

**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

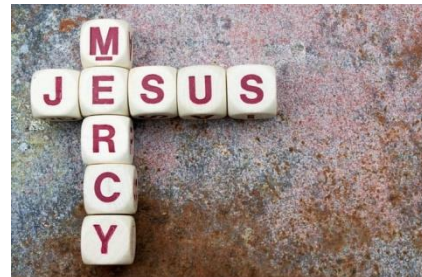
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

**Year B**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Dear Parishioners,**

If I had to choose a single word that captures the essence of Catholicism for me, besides Jesus himself, it would be "mercy." The years 2015 and 2016 posed extraordinary challenges for me for various reasons, with the most daunting one occurring in early 2016 when I was tempted to give up my faith. To be frank, I stopped attending Sunday Mass for a while, denying myself the spiritual treasures that I could have received from Jesus. Instead, I focused on my personal well-being.



However, I gradually began to feel a sense of emptiness creeping in, an emptiness that prayer and the Eucharist usually filled, which started to profoundly impact my outlook on the future. It was during this period of crisis that Pope Francis declared the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy from 2015 to 2016. He articulated mercy in numerous contexts, one of which was "opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness." The Pope elaborated on this, saying, "even in our moments of sinfulness or when we deny God's love, His mercy continues to embrace us." What I discovered was that Christ even allowed me to step back from His embrace so that I could see the full extent of His love: always reaching out to me with hands extended in hope.

The Church commemorates Divine Mercy Sunday on the second Sunday of Eastertide. Though we rejoice in the Risen Christ, uncertainties about our spiritual journey and future linger. In such uncertainties overshadowing us, we keep questioning the Lord, even with harsh words. Nevertheless, our Lord always listens to us as he did to St. Thomas in the gospel reading today. The thorough listening and openness to us are expressions of His Divine Mercy.

As we conclude the Easter Octave, we obtain another significant joy: the joy that Jesus always opens his hands to us, offering us His mercy. Let us wash ourselves in His tender love and mercy this weekend and beyond so that we may confidently profess our faith again as Thomas did. Amen.

**Fr Minje**

**EASTER THANK YOU**

On behalf Fr. Stephen, Fr. Minje, and the Parish Office team, I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who assisted with our Easter liturgies in any way. No matter how small the task might seem to you (or how large!), all the moving parts of planning and preparation help our liturgies come together for our community to enjoy and participate.



We have around 70 volunteers who then form part of the actual liturgies. I would also like to thank each of you and your families. Often volunteers put in a lot of time preparing for the ministry they are participating in, and their families are impacted too. Thank you everyone, for participating in Easter! May the Risen Christ guide you!

**Benjamin**

**PARISH CALENDAR**

**THIS WEEKEND**

**NEXT WEEK**

<b>Fri 05</b> 9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights	<b>Mon 08</b> 9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend 10:00am Funeral Marie Coleman, St. Joseph's, North Ipswich 11:00am Placing of Francies Tebble Ashes, Tallegalla 1:00pm Funeral Pearl Dawson, Warrill Park
<b>Sat 06</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	<b>Tues 09</b> 9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
<b>Sun 07</b> 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 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend	<b>Wed 10</b> 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Adoration, St Mary's 8:30am Rosary, No Mass St. Brigid's, Rosewood 10:00am Prayer Group, Parish Office
	<b>Thur 11</b> 9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 11:00am Funeral Robert Connole, St. Mary's, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, St. Boniface, Marburg
	<b>Fri 22</b> 9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights



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## PARISH PRAYERS



**Recently Deceased:** Sr. Mary Britton, St. Marie Patrice, Marie Coleman, Pearl Dawson and Ronald Connole.

**Anniversaries:** Peter Olsen, Luigi Re, Maria Castelli Re, Malcolm Miller, Maria Erna Banawa, Iris Hunter, Graham & Brian Lawton, members of the Lawton & McAnalen families, Vincent Elmore, June Brown, McCann & Crowe families, and those in our Book of Life.



**May Perpetual Light Shine** - Just this last month we lost two Sisters of Mercy, Mary Britton (d. 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024) and Marie Patrice (d. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024). Both were part of St. Brigid's Parish for 27 years, and not only contributed to life in the church, but also at our primary school.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may perpetually light shine upon them and may they rest in peace. May they intercede for our Parish as we continue the journey.



