

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

Ascension of the Lord

Year B

12th May 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Over the next few weeks, we celebrate the beautiful feasts of Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, the Body and Blood of the Lord, Sacred Heart – the list goes on – we are called in these weeks to reflect on some of the essentials of our faith and how we live our faith today.

The message of this feast of the Ascension we know from our schooling is that Jesus was taken up into heaven: Just what does this mean? Is heaven “up there” along with the moon and the stars? Cosmology would question that. Today’s readings also indicate that Jesus is seated at God’s right hand. Is this science, or is it a concrete image used to explain something more marvellous than words can describe?



Traditionally, the place of honour is at the dignitary’s right hand (decided by a right-hander, no doubt). That Jesus sits at God’s right hand means he enjoys the place of highest honour. The readings tell us that Jesus, who is now exalted with divine honour, is above everything else. Finally, to say that heaven is “above” means that it is beyond earth, perhaps not in actual distance, but in distinction and glory. Thus, Jesus’ ascension means the risen Lord is no longer limited by the restrictions of earth’s space and time but now enjoys the highest honour with God everywhere and always.

This is the message the disciples were sent to preach. This is the message we also are sent to preach. But how are we to do it? By the way we live our lives. Emmanuel Célestin Cardinal Suhard of Paris (1874–1949) wrote: “To be a witness...means to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist.” Do our lives show that we believe this?

Something I have been thinking of this week - who witnesses God’s goodness in my life? Am I such a witness by how I live? Try and find some time to ponder these questions

Enjoy the coolness,

Stephen ofm

PENTECOST MUSIC – CHOIR PRACTICE

We invite members of the St. Mary’s Choir, Filipino Choir, Samoan Choir, Indian Choir and any other singers who would like to be involved in the music ministry for our Pentecost Mass.

- Music practice will be at St. Mary’s on Wednesday the 15th May starting at 5:30pm.
- Our Pentecost Mass is on Sunday the 19th May at St. Mary’s, commencing at 10:00am.

All are welcome!

Kathy Bianchi, Music Coordinator



PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

| | |
|---------------|---|
| | 9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 5:00pm Confirmation Liturgy 1, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend |
| Fri 10 | 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary’s Primary U/cover Area 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary’s College Hall 7:00pm Confirmation Liturgy 2, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend |
| Sat 11 | 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 12 | 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 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend |

NEXT WEEK

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Mon 13 | 9:00am Mass, St Mary’s Church, Woodend |
| Tues 14 | 9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Choir Practice, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend |
| Wed 15 | 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 9:30am Adoration, St Mary’s 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, St. Brigid’s, Rosewood 10:00am Prayer Group, St. Clare Room, Parish Office 5:30pm Pentecost Choir Practice, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend |
| Thur 16 | 9:00am Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Woodend 5:00pm Pentecost Planning Meeting, Parish Office |
| Fri 17 | PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – IPSWICH SHOW HOLIDAY 9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights NO YOUTH DUE TO SHOW HOLIDAY |



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

PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Carmelita Briones Suyat, Michael Badke, Neil Perrett, Peter Trewick, and Margaret Witherspoon.

Anniversaries: Margaret Heffernan and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Memorial Gardens Update – Fundraising for 2 garden planters for the new Parish Centre continues. To date we have raised \$2,410 of our \$4,500 goal. The planters will break up the bitumen and block wall, adding some colour to our landscape and will make our 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

Plaques for Existing Boxes – Our Garden Planter Boxes will be blessed by Fr. Stephen following the 9am Mass on Sunday 2nd June.

The blessing will commence approximately 10:00am, and we invite all parishioners to come along as we bless our planters!

A MOTHER’S DAY PRAYER FOR THOSE HURTING ON MOTHER’S DAY

Dear God, some days feel too hard. We’re hurting. Struggling. Fighting fear and worry at every turn. Thank you in the midst of it all, you haven’t left us to fend for ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you are there. Forgive us for thinking you’ve forgotten. Forgive us for believing we somehow know the better way. You are fully trustworthy. You are All Powerful.

You are Able. You are Lord over every situation no matter how difficult it may seem. You are Healer and will never waste the grief we carry today. You will use all things for good in some way. Anything is possible with you. Nothing is too difficult for you. We pray for those who grieve today. We ask for your comfort to surround those who weep.

