

## 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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Year C

9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Dear Parishioners,

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended the Ash Wednesday Masses - it was truly uplifting to witness your faith in action. As in previous years, the ashes will remain in the Sanctuary throughout Lent. You are welcome to come forward, touch them, and let them speak to your heart - challenging and inspiring you to 'change your ways.'

During my homily, I posed a question: "What do you want from Lent? What will these ashes say to you in 2025?" As each person came forward, I reminded them: "Repent, and be faithful to the Gospel." Yet, in my own reflection, I wondered - was that the right question? Perhaps the more important question is: What does Lent want from us?

Many of us enter Lent thinking we must earn God's forgiveness through penance or lessen our time in purgatory through prayer. But sometimes, we forget the most fundamental truth - God's grace is freely given. The first reading from Deuteronomy reminds us of this: Israel did nothing to earn God's blessings. God's love, mercy, and abundance were pure gift. And so it is with us.

Lent is not about what we can give to God, but about opening ourselves to the gifts God so freely offers. This season of grace invites us to reflect, receive, and respond. What does Lent want from us? - it wants us to strive to be that better person who can freely and wholeheartedly celebrate the Risen Lord living and guiding us!

Lent is a time of grace - a time to ponder - what does Lent want from us? May God's grace be with you throughout this holy season.



Stephen ofm

## PARISH CALENDAR

### NEXT WEEK

<b>Mon 10</b>	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend
<b>Tues 11</b>	9:00am Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Junior Choir Practice, St. Mary's Church
<b>Wed 12</b>	8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, St. Brigid's 10:00am Prayer Group, St. Clare Room, Parish Office 6:00pm RCIA - St. Francis Room, Parish Office 6:30pm Sacrament of Confirmation - Info night, Parish Centre
<b>Thurs 13</b>	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, St. Boniface's Church, Marburg
<b>Fri 14</b>	9:00am Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 5:30pm Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

### NEXT WEEKEND

<b>Sat 15</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>Sun 16</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 Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS (DURING LENT)

**Wednesdays** - after 9.00am Mass, St. Mary's Church  
**Fridays** - 5.30pm, St. Mary's Church



Our next monthly Mass at  
St Boniface's Church, Marburg  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm  
All welcome

For current updates on how Cyclone Alfred may affect our Parish Calendar please visit:  
<https://ipswichcatholic.com/> or our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ipswichcatholic>



**SUBSCRIBE - [ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews](https://ipswich.flocknote.com/digitalnews)**

Add [mail@flocknote.com](mailto:mail@flocknote.com) to your safe sender list.

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

**PRIMARY SCHOOL & SECONDARY SCHOOL – CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS IN 2025**

With school now well underway, all parents/guardians across our primary schools and colleges have received a letter from Fr. Stephen inviting students to participate in this year's program. Students of state schools (primary and secondary), as well as parishioners with children in schools outside of our parish are also invited to participate. The invitation from Fr. Stephen is available on the parish website – please share this everyone.

**Invitation – [ipswichcatholic.com/children](https://ipswichcatholic.com/children)**



**Baptism**  
Prep to Yr 6

**Info Night:** If you couldn't attend the parent information night and would like your child to be baptised, please click the link below and complete an enrolment form.

**Workshop:** Sun 30 Mar, 8:45am–12:00pm, St. Mary's Church & Parish Centre

**Celebrating the Sacrament:** By arrangement

**Who:** Children in primary school (prep to Yr 6)

**Enrolments - <https://bit.ly/sacpro25>**  
select 'Baptism Enquiry'



**Confirmation**  
Baptised and Yr 3 and above

**Info Night** Wed 12th Mar, 6:30pm–7:30pm, Parish Centre (next to St. Mary's Church)

**Workshop:** Sun 18th May, 8:45am–2:30pm, St. Mary's Church & Parish Centre

**Celebrating the Sacrament:** Fri 23rd May, evening, St. Mary's Church

**Who:** Children in Grade 3 or above who are already Baptised.

**Enrol Now - [bit.ly/sacpro25](https://bit.ly/sacpro25)**



**Eucharist (Communion)**  
Baptised and Yr 4 and above

**Info Night:** Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr, 6:30pm–7:30pm, Parish Centre (next to St. Mary's Church)

**Workshop:** Sun 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8:45am–2:30pm, St. Mary's Church & Parish Centre

**Celebrating the Sacrament:** Weekend 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Masses to be advised

**Who:** Children in Grade 4 or above who are already Baptised.

**If your child celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation last year you do not need to re-enrol them.**

**Enrol Now - [bit.ly/sacpro25](https://bit.ly/sacpro25)**



**Penance (Reconciliation)**  
Baptised and Yr 5 and above

**Info Night:** Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul, 6:30pm–7:30pm, Parish Centre (next to St. Mary's Church)

**Workshop:** Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 8:45am–2:30pm, St. Mary's Church & Parish Centre

**Celebrating the Sacrament:** Wed 6<sup>th</sup> August, 6:30pm – 7:30pm, St. Mary's Church

**Who:** Children in Grade 5 or above who are already Baptised.

**If your child celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist last year you do not need to re-enrol them.**

**Enrol Now - [bit.ly/sacpro25](https://bit.ly/sacpro25)**

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF TEENAGERS**

**RCIT** is a program where high school students prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.

This program is specifically designed for Catholic teens who have not celebrated all of their sacraments, and non-Catholic teens interested in exploring the Catholic faith more, and who would like to consider becoming Catholic.