## OPERATIONS UPDATE

**Parish Staff Update** – I wanted to bring everyone up to speed with some news about staffing in the Parish Office. Sarah has resigned following appointment to a teacher aide position at St. Mary's Primary School. Sarah has been completing a teacher aide course over the last 6 months and this is the direction her career path / vocation is heading. Sarah is working with me over the next few weeks for a handover of her tasks. I wish Sarah all the best and am grateful that Sarah will still be part of this wonderful community of ours! We have advertised for Sarah's replacement and are in the process of recruiting. All applications must be submitted via this link - <https://www.seek.com.au/job/74749465>

**Memorial Gardens Update** – Fundraising for 2 garden planters for the new Parish Centre is underway. The planters will break up the bitumen and block wall, adding some colour to our landscape and will make the Parish Centre more inviting.

Those who wish to contribute to planter boxes 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](http://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

## 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! 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

### PASCHAL CANDLE 2024

This year's Paschal Candle highlights the mission of the SYNODAL CHURCH, to journey together as a people of God deeply rooted in Tradition and with our hearts and minds focused on listening to what the Spirit of God is saying in our times.

The blue depicts the breath of the spirit giving life to every decision and action of the Church and of our lives.



### MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

#### 3rd Sunday of Easter – Yr B

<b>1st Reading</b>	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 4
<b>2nd Reading</b>	1 John 2:1-5
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 24:35-48

### Divine Mercy Sunday (The Feast of Mercy)

On Sunday, 30th April 2000, (the canonisation of Saint Faustina and Feast of Divine Mercy), Pope John Paul II announced to the world, "It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter (first Sunday after Easter), which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'."



## SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST

We now invite those parents whose children are baptised and in grade 4 or above, to come to an **Information Evening (First Eucharist)** on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at St. Mary's Church from 7pm. Children who celebrated Confirmation in the Parish in 2023 are automatically enrolled into the program. As the way the program is facilitated, parents are asked to attend the information evening on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

This year's First Eucharist program will be made available at a workshop on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, and celebratory Sacramental First Eucharist will be celebrated the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Feast - Body and Blood of Christ).

The Sacrament of Eucharist is available to children who are baptised and in grade 4 or above. Children from each of the Parish Primary Schools and other (Government and Private) Schools in Ipswich (in grade 4 or above) are invited to participate. If you need assistance please contact the parish office [ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au)

Parent  
Information  
Night

**POSTPONED**  
**NEW DATE COMING SOON**

### FIRST EUCHARIST INFORMATION EVENING (POSTPONED)

#### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN 2024

Baptised children in grade 3 or above  
(Information Night has already occurred)

**USE THIS LINK TO ENROL**  
[ipswichcatholic.com/children](https://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

#### SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST IN 2024

Baptised children in grade 4 or above  
(Information Night - New Date Coming Soon)

**USE THIS LINK TO ENROL**  
[ipswichcatholic.com/children](https://ipswichcatholic.com/children)

We are looking for a different date in the calendar for the Sacrament of Eucharist Workshop as 12<sup>th</sup> May is Mother's Day. Although mums may like the day to themselves, we recognise that having the workshop on Mother's Day is not suitable. More information next week - In the meantime parents can still enrol using the link above.

## CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (ATRIUM)

### RECOMMENCES THE 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 - RETURNS 26TH OF APRIL

Primary School Youth – St. Mary's Primary Undercover Area | High School Youth – St. Mary's College Hall

#### FINDING THE HOPE IN EASTER

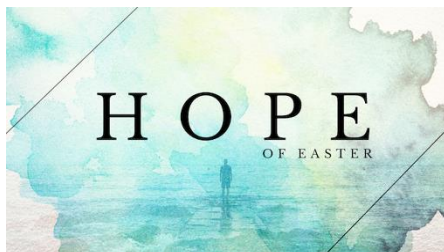
During a visit to Croatia in 1994, St. John Paul II famously stated, "Do not abandon yourself to despair. We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song." Again in 1986, he referenced these words, prefacing it with the following clarification that I think sheds light on our situation:

"We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection."

To celebrate and live as "Easter people" does not mean that we ignore suffering or pretend that it doesn't affect us. Rather, suffering is necessary to the rejoicing, because it is through the very transformation of this suffering that the joy becomes meaningful, so unlike anything the world has known. Easter cannot exist if not in the context of great suffering.