We pray for the peace of your presence to cover our minds and thoughts, as you remind us, the enemy can never steal us out of your hands. He never has the final say over our lives. We are kept safe in your presence forever, whether in life or in death. We thank you that your ways are higher than our ways and your thoughts are bigger than our thoughts. We lay it all down at your feet, every burden, every care. Believing that is the safest place for it to be. We love you Lord, we need your fresh grace. Amen.



SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY



The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pentecost – Yr B

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Reading | Acts 2:1-11 |
| Psalm | 104 |
| 2nd Reading | 1 Corinthians 12:3-7 |
| Gospel | John 20:19-23 |

CELEBRATIONS AFTER MICHAEL TRAN’S FIRST MASS

On Saturday 8 June at 10.00am St Mary’s Church, soon to be ‘Fr. Michael Tran’, will celebrate his first Mass and our Parish is excited to celebrate with him, his family and friends (us).

We are providing refreshments after Mass and would love some help from Parishioners. Michael has asked for some Vietnamese food and a BBQ.

Maree and Yvonne will be coordinating the function but need others to help in many ways. Please, please, phone or email the Parish Office with your name and contact number and how you think you can help, and they will get back to you. Thank you in anticipation of being over-run with offers of help. Remember many hands make light work....



Maree & Yvonne

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH

DID YOU KNOW OUR PARISH HAS AROUND 300 VOLUNTEERS?

AoB - Volunteer Enquiry

The form will take approximately 2 minutes to complete.

* Required

Your Parish

Please select your parish from the list below.

1. Parish Name *

Ipswich Parish

Next

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Managing volunteer enquiries is a lot of work, and is often managed by our roster coordinators, priests, and Parish Office staff. If we are being honest, sometimes enquiries get lost. To assist with volunteer enquiries, we have developed an online volunteer form which is being shared with all parishes across the Archdiocese.

If you don't have a computer, just call the Parish Office and we will complete the form for you. It is that simple. The form is for new volunteer enquiries, existing volunteers who may want to change ministries, and volunteers who may want a break for a while or withdraw from volunteering altogether. Click the link below, select '**Ipswich Parish**' from the list, and the rest is really straight forward!

The link to the form is – <https://forms.office.com/r/dJ2yuxeY8z>

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

Congratulations to the children who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday night. Confirmation completes Baptism, by which in the laying on of hands and the anointing with Chrism Oil, which first happened at Baptism, we are confirmed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

We pray that they will 'hear' the Holy Spirit in their lives and respond!



SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST IN 2024

Baptised children in grade 4 or above

Parent Info Night – 5th June 6:30pm, St. Mary's, Church

Register -<https://bit.ly/43yM5Xa>

ENROLMENT LINK - [ipswichcatholic.com/children](https://www.ipswichcatholic.com/children)

08/07/2024 Enrolments close
14/07/2024 Sunday - Formation Workshop (St. Mary's Church)
Further details available following enrolment

3rd August Celebrating the Sacrament at Weekend Masses
4th August

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (ATRIUM)

SESSIONS FOR TERM TWO BEGIN THE WEEK OF MAY 13TH

ATRIUM NEWS (Infant and Toddler Atrium)

Monday afternoon from 3-30 – 4-30pm - Sessions for Kindy, Preps and Year One children are held in a room under St Mary's Primary School Early Years classrooms.

Tuesday afternoon from 3-30 – 5-00pm - Sessions for Primary School children grade 2 to 6 are held the same room under St Mary's Primary School.

Wednesday from 9-00am - Sessions for the 0-3 years (infants and toddlers) are held at Leichhardt in a building right next door to Immaculate Heart Primary School, Old Toowoomba Road, One Mile.

This week we will celebrate Pentecost and focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The children and catechists will ponder how we can assist the growth of the Kingdom of God through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The rest of the term the children will be a sharing of the Kingdom of God parables and miracles of Jesus. For more information regarding this ministry for young children and families please contact the Parish Office or go to the parish website www.ipswichcatholic.com



CONNECT YOUTH

NO FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH NEXT WEEK – IPPY SHOW HOLIDAY

Ignite Conference is a conference for everyone, from leaders to first-time believers. This is the Church gathered and alive on mission. This is God's people united with one heart. There is something for everyone at Ignite Conference, from explosive rallies, inspiring workshops and powerful sacraments. You will be able to meet Jesus in so many ways. Ignite Conference isn't just for youth, it is for all ages, there are opportunities for primary school aged children, high schoolers, young adults, and mature age adults. For more information follow this link: <https://igniteconference.com.au/>. If you wish to attend Ignite Conference 2024 with the Ipswich Catholic Community, please email ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au.



