

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

10 November 2024

Dear Parishioners,

So often people use religion as a way of thwarting power over people. We make the regulations of the Church difficult so we can justify our own place in authority. The Church, however, is meant for so much more. It is an instrument to allow us to know our need for God, to explore our deepest humanity, to witness to God's eternal presence right here among us. It seems to me that we 'might' be becoming a more over-regulated Church/Society!



The image that Mark's gospel uses is that of the treasury. We understand money is power. So, he uses this image of power to reveal the real power of God's presence in our lives. He uses the powerless widow as a juxtaposition to human power of pride and self-sufficiency. Her life of powerlessness is key to our unity with God. Her life as a widow becomes richness in this text. As a widow, she cannot own land. She is without all of society's benefits of marriage that would stabilise her life for her financial future.

The widow drops coins in the treasury. Her two coins teach us many things here. She realised her value comes from God. Two coins was a lot of money for her, in fact, it was all she had. Money was valuable to her, yet she knew of the value of her life in God. She gave from her need. The value of her giving was worth more than the value of what wealthy people offered.

We are to give more than money back to God. We are to give back all that God has given us. We give back to God because God gives us life. God also gives us the promise of life for all eternity. Such a wonderful gift.

The gospel cautions us not to go around with pretentious actions, clothing, and places of honour. We cannot live in God and claim our earthly pride. Our lives of faith are meant to reveal a deep humility in all that we possess, in our hearts and in our actions. It is easier to know the rules and regulations of the Church than to be the humble witnesses that God desires of us!

Faith is not meant to make us look good. It is not a place where we lift our pride and pretentious actions to show others we belong. Instead, we give to God from our deepest humility, from our incredible need for God's redeeming love and mercy. There needs to be a place for God to work within us. This place is the treasury of our hearts that always knows God's value and love. Our hearts become a vessel for our conversion, to know a deep and lasting place for God to work within us.

Our treasure lies within us. This is the place of encounter, of mystery, and even of surprises. We belong in the treasury of God's willingness to be among the broken, the fragile and the marginalised. What a treasure indeed! Don't forget the Parish Reconciliation Service is coming up in a few weeks, so let's begin to prepare! Let's continue to pray for each other,

Stephen ofm

Our smaller church communities celebrate Mass once a month. Everyone is welcome to come along!

St. Boniface Church

Owens Street,
Marburg, Qld 4306



The next Mass is on Thursday,
14th November at 6.00pm.
All are welcome.



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

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.**

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

PARISH CALENDAR

NEXT WEEK

Mon 11	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
Tues 12	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Choir Practice, Parish Centre
Wed 13	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 6:00pm RCIA, St Mary's Parish Office, Woodend
Thurs 14	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, St Boniface's Church, Marburg
Fri 15	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6:30pm, Youth, Primary and High School, Parish Centre

NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 16	10:30am Mass and Blessing of Graves, Glamorganvale 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 17	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 No Baptisms, St Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

PARISH PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Terence Bennett, Sr Mary Broadley FMM, Janet Davis, Sosefo Teu, Conrad Fernandes, Vince Reibelt.

Anniversaries: John Patrick Maguire, Carolyn Burt and those in our Book of Life.

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

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.

MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B

1st Reading	Daniel 12.1-3
Psalm	Psalm 16
2nd Reading	Hebrews 10.11-14,18
Gospel	Mark 13.24-32



POPE FRANCIS CITES TODAY'S GOSPEL

In his new encyclical on the human and divine love of Jesus' heart, Pope Francis cites today's Gospel: "Precisely out of concern for us, Jesus knows every one of our good intentions and small acts of charity. The Gospel tells us that once he 'saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins' in the Temple treasury (Lk 21:2) and immediately brought it to the attention of his disciples. Jesus thus appreciates the good that he sees in us. When the centurion approached him with complete confidence, 'Jesus listened to him and was amazed' (Mt 8:10). How reassuring it is to know that, even if others are not aware of our good intentions or actions, Jesus sees them and regards them highly" (#41).

To all Year 12 and University Students - As you embark on this important chapter of your academic journey, know that you are not alone. The challenges ahead may seem daunting, but with perseverance, faith, and a positive mindset, you will overcome them. May the fruits of your hard work shine through in all your exams and assignments. Good luck!

REMEMBRANCE DAY PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:
Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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

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! For more details, please contact the parish office.



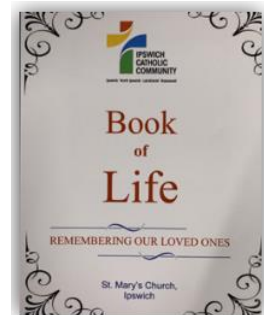
NOVEMBER BLESSINGS AND MASSES

NOVEMBER BLESSINGS AND MASSES - Mass will be offered each day in November for those whose names have been written in the Book of Life. 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 all churches.

