

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

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

Year B

24th March 2024

Dear Parishioners,

How could anyone think that the joyous cry “Hosanna!” would be viewed as empty praise? Though the word has come down to us from the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb “to save”. Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise? The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often, we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but all of humanity—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today's readings describe. The Gospel reading for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out, “Hosanna!” Later we hear, “Crucify him!” Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us, often afraid to take an unpopular stand, lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier “Hosanna” empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us.

Happy Palm Sunday, and may these coming days renew your faith.

Stephen ofm



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Sacrament of Confirmation enrolments are now open!

On Wednesday evening, approx. 30 families gathered and met with Chantale (our program coordinator), Fr. Stephen, Fr. Minje, and Benjamin to hear a little bit about the Sacrament of Confirmation, and how our new program will operate this year.

Chantale is the Associate Director of Children and Families for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, and we are excited to have her lead the program.

Children from each of the Parish Primary Schools and other (Government and Private) Schools in Ipswich are invited to participate. To celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, children must be Baptised, and in at least grade 3.



USE THIS LINK TO ENROL
ipswichcatholic.com/children

KEY DATES



NOW	Enrolments open - ipswichcatholic.com/children
15/04/2024	Enrolments close
21/04/2024	Sunday - Formation Workshop (St. Mary's Church) Further details available following enrolment
10/05/2024	Friday Evening - Celebrating the Sacrament Liturgy time to be advised when enrolments close

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights 5:00pm High School Youth Rally, Padua College
Fri 22	Depart St. Mary's carpark at 5pm, return approx. 8:30pm 5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary U/Cover Area
Sat 23	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 24	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 Baptisms St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am RCIA Reflection Day, Parish Office 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:30pm Passion Play Liturgy Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend

NEXT WEEK

Mon 25	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 7:00pm Night Prayer & Reflection, St. Mary's, Woodend
Tues 26	9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Parish Choir Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend 6:00pm Easter Mass Choir Practice, St. Mary's, Woodend
Wed 27	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Stations, St. Mary's No Mass, 8:30am Rosary, St. Brigid's, Rosewood 10:00am, Prayer Group, Parish Office
Thur 28	NO 9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 7:00pm St. Mary's Church, Woodend (Mass) 9:00pm St. Mary's Church, Woodend (Night Prayer)
Fri 29	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



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PARISH PRAYERS



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

Anniversaries: Clare Taylor, Mavis Green and past family members, Maureen Trewick, Harry & Dorothy Matthias and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Memorial Gardens Update – I am excited to say we have raised the funds to pay for the 4 planter boxes in place around St. Mary's Church. The \$6,000 raised covered the cost of the boxes, soil, and plaques. We also had a parishioner assist with the cost of the plants. Thank you to everyone who made this possible! The 4 plaques are due to arrive mid to late April and our 4 new gardens will be blessed once the plaques are in place.



We have planned for 6 gardens around the church; however, several parishioners have asked if we are putting some gardens around the new Parish Centre currently being built. While this hasn't been planned or budgeted for, we think this is a great idea as it will break up the bitumen and block wall, adding some colour and will make the Parish Centre more inviting, so this is our next focus.

Those who wish to contribute to planter boxes for the new Parish Centre are invited to make their contribution via the link below, or by placing your gift in an envelope marked 'gardens' on the collection plate.

www.bit.ly/ipswichfundraise

Our goal is to raise \$4,500 to ensure we cover the cost of all garden boxes and plants/materials. We invite everyone to be part of this important initiative to dress up our new Parish Centre, which is due to be finished in approximately June this year.

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 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.

Kathy Bianchi, Parish Music Coordinator

music@ipswichcatholic.au

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Easter Sunday – Yr B

1st Reading Acts 10:34,37-43

Psalm Psalm 118

2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel John 20:1-9

NIGHT PRAYER & REFLECTION – MONDAY 25TH MARCH 7PM

On Monday evening, we will recount the 7 last words of Jesus; through reflection we begin to understand the sacrifice He made for us. For many centuries, Christians have celebrated the office of Tenebrae during Holy Week; the liturgy includes a series of readings and prayers. After each reading is completed, one of a series of candles is extinguished until in the end only one is still lit - and the rest of the church is in complete darkness.

Finally, at the end of the very last prayer, out of the darkness is heard a loud noise, representing the crash of the earthquake at the death of Jesus on the cross, the final candle (our Paschal Candle) is extinguished. It is a shocking and moving experience which helps us enter the significance of the cross.

Monday night will be the last time the current Paschal candle is lit, signifying Christ entering into death. His light has gone, we are alone... but only for a short while.