More information will be available about this program in the coming weeks.



**MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent – Yr C**

1st Reading	Genesis 15.5-12, 17-18
Psalm	Psalm 27
2nd Reading	Philippians 3.20-4.1
Gospel	Luke 9.28b-36

# March 9, 2025 - First Sunday of Lent

*Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. **Luke 4:1-2***

As we begin this forty-day Lenten journey, reflect, today, upon the sins and temptations in your life that need to be overcome. If you find yourself in an ongoing defensive position toward certain struggles, especially if you find yourself losing the battle at times, it's time to change your strategy.

Embrace the opposite virtue of the sins you are most tempted with this Lent. Embrace those virtues in an offensive manner. Choose kindness if you struggle with anger. Choose fasting if you struggle with gluttony. Choose generosity if you struggle with greed.

Whatever your struggle, turn to the virtue you need the most and make it your focus this Lent so that you, too, will be well-prepared to reject the evil one and his lies when temptation comes your way.



**Recently Deceased:** Matthew Rennie, Daniel Roche

**Anniversaries:** Tudor Thomas, Benedict McAnalen, Brian Lawton, Graham Lawton, Lily McAnalen, Byrne Family, Michael Mulkerin, Kevin Grayson and those in our Book of Life.

## PRAYER OF HEALING FOR POPE FRANCIS

God of wholeness and hope: Send Your Spirit of healing, that She may accompany our shepherd Pope Francis in his illness. As he endures pain and discomfort, give him strength and peace. May he experience the continued grace of your mercy.

May your unconditional love comfort him and help him heal. May his faithful and humble service continue to be a beacon of hope for each of us who continue to serve your Kingdom. Through Your Son, Jesus, the great healer of all, we pray:



AMEN.

## YOUTH

### ICC Junior Choir

Rehearsals have commenced for 2025 and we have welcomed two new members which is very exciting! If your child loves to sing and would like to be part of the Music Ministry team it's not too late to join us!

We rehearse on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 until 4:15pm in the St. Mary's Parish Centre during school term time, and we lead the music on the fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:00am mass at St. Mary's. We have children from Year 3 to Year 7 currently - all are welcome!

For more information contact Kathy at [music@ipswichcatholic.au](mailto:music@ipswichcatholic.au)



**Friday Night Youth - Everyone Welcome - 8:30PM | The Parish Centre**

Join us on Friday nights for a fun evening of music, games, and good times. We can't wait to see you there!

**CANCELLED THIS WEEK 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**



### Reco Rally

Save the date!

The Youth and Young Adults team at Archdiocesan Ministries are gathering you groups and ministries across the Archdiocese of Brisbane for a night of live music, games, inspirational speakers, prayer and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**When:** Friday 28 March 2025, from 6 pm - 8:30 pm

More details to come. To find out more and register your attendance, please visit [tinyurl.com/reco-rally25](https://tinyurl.com/reco-rally25)

**Damaged Lights** Recently the police were called to St. Mary's when they saw an individual vandalising the new lighting in the front gardens and planter boxes. There is around \$7,000 damage done to the lights and gardens.

We were successful in applying for an Ipswich City Council 'discretionary funds' grant and thank our local councillors for supporting us in replacing the lights damaged by the vandalism.

We hope to have the lights replaced in the coming weeks, and then light up the front of the church once more.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS, GOOD FRIDAY: Help needed

Would you be willing to present or lead the 'Stations of the Cross' on Good Friday this year? We are reaching out to parishioners who can assist with this meaningful tradition. Planning for this sacred time begins now, and your involvement would be deeply appreciated. The Youth have done great service over the years. There seems no one to lead this! If you're interested, please contact Fr. Stephen to discuss how you can help.

### Presented by composer & Liturgy Brisbane Education Consultant, Michael Mangan



- Saturday, 22 March 2025
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- St Mary's Church, Woodend
- Register by 19/3/25: <https://liturgybrisbaneworkshops.weebly.com/joyfulnoiseipswich.html>

### St Patrick's Day Mass - organised by the St Patrick's Day Parade Association

- Cathedral of St. Stephen, Elizabeth Street
- 10.00am on 17 March 2025.
- Fr Gerard McMorrow will be the celebrant.

All are welcome to attend. Mass will be live-streamed:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ArchdioceseofBrisbane>

You may wish to pass the link on to someone overseas. And we invite you also to join your fellow attendees for morning tea afterwards in the Hanly Room.