

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

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

### Dear Parishioners,

Advent, (which begins in four weeks) is, in part, about waiting and preparing for a baby. Christians love the stories and the images of this baby, born in a place for animals, lying in a manger, the sweet hay breath of cattle and sheep filling the air - not to mention some less pleasant aromas, courtesy of the woolly creatures. But the expected baby will not remain a rosy-cheeked plastic figure in a manger scene. Babies become toddlers with opinions, teenagers with even more opinions, young adults who move on with their lives...or not. When we love a baby, we love all that the baby will become, even that which is not so easy to love.

It is 800 years since St Francis brought the story of Jesus birth alive to the people of Greccio – he literally said that from this manger comes the presence of Christ to the people. From the manger (the timber box) Jesus is born – he is made flesh – he is like us in all things but sin! From the manger then comes hope, love, joy, peace, .... From the manger comes the presence of God in our Lives. This baby, born in the manger, who will be known as the Son of God, will grow to be the wise and gentle teacher of the gospel. He will beckon us to pay attention to his example. He is poor; he relies on God alone. His message is for all the earth, not just “the chosen.” A cross will be involved. And, with that cross, the promise of resurrection. It is from the manger that God comes into our world – what comes into your life ‘from the manger’?

The wood of the manger is the wood of the cross. To love this baby is to love God’s people - all of them - and sometimes to accept the suffering that loving others brings. Saint John defines God as Love and writes about him: “No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and God’s love is brought to perfection in us” (1 John 4:12). Jesus’ commandment to love God and love our neighbour echoes in our hearts. If we can obey this most important commandment, then we are promised “peace...like a river” (Isaiah 48:18).

From the manger comes so much .... Our theme or focus for Advent 2024 will be ‘FROM THE MANGER ...’ My hope is that from the manger our Parish is enlivened to make Jesus real in so many ways in our lives. On the 1st December, the Ipswich Catholic Community turns 5! We have been a Parish for five years .... From the manger we draw on the strength of Jesus who is made flesh! From the manger of your heart, so much can happen ....!

Enjoy your week!

Stephen ofm

# FROM THE MANGER



## VOLUNTEERING & SAFEGUARDING

The Archdiocese has established an online training portal for safeguarding training, and new volunteers will use new tool to watch the safeguarding video, and complete any other requirements based on their ministry. There will still be an opportunity to do this in person, if people have no access to a computer. As a result of this new tool, several of our current volunteers have received emails from the Archdiocese to complete online training; training they have already completed. **Current volunteers, please disregard emails received from the Archdiocese about training requirements. We are working with Brisbane through their teething issues.**

### Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training for Archdiocesan personnel, including clergy, employees and volunteers.

The Parish Office will contact current volunteers directly if there is a need to complete training or paperwork.



**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 CALENDAR

### NEXT WEEK

<b>Mon 4</b>	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 7:00pm Remembrance Mass (All Souls), St. Mary's Church
<b>Tues 5</b>	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Choir Practice, Parish Centre 5:00pm Samoan Choir Practice, St Mary's Church
<b>Wed 6</b>	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, 10:00am Adoration, St Mary's 8:30am Rosary, Mass, St. Brigid's, Rosewood 10:00am Prayer Group, St. Clare Room, Parish Office 6:00pm NO RCIA, St Mary's Parish Office, Woodend 6:30pm Sacrament of 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church
<b>Thurs 7</b>	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
<b>Fri 8</b>	9.00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6.30pm, Youth, Primary and High School, Parish Centre

### NEXT WEEKEND

<b>Sat 9</b>	10:30am Mass and Blessing, St. Patrick's Church, Rosevale 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>Sun 10</b>	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, Woodend 10.30am Baptisms, St Mary's Church, Woodend 1:30pm Blessing of Graves, Ipswich General Cemetery 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

**ST. MARY'S LIGHTING** – We are drawing closer to the more visible work to replace the lighting in and around St. Mary's Church. We are doing our best to balance liturgies/Masses and trades/services. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding.

We have had several enquiries from parishioners, visitors, and businesses around Ipswich about how to donate to assist with the lighting upgrade. Donations can be made using this link below. Thank you to those who have already donated to help!

<https://bit.ly/ipswichdonations>

## PARISH PRAYERS



**Recently Deceased:** Janet Davis, Sosefo Teu, Conrad Fernandes, Vince Reibelt  
**Anniversaries:** Milton Stevenson, Carolyn Burt and those in our Book of Life.

## SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY



**CHILDREN CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
6TH NOVEMBER, 6:30PM - 7:30PM**

### MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



#### 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B

<b>1st Reading</b>	1 Kings 17.10-16
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 146
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Hebrews 9.24-28
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 12.41-44

### The BOOK OF LIFE

During the month of November we hold in prayer all who have passed away in our parish in the last year. We also pray for all those who have died; family and friends.

Located in each church is the book, which parishioners may add lists of names of deceased friends and loved ones.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



LOVING YOUR  
NEIGHBOR  
AS YOURSELF



*The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he. 'And 'to love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. "Mark12:32-33*

Reflect, today, upon the way you share your faith with others. Are you one who tends to be argumentative and condemning? Or do you allow the joy of your own discovery of the truths of God do the evangelising? Be a seeker of truth. Do so openly and with joy. If you do, others will discover in you the truths of God that they need and will be invited to imitate your truth-seeking in their own lives.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RESERVING A COLUMBARIUM NICHE?

Did you know that our parish has four cemeteries and a columbarium? We invite you to consider reserving a plot or a niche for your loved ones. For more details, please contact the parish office.

We are currently reviewing our columbarium reservations. Many parishioners have expressed interest in reserving a niche, but we have noticed that some reservations lack completed paperwork and payments. To comply with statutory requirements for interment sites, we will be reaching out to parishioners who haven't finalised their reservations.

Please be aware that any niches not secured will be made available for others to purchase. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to complete the reservation process as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter!



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

**ST. MARY'S NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS WANTED** - This year at the Children and Families Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at St. Mary's Church the children of our parish lead the Gospel by telling the Nativity Story. If you would like to volunteer to assist in the preparation and practices for this, please email [englands@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:englands@bne.catholic.net.au) to express your willingness. **Details for the Christmas masses at St. Brigid's, St. Joseph's and Immaculate Heart will follow next week. Volunteers needed!**

**ATRIUM SESSIONS** – Sessions have started!

Monday: Kindy to Year 1 (3/3:30 PM - 4:30 PM)

Tuesday: Year 2 to Year 6 (3/3:30 PM - 5:00 PM)

Wednesday: Infant to Age 4 (9:00 AM - 10:00 AM)

If you would like to enrol your child in an Atrium session, visit our parish website at [www.ipswichcatholic.com](http://www.ipswichcatholic.com). This term, we will celebrate the wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas, where the children will engage with the scriptures and liturgies of these special times. Looking forward to a wonderful term ahead!

*Bernadette McAndrew and Karen Brennan*



**IPSWICH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY JUNIOR CHOIR** – Come and share your voice with us! Join our current singers in the new Parish Centre from 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM. We can't wait to welcome any new children who love to sing and want to be part of our Music Ministry. For more information contact Kathy at [music@ipswichcatholic.au](mailto:music@ipswichcatholic.au)

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

*God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other.*

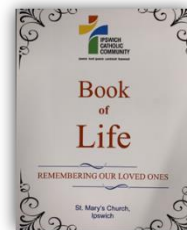
*Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace.*

*May the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example. Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature independence. May the mutual affection and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

*Amen.*

## NOVEMBER BLESSINGS AND MASSES

**NOVEMBER BLESSINGS AND MASSES** - During November, Mass will be offered each day for those whose names have been written in the Book of Life in each church. The BOOK OF LIFE in each church is on display for those wishing to enter the names of your deceased loved ones.



We also have special **“November Mass Envelopes”** for parishioners and visitors to use. Please print the names of your deceased family members and friends clearly and place them in the collection plate. Envelopes available in churches.

**Upcoming Cemetery & Church Liturgy dates in November:**

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30pm Blessing, Warrill Park Cemetery
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm Remembrance Mass followed by Supper in the new Parish Centre. Please bring a plate of food to share.
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am Mass, Blessing and Morning Tea, St. Partick’s Church, Rosevale (Please bring a fold up chair and a plate of goodies to share).
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm Blessing, Ipswich General Cemetery
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am Mass, Blessing and Morning Tea, Glamorgan Vale Cemetery
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, 9am Mass, Blessing and Morning Tea, St. Michael’s Cemetery, Pine Mountain



**POPE FRANCIS’ MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION – NOVEMBER**

**For Those Who Have Lost A Child**

Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.

## NEWS & UPDATES

**PARISH HOSPITALITY** - The Communities of St Joseph’s (North Ipswich), St Brigid’s (Rosewood), St Boniface (Marburg), St Michael’s (Pine Mountain) and Our Lady of Miraculous Medal (Eastern Heights) have wonderful opportunities for hospitality after Mass each month – now with the new centre at Woodend are there any Parishioners willing to go on a Roster (once a month) to have a cuppa after one or all of the Masses at St Mary’s? Let’s try after all our Masses ...Any volunteers? Please call the Parish Office to express your interest.

**PRAYER ON THE ROAD** - One of the earliest accounts of Francis, the “Legend of Perugia,” quotes Francis as telling the first friars, “You only know as much as you do.” His emphasis on action, practice, and lifestyle was foundational and revolutionary for its time. For Francis and Clare, Jesus became someone to actually imitate and not just to worship. Up to this point, most of Christian spirituality was based in desert asceticism, monastic discipline, theories of prayer, or academic theology, which itself was often based in “correct belief” or liturgy, but not in a kind of practical Christianity that could be lived in the streets of the world. Many rightly say Francis emphasized an imitation and love of the humanity of Jesus, and not just the worshiping of his divinity. That is a major shift.



Those who have analyzed the writings of Francis have noted that he uses the word doing rather than understanding at a ratio of 175 times to five. Heart is used 42 times to one use of mind. Love is used 23 times as opposed to 12 uses of truth. Mercy is used 26 times while intellect is used only one time. This is a very new perspective that is clearly different from (and an antidote to) the verbally argumentative Christianity of his time, and from the highly academic theology that would hold sway for the next thousand years. He took prayer on the road and into the activity of life itself.

—from the book *Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi* by Richard Rohr

**Navigating the Soul's Storms**  
OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL DISCOURAGEMENT

SATURDAY  
7 DECEMBER 2024  
9am to 4pm, \$25  
Xavier Hall, Holy Spirit Seminary

Featuring guest presenter  
**Fr Robin Koning SJ**

SCAN TO REGISTER  
by 2 December or  
visit catholicformation.au

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TO THE  
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NOV  
2024  
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SPIRITUALITY  
CENTRE

A TRANSFORMATIVE ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS  
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FIND OUT  
MORE

STRICTLY  
LIMITED  
SPACES  
AVAILABLE