After all, the Apostles spent their Good Friday and Holy Saturday much like ours: scattered in their homes, afraid, and facing many unknowns. Easter takes on such meaning because of this suffering, not in spite of it. Christ transformed their fear and sorrow into rejoicing, even when joy seemed the most impossible.

<https://lifeteen.com/still-finding-hope-easter>



**RCIA (John)** - I am very much delighted to be a sponsor for the first time in RCIA in St Mary's or in any other parish. I became more aware of the importance and significance of journeying with an aspiring adult Catholic especially during this time of Lent. I can feel the unwavering support and cooperation of the parish as I provide some basic guidance and assistance for the catechumen embracing the sacraments for the first time. I praise and thank God for this opportunity as it likewise nurtures my faith as well. All these are for the greater glory of God. Amen.



**RCIA (Jonas)** - I am delightfully happy that this is finally happening. I have been waiting for a long time to go through this wonderful journey to becoming a Catholic. To me it also means joining an ancient faith, learning, and understanding traditions of Christianity, that are filled with hope, responsibilities in future actions, and most importantly spreading the word of Jesus with others. I must say that at this stage of our lives, our world is once again going through difficulties which we the people create... I strongly believe that by following the rules of the Bible we will eventually manage to overpower the evil and misfortune in our society for. *All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. (St Francis of Assisi)*



## VINNIES QUARTERLY REPORT

**St Joseph's Conference** assisted 160 adults and 163 children this quarter. The total financial assistance given was \$8,780.32. This consisted of \$5,175 in food vouchers, \$100 in chemist bill, \$973.48 in school supplies and \$2,531.84 from the Children's Education Fund. We provided vouchers for our Vinnies store of \$425 and \$1,550 in furniture from our Vinnies warehouse and donated items.

Food hampers distributed were valued at \$2730. These hampers are only possible due to your generous donations of groceries each week. Parishioners have asked what is best to donate. Our hampers are made up of very basic food items. We endeavour to give enough for 3 nights meals. Here is the list of what we try to place in the bags - CEREAL, LONG LIFE MILK, PASTA OR RICE, NOODLES, TINNED TOMATOES, BAKED BEANS OR SPAGHETTI, TINNED MEALS, SOUP, SWEET AND SAVOURY BISCUITS, TINNED FRUIT, TEA OR COFFEE AND SOAP AND TOOTHPASTE. We are also very grateful for your financial donations - envelopes marked St Joseph's Conference are available from the welcome desk. May God bless you all for your continuing generosity.

**Lyn Molenaar, President St Joseph's Conference**

**St Mary's and St Barbara's Conferences** assisted 387 families in the Ipswich and Rosewood area during the quarter. We provided \$53,939 in direct financial assistance such as food vouchers, purchasing second hand household appliances and assisting with some rent and other bills. This amount included \$14,059 to around 20 families to help with back to school expenses such as uniforms, books, and stationary supplies and in some cases laptops and printers. We also provided \$6,020 in clothing and furniture through the Vinnies store and Vinnies warehouse, as well as \$9,123 in other In-Kind donations, including the food donated here at the parish churches each Sunday.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is guided by a document called The Rule. The Rule is used to articulate the Society's vision and guide how it carries out its good works. On the first page it gives a very clear and unambiguous statement about the Vincentian vocation. "The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians, is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. Vincentians serve in hope."

If there are any parishioners or you know of anyone who would be willing to donate a couple of hours each week or fortnight either on a Monday at Rosewood or Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday at the Ipswich Support Centre at West Ipswich, please give me a call on 0418 618604 and I would be only too happy to discuss exactly what is involved.

Thank you for your continued support of Vinnies and to those struggling in our own community. It is certainly helping a lot of families.

**Paul Cervetto, President St Mary's Conference**

**GOOD FRIDAY (HOLY LAND COLLECTION):** This year we raised \$3,999.60. Thank you for your generosity.

**PROJECT COMPASSION COLLECTION:** This year during Lent we raised \$7,285.15. Thank you for your generosity.

**Please return any remaining donation envelopes**

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Thank you to those who made an offering to assist with our Easter flowers, your generosity covered the cost of all our flowers. A very big thank you!



**A big thank you for everyone's 'generosity of giving' during Lent, on Good Friday, and over the Easter weekend!**