

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
Assistant Priest: Fr. Mario Debattista ofm
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

25th August 2024

Dear Parishioners,

In the Gospel reading, many disciples—minus the Twelve—choose to stop following Jesus. Our initial reaction might be to criticize them or label them as lacking faith. Yet, their decision to turn away from Jesus reflects our own journey of faith, where we, too, sometimes struggle and get ourselves distant from Him. We don't fully know why so many disciples chose to leave, but the Gospel offers a hint: After hearing Jesus' teachings, they decided to leave from him. Likely, there was a significant gap between what Jesus taught and what they expected. When they realised that their expectations didn't align with Jesus' message or way of life, they may have felt unable to continue following Him.



Following Jesus is not easy, even though we firmly believe He is always with us. Being close to Him means setting aside our own standards, criteria, and prejudices, and instead embracing God's will and standards in our lives. This is not a simple task; it demands a deep and ongoing transformation of our hearts and minds. Yet, the Gospel shows us a compassionate and understanding Jesus. He doesn't reprimand those who struggle or force anyone to follow Him. Instead, He respects their freedom, allowing them to step back if they need to. This freedom is crucial because it's within this space that we can genuinely choose to follow Jesus out of love and commitment, rather than out of obligation or fear.

As we reflect on this passage, we're reminded that our journey with Jesus is one of continuous choice. We may stumble or even turn away at times, but Jesus always invites us to return, to trust, and to walk with Him once again.

Peace,

Fr. Minje

PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

Fri 23	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 10:30am Wedding of Chelsea & Chris 6:30pm Connect Primary, St. Mary's Primary School Hall 6:30pm Connect High, St. Mary's College Hall
Sat 24	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 25	7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 9:00am Mass & Children's Liturgy St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10.30am Baptisms, St Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

NEXT WEEK

Mon 26	9:00am Mass, St Mary's Church, Woodend
Tues 27	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm NO Junior Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church
Wed 28	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 10:00am Adoration, St Mary's 8:30am Rosary, 9.00am Mass, St. Brigid's, Rosewood 10:00am Prayer Group, St. Clare Room, Parish Office
Thurs 29	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
Fri 30	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6:00pm St. Edmunds Mother's Mass, St. Mary's Church



Our new Parish Centre will be opened and blessed on Sunday 25 August!

Congratulations to all parishioners on the blessing of the new Parish Centre. This is an exciting time for the Parish and will be a wonderful gathering space for our entire parish community. Welcome to everyone.



SUBSCRIBE - ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews

Add mail@flocknote.com to your safe sender list.

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

PARISH PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Colleen Freeman, Joyce Hill, Raphael Illiparambil

Anniversaries: Sanewski family, Agnes Acutt, Alvezio Marmotta, Michael John Green, Lionel Elmore, Mary Stokes, Mary Kelly, Stuart MacFarlane, Peter Ward, Kevin Maguire, Josefa Campion and for those in our Book of Life.



SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

ipswichcatholic.com/ministries/becoming-catholic



Contact the Parish Office



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B

1st Reading	Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-8
Psalm	15
2nd Reading	James 1.17-18, 21-22, 27
Gospel	Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Surrounded by the Divine

For Francis and Clare, the universe was a sacrament and revelation of the divine. The invisible and infinite God manifests through the visible world of sight as well as through the other senses. God addresses us in the songs of larks and swallows, the setting sun and rising moon, the verdant earth, and every human and nonhuman creature. While God can never fully be encompassed by our thoughts and theologies, God is not outside the world, acting only occasionally and supernaturally. God is within the world, incarnate, albeit often hidden, in every creature. God comes to us through every sense. We hear God's voice in chirping birds. We feel God's skin in the touch of a loved one. We taste and see God in freshly baked bread. We smell God in salty air at the beach, incense in worship, and the fragrance of rosemary and eucalyptus on our morning walks. God is the beyond that is also within us.

—from the book *Simplicity, Spirituality, Service: The Timeless Wisdom of Francis, Clare, and Bonaventure* by Bruce G. Epperly



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE & FLOCKNOTE

SEPTEMBER SIGNUP!

We  love
having you as part
of our flock

Keep in touch with us
via email



Signup Today!
Just use the URL or QR code

For the past 3 years, the archdiocese has been working with parishes to develop more efficient and contemporary ways to reach parishioners and visitors. We are excited to announce a new partnership between Flocknote and the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Our Parish has been using Flocknote for about 8 years, and many will be familiar with it.

During September, Archbishop Mark Coleridge is promoting a September Signup for Flocknote, but you don't need to wait until September.

Parishioners and visitors are invited to use the link (<https://ipswich.flocknote.com/register>) or QR code to sign up and register with the parish. If you are



already signed up (many of you will be) there will be an opportunity for you to update your contact details and add your family members (like the old-style parish census form.)

If you have any questions, please see a priest, or speak with the Parish office.

“Tell me. Suppose a man has a hundred sheep and one of them strays; will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the stray?”

~ Matthew 18:12

OUR ATRIUM

This week the 6-12 group were presented with the parable of the True Vine. In this presentation we recalled with the children the parable of the Good Shepherd which highlights the relationship between the Good Shepherd and his sheep. The parable of the True Vine takes an even closer look at the relationship between God and God's people. We pondered the beauty of the plant that is healthy, made of interconnected branches, filled with the sap which flows through the vine bringing life to every part of each branch.



This parable is an example of a presentation that aids a child to ponder their own relationship to the Good Shepherd, as well as developing their own close relationship with God and with the people of God. When this parable is presented slowly and at the child's level the older children soon make the connection between the True Vine (God) and the importance of doing their part to 'remain' on the Vine so they are able to produce much fruit (goodness) in the world in which they live.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Salesians of Don Bosco - English Teachers, Youth Workers & Youth Ministers

The Cagliari Project is an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, providing overseas volunteer experiences for Australians and New Zealanders who wish to work with young people in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for January 2025 departure. Our volunteer placements run for 6-12 months and are centered around working with young people in educational settings. We are currently recruiting for volunteers for Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste, Mongolia and the Solomon Islands.

We aim to utilise the skills and talents of our volunteers to provide the best possible contribution to the host community. Our aim is not to 'help' but to walk in solidarity with young people and for volunteer and host to have a mutual learning experience. We are also present in host communities to be role models - people that young people can aspire to be.

Cagliari volunteers commit themselves to working in the 'Salesian way'. This means that young people are the central focus in all work. The Salesian way also means approaching life in a joyful way with a loving heart. The experience as a Cagliari volunteer is not about the volunteer but is focused on the people we go to serve. However, serving as a Cagliari volunteer will probably be the most rewarding thing you ever do!

For more information, or to send us an enquiry, follow this link: <http://cagliari.org.au/>

Applications close October 31st, 2024.

Contact: Lauren Hichaaba, Director of the Cagliari Project

Email: lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

NEWS & UPDATES

Ipswich Catholic Community Junior Choir

The ICC Junior Choir will be taking a little break until October due to Kathy being away for a couple of months. We will resume our Tuesday rehearsals on the 15th October.

Christian RI Training Day

When: Saturday 31 August, 9am - 3:30pm

Where: Wishart Community Church, 423 Wishart Rd, Wishart QLD 4122

Are you thinking of becoming an R I instructor in a Brisbane state school? That is good to hear. What a unique opportunity we have, to go right into state schools to share Bible truth and God's love with children that are eager to receive it. Are you already an RI instructor? That is fantastic too.

The RI training day on Saturday 31 August will have something for everyone. The course is presented in two parallel streams. You are welcome to attend any or all the workshops. There is no cost to attend.

Please register before 28 August, the earlier the better.

Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/3PbLbHKbTN2qKYAw6> or





Take the plunge, re-discover your faith

Faith Foundations Short Course

If you've wondered, What's next? Or if you are looking for new ways to share, experience and learn about your faith with others, this is your chance to dip a toe in the water. This online course comprises six fortnightly workshops, conducted in real time so there's plenty of opportunity for questions, discussion and connection. All from the convenience of home.

Whether this is your first experience with faith formation, or a part of your ongoing education journey, you will enjoy the contemporary approaches of our qualified teachers, lively discussion, and the opportunity to follow up with personal reading and videos that will expand your understanding of the Bible.

The course is designed to cater for a range of learners, for those who are new to reading the Scriptures and for those ready to take the next step and dig deeper.

Six course dates available from 14th September. All sessions are held on Saturdays, 9-11am online.

For more information and to sign up:

Call: 07 3324 3485 or Email: ife@bne.catholic.net.au or visit: <https://ife.qld.edu.au/parish/>

Reconciliation Dinner

You are warmly invited to join us for a remarkable and inspiring evening as we come together for the Archdiocese of Brisbane Reconciliation Dinner. With special guest, Aunty Pat Anderson AO, sharing her remarkable story and her vision for reconciliation in Australia, through a conversation with Lucy Davis.

As we move forward on the shared journey of reconciliation and unity, this will be an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, to listen and learn from a powerful social justice advocate who has dedicated her life to nurturing understanding and compassion between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Non-Indigenous Australians.

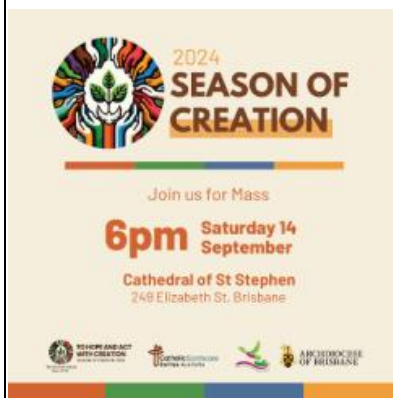


Join us in celebrating and recognising the rich gifts and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, within the Archdiocese, with live music, and performances from Lucy Davis and her family performing dances from "Bonyi Gari" their songlines from the Bunya Mountains.

When: 6pm, Friday 6 September

Where: Hotel Grand Chancellor, 23 Leichhardt St, Spring Hill

To find out more and register your attendance, visit: tinyurl.com/RecDin2024



Season of Creation

All are invited to the annual Season of Creation Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for the Season of Creation, a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our Common home. Our well being is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth and We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all who share it. This year the theme for the season is 'To hope and act with Creation'.

There are many other events and ways to engage with the Season of Creation and resources available.

For more information contact: beache@bne.catholic.net.au

Caritas Australia's Women for the World Appeal - Support women to lift their families and communities out of poverty. More women and girls need this support to break the cycle of poverty. You can create real change for women like Memory. Memory's story: As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory faced many barriers to her education in Malawi. But with the support of Caritas Australia and CADECOM, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Donate online at: www.caritas.org.au

