

Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH



153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453 | f: 4634 1940

Email: olol.parish@bigpond.com | <https://ololparish.org.au> 

Priest in Residence - Rev John Quinlan

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson Email: olol.pastoralcoordinator@gmail.com

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.45pm

Mass times: Saturday: 6:00pm Vigil | Sunday: 9.30am & 5.30pm

weekday masses - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am

Primary School: e: lourdes@twb.catholic.edu.au | p: 4591 1200

<https://www.ololtwb.catholic.edu.au>

We would like to acknowledge the Gialal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 12th March 2023 Third Sunday of Lent Year A

First Reading

[Ex 17:3-7](#)

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 94:1-2, 6-9, R.v.8](#)

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading

[Rom 5:1-2, 5-8](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel

[Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Next Week's Readings (18th/19th March 2023) - Fourth Sunday of Lent
1st Reading: [1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13](#) 2nd Reading: [Eph 5:8-14](#) Gospel: [Jn 9:1-41](#)

Parish Activities

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Friday afternoons in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from 1:00pm - 5:30pm.

ANAM CARA – Wednesday 9.00am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information nights are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Please phone the office if you wish to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 9.30AM Mass (except school holidays) for children in Prep - Yr 4.

CRAFT & FRIENDSHIP GROUP - meet every Thursday at 10:30am in the quiet room at the church.

ECUMENISM GROUP - meet the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room followed by a cuppa.

LITURGY GROUP - meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the presbytery.

LOURDES PRAYER GROUP - meet after the 10am Mass every Tuesday.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Presbytery.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - meet 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30am in the quiet room of the Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings in the quiet room at the church at 8:00am.

Parish Councillors

Cristianne Dias, Jon Dwan, Robie Jayawardhana, Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Candice Poulton, Julius Soriano, Sue Whitelegg and Bernadette Witham.

Parish Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representatives:

Our Parish is committed to supporting the right of everybody to be and feel safe. Concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable persons may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representatives (**Joe & Sarah Kelly 0437 839 838**). If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000. Further details of safeguarding procedures can be found on the noticeboard.

Toowoomba Diocese Safeguarding Resources can be found at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/professional-standards-safeguarding-children-the-vulnerable-policy/>

Historical Context

Jews and Samaritans

Samaritans descended from one of the tribes of Israel. They held faithful to Mt Gerazim as the first place for the worship of God even when the prophet Elijah declared a new place for worship. In the 7th and 8th Centuries BCE, the Assyrians descended on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The Samaritans in the north assimilated with the Assyrians, whilst the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. When the Jews returned from exile, the Samaritans offered to assist in the reconstruction of the Temple. This infuriated the Jews and led to centuries of distrust and animosity.

Sunday Reflection...

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All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into ‘too much’? The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob’s well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?

Gospel Focus

Transformation

The woman has obviously come to the well to draw water for herself. Her encounter with Jesus is a moment of transformation for her. At first, she fails to comprehend his reference to ‘living water’ and never being thirsty again. However, in the end “the woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town.” Leaving her water jar behind was a sign of the transformation that had taken place within her. She had indeed drunk of the living water of Jesus and no longer paid attention to the need for water that had brought her to the well.

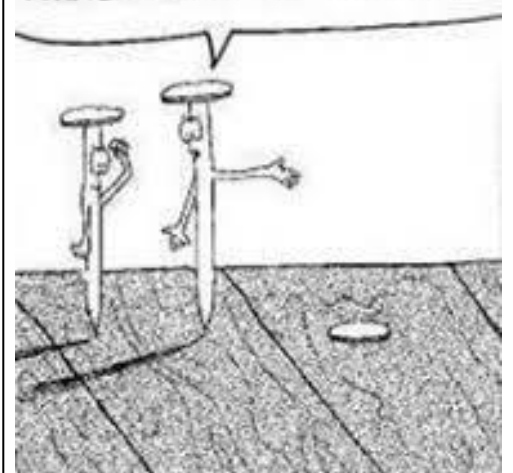
Living the Gospel

Personal encounter

The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it.

Thought of the Day...

... AND THEN I HEARD A LOUD BANG AND WHEN I TURNED BACK HE WAS GONE!



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Nancy Haig

Anniversaries: Josephine & William O’Dea, May Remeeus, Sam Booth, Gerry McNamara, John Hurley, Esther Condon, Bernice Smith, Kerry Kearns, Doreen Barrett, Madeline Rice, Fr Joseph Skelly, Fr Kevin Ryan, Fr Bernard Kane, Fr Derick Furness, Fr Ronald Walton

Those Who Are Sick: Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Damian Laurence, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveira, Gregory and Genia Casey, Trish Betros, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Kevin Boland, George Streidl, Ros Kettle, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O’Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Fr Don Murray, Judy Reardon, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Ted Schulz, Noel O’Mara, Mick O’Mara, Patrick Wright

March Birthdays: Thelma Johnson, Pat McGovern, Regina Thompson, Ron O’Brien, Judy Wilson, Peter Reynolds, Sarah Dias, Ted Schulz, Harrison Dwan, Kevin Mahoney

Parish News...

Sat 11/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6pm Mass
Sun 12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass – inc. Children’s Liturgy o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 13/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1pm Funeral – Nancy Haig
Tue 14/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Anointing Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group
Wed 15/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.00am Anam Cara in Presbytery o 10am Mass o 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 16/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft Group
Fri 17/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o St Patrick’s Day

Date Claimers:

- 19th March – Feast of St Joseph
- 26th March – The Annunciation of the Lord
 - Workshop 2 for Communion/Confirmation
- 28th March – Communal Rite of Reconciliation at 6pm
- 2nd April – Palm Sunday
- 3rd April – Chrism Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral 5.30pm

Anointing Mass

There will be an Anointing Mass on Tuesday, 14th March at 10am. All are welