anew with a renewed focus on Christ." (Pope Francis Feb 2024)

If it has been a while since your last confession, remember, one of the Priests will help you .... See you at the celebration of Reconciliation. **Stephen Bliss ofm**

**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](http://www.aobsynod2024.com) to refresh yourself on the Plenary Journey so far and to learn more about SYNOD24.

**RCIA (David)** - At first I viewed RCIA as the last step in a decade-long personal search to discover who God is, and what 'church' is meant to be. How arrogant of me. Things soon changed as I saw in our facilitators, our sponsors and even my fellow catechumens what a Catholic life looks like, and following the Rite of Election I began to question my own readiness for baptism. Did I need more time to make changes in my life? Had I come far enough? But in our last session we were reminded that God meets us halfway, and at that moment Augustine's plea became mine: "(Father) do not abandon your unfinished work, but bring to perfection all that is wanting in me". Easter vigil for me will now be a beginning - or perhaps better put, a handing over - but no longer a last step.



**RCIA (Shiralee)** - My name is Shiralee Ann Elliott. Originally, I was a Church of England parishioner, in Maroochydore. Christened and confirmed. But realised something was missing in my life. So I went over to the Uniting Church. But still not happy as I still felt something was still missing. So I left the church for quite a few years. Still praying everyday. Till one day I got involved with Anna Marie, helping her get the bread and sweets for the homeless. I prayed long and hard about what I should be doing. So decided to join the Catholic Church. My life did a complete 360° and I now have found what was missing in my life. So I'm doing my RCIA and at Easter I will be true Catholic. I can't wait for Easter and so happy that the Lord has helped me on my path.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 1<sup>st</sup> March**