Stewart England

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Celebrating the Cultures within the Ipswich Catholic Community

Sunday 19th May - 10.00am Mass in St. Mary's Church | 11:30am Festival (Oval)

I invite you to gather like the early disciples at St Mary's this Sunday morning for 10.00am Mass. We have the opportunity to celebrate the richness of our community, all the many parts which make up our tremendous community..... Like the disciples we will hear the voices of many, and like the disciples we will be encouraged to be bold and leave the celebration ready, enthusiastic, energised, wanting to be Jesus' disciples today - making him real in our lives. Please consider coming to celebrate the many cultures of our community and how we are united in praising our god.

This is a personal invitation to 'cross the river' or 'come into town' or have the courage to come to the bigger church - come and join the community celebrating the rich diversity of our faith.



Stephen ofm

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Agnes Bojaxhiu, now known worldwide as "Mother Teresa," was born in Macedonia in 1910. A Sister of Loreto, she was sent to India, where she spent years educating wealthy girls. Teresa began to experience a series of visions in which Jesus asked her to serve the poorest of the poor. She did just that for the rest of her life, founding the Missionaries of Charity. She was canonised in 2016.



When I have visited a friend, whose house is spotless and whose life seems perfectly organised, I feel more than a twinge of inferiority. I'm forever behind on everything that needs to be done, and our house looks like a toy factory merged with a laundromat that blew up. Why can't I keep up? I wonder. I want to be the organised, efficient, got-it-together mom. I want my child to have a household that runs like a machine, with a mum who juggles everything calmly and expertly.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta has insight to share with those of us seeking after perfection. She once said that we are not all called to do great things, but we are called to do little things with great love. Not with great efficiency, not even with great skill. Great love. Saint Teresa should help us realise that when our children grow up, we want more than anything for them to remember feeling happy and loved because of the little things. To remember a mum who made time to play in the sandbox, dance in the kitchen, and read to them in bed. We want them to recall a mum who did these littlest things with the greatest love. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Stephen ofm

ROSEWOOD SHOW - Each year volunteers help at the gates for the Rosewood Show, giving us an opportunity to raise some funds for the parish. The Rosewood Show is on Friday 28th June & Saturday 29th June. Volunteers are needed to assist with entrance and check-in. This year several shifts will be rostered at each of the three gates. Once again funds raised will go to St Brigid's Restoration. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office. **This is a great fundraiser!**



Why do we call Mary our mother? At the beginning of the third session of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI announced that Mary would be honoured under the title "Mother of the Church." From Christ's conception until his death, Mary was united to her Son in his work of salvation. From the Cross, Jesus entrusted his beloved disciple to Mary, telling him to see her as

his own mother (Jn 19:27). When the Apostles and disciples gathered to pray after the Ascension of Jesus, Mary was with them praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Mary continues to pray before God for the Church and all humanity.

Like Mary, the Church has a maternal role, giving birth to people in Christ. The Church can never cease to look at Mary, who gave birth to Jesus Christ. The Church contemplates Mary's motherhood in order to fulfill her own calling to be mother of the members of Christ's Mystical Body, the Church. From the earliest times, Christians have sought Mary's prayers and help. Let us call on Mary, to watch over our mothers, grandmothers, aunties, sisters, and all those women who play the role of mother in our life.

ST BRIGID'S P&F PRESENTS

TRIVIA NIGHT

FRI 24 MAY - 6.45 PM

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| \$15 ADULTS ONLY (Tables of 8) | FOOD TRUCKS 5PM - 6.30PM OR BYO |
| | FRACTURED WOOD BBQ & CHICHI'S ICECREAM |

PRIZES | RAFFLES
Tickets Online Only at
<https://www.trybooking.com/CRJMN>
All profits will subsidise school sports transport