EASTER LITURGIES

Volunteers over Easter – We have contacted all our volunteers for our Easter Liturgies, thank you to everyone who is able to help. Those who are reading will have received a copy of their reading already. Please arrive to your liturgy no later than 15 minutes before it begins. This will allow our coordinators to have everyone in place before each liturgy begins.

Those volunteers and parishioners who are away this year, we pray that you travel safe and enjoy the Easter break with your family and friends!

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)

The Atrium finishes this week with the children celebrating the Liturgy of Light and a visit to the Church for the older children. We will recommence the Atrium in term 2 on the week of 13th May. We wish all families a very happy and blessed Easter. Thank you to all the families who support this ministry for children.

Bernadette McAndrew

RECOMMENCING WEEK OF 13TH MAY

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 - Friday 22 March - Youth Rally – Padua College

Depart St Mary's carpark at 5pm and return approx. 8:30pm

Youth will return 26th of April! (After Easter Break)

Practices for the Passion Play Liturgy continue this Sunday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, in St Mary's Church. 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 gentlemen to take on some of the roles. We would love to have more young people to come along and be involved!

The lead up to Holy Week is a time of thoughtful reflection and spiritual preparation. It marks the end of Lent. During this time, I often find myself contemplating the significance of Christ's sacrifice and the ultimate act of love that it represents. The journey through Lent has been a time of self-examination and growth. This lent rather than giving something up, I instead committed to being more patient in my life.

As we approach Holy Week, there's a sense of anticipation in the air. For us young people we are guided by the celebrations of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday as reminders of the great mysteries of our faith. The washing of feet, the veneration of the cross, and the Easter Vigil all serve to deepen our understanding of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. At youth group last week, we discussed how during this time, we are reminded of the importance of faith, hope, and love. Holy Week isn't just a historical event we commemorate; it's a living reality that continues to shape our lives and renew our hearts.

Stewart England

H O L Y W E E K



PALM SUNDAY

EXCITEMENT



PASSEOVER THURSDAY

CONFUSION



GOOD FRIDAY

DESPAIR



EASTER SUNDAY

JOY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE WHOLE PARISH

NO MASS - There is no Mass on EASTER MONDAY (1st April) or EASTER TUESDAY (2nd April).

WEEKDAY MASS ROSEWOOD – There will be no Wednesday Mass in Rosewood on the following dates; 27th March, 3rd April, 10th April, 17th April, as Fr. Stephen will be away on pilgrimage.

BELLS - You are welcome to bring some bells to ring at the Holy Thursday Mass – please ring them whilst the GLORIA is being sung, also bring them to the Easter Vigil to ring loudly during the Gloria.

FLOWERS - If you would like to donate money towards the flowers for Easter, please drop into the Parish Office or place on the Collection Plate (marked “Easter flowers”)

HOLY LAND COLLECTION FOR GOOD FRIDAY - On 29th March we celebrate Good Friday. This is a unique day when we recall the love of Jesus unto death for us, when he shows us the extent to which God is in solidarity with our suffering humanity. Can we use this occasion to recall our need to be in solidarity with those suffering around us, and in a particular way with the suffering Church of the Holy Land?

Help us continue to serve those who need help in the Holy Land

Support for the church in the Holy Land is an historic mission. Since the time of St Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked.

GOOD FRIDAY ENVELOPES - are available for collection at the churches today, and you can return them on Good Friday or over Easter.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Please remember to return your donation envelopes as soon as possible.

RCIA (Benjamin) - I started my RCIA journey Because after myself and my wife suffered a pregnancy loss I was down in life and quite lost. My life was missing something, and I was inspired by some strong role models in my family to explore my faith. I had a lot of doubt and trepidation at the beginning but have enjoyed my personal journey so far. Rosalia and Lawrence have been absolutely wonderful with their guidance and organisation, and our Priests Fr. Stephen and Fr. Minje have helped me answer a lot of questions and cure doubt that I have. I'm excited to continue my journey on being a better man, husband and father and appreciate the community and my family for their support so far.



RCIA (Nathan) - As a school teacher, one of the things that I discuss with my students is that they always try to be the best version of themselves that they can be. Through my short teaching career within Brisbane Catholic Education, faith is at the centre of everything that we do and the strong sense of community that comes with it. Over this time, this is something that I draw upon consistently in my everyday life and it is because of this strong sense of community that I have chosen to deepen my relationship with God through RCIA which, as a result, I am hoping will allow me to be the best version of myself that I can be. With best wishes, Nathan.