Upcoming Cemetery & Church Liturgy dates in November:

- Sunday 10th, 1:30pm Blessing, Ipswich General Cemetery
- Saturday 16th, 10am Mass, Blessing and Morning Tea, Glamorgan Vale Cemetery
- Saturday 30th, 9am Mass, Blessing and Morning Tea, St. Michael's Cemetery, Pine Mountain



REMEMBRANCE DAY - Each year on 11 November, Australians remember veterans. At 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month the First World War came to an end. Such was the horrific loss of life it was hoped the war would be the one to end all wars. Unfortunately, less than a generation later another even more terrible conflict engulfed the world. Now in various parts of our world, conflicts and wars are killing and maiming innocent men, women and children. Now more than ever, we pray for peace, and that it be a reality for everyone. **'Lord make us all instruments of your Peace!'**

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION – NOVEMBER

Pope Francis marked All Souls' Day with a Mass at a Roman cemetery, making a special visit to the "Garden of Angels." more than 100 faithful gathered with Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri at the Laurentino Cemetery, the city's third-largest burial ground, to welcome the pope. Upon arrival, Pope Francis laid white roses on a memorial stone marking the Garden of Angels and silently prayed for several moments.

The garden, established in 2012, provides a dedicated space for families grieving the loss of children, including those lost to miscarriage. The pope was also greeted by mothers from the "Sparks of Hope" association who have lost children. Each presented him with a white scarf as a symbolic embrace from them and their deceased children. During his visit, he also met with Stefano, a father who lost his daughter Sara during pregnancy in 2021, Vatican News reported. The pope's prayer intention for the month of November is for those who have lost a child. The pope did not deliver a homily during Mass, instead observing moments of silent prayer. Before the final blessing, he offered a special prayer for the deceased, asking God to "*open the arms of your mercy and receive them into the glorious assembly of the holy Jerusalem*". After Mass, Pope Francis performed the traditional blessing of the graves.



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

ST. MARY'S NATIVITY - This year the children of our parish community will be telling the Nativity Story at the St Mary's Church Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. Practices will be on every Tuesday afternoon from the 26th of November to the 17th of December. Practices will last an hour commencing at 3:30pm in St Mary's Church Ipswich. All primary school aged children who are in prep to grade 6 in 2024 are welcome to and encouraged to be part of this beautiful story. We are also seeking a few more volunteers, if you are wishing to assist in the preparation and practice for the Nativity Story, please email englands@bne.catholic.net.au to express your willingness. We would love to have a lot of young people involved! *Stewart England, Youth Coordinator*

CONNECT YOUTH END OF YEAR RETREAT - On Sunday the 24th of November Connect High Youth will be having an End of Year Retreat from 2:30pm to 6:30pm! All young people who are in Year 6 to Year 12 in 2024 are more than welcome to join us! Afternoon tea, dinner and drinks are provided along with a water fight, games, prayer experience, awesome times and so many more fun things! This will be the last chance to engage in a Connect Youth gathering so come along and finish your school year on a high! Registration information will be provided in next week's newsletter. Any questions please email englands@bne.catholic.net.au

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 the Miraculous Medal (Eastern Heights) offer wonderful opportunities for hospitality after Mass each month. With the new centre at Woodend now available, we're looking for parishioners who are willing to join a roster (once a month) to have a cuppa after one or more of the Masses at St Mary's. Let's try to offer hospitality after all of our Masses! If you're interested, please contact the Parish Office to express your interest.

2025 FRANCISCAN CALENDAR

Available now at all churches for \$5 each



Volunteers Mass Roster – The next Mass roster commences on 1st December. Could you please advise through the Portal your availability by Tuesday, 12th November.

CALLING ALL IPSWICH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MUSIC MINISTERS: We would like to invite you to a gathering to say 'Thank You' and celebrate the wonderful gifts you all are on **Friday, 22nd November at 4.30pm until 5.30pm in the ICC new Parish Centre.** **RSVP: email Kathy at music@ipswichcatholic.au or phone/text: 0419 647 526 by Monday, 18th November.**

RCIA – (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Jesus Christ...a journey of faith. Through weekly meetings, our candidates gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices. Our candidates are on week 6 of their journey. Their next session on Wednesday will be about Sacraments. Please continue to pray for them.

St Augustine, a great Saint of the Church, said, "Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you."

St. Joseph's Church Organ Appeal

St. Joseph's Church is seeking a replacement for its aging organ, which has seen better days. We would greatly appreciate any support in the following ways:

- Monetary donations toward purchasing a new organ
- Assistance with fundraising efforts
- Donations of items for raffles or other fundraising events

If you are able to help or have suggestions for sourcing a suitable replacement organ, please contact the Parish office at 3362 8765, or Roly and Tarana Cruice at 3281 4783 or 0400 149 063. Your support is greatly appreciated!

PAUSE + PRAY – Embracing Our Differences

Reflect: The appeal of doing puzzles is seeing the way each unique piece comes together with other pieces to form one beautiful image. The same can be said for all of us. We are all unique in so many different ways—our looks, nationalities, religions, and so much more. It is only when we come together that we create a beautiful image of Christ's love.



Pray: Dear Lord, though we are all created in your image each of us reflects that image in our own unique way. Help us to remember that there can be strength and learning in our differences. Remind us to open our eyes, minds, and hearts to the ways in which we are not alike and see them as opportunities instead of roadblocks.

Act: Seek out and talk with someone who is a different race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or religion than you are. Ask questions and open your heart and mind to listening and learning something new.
— Susan Hines-Brigger, Franciscan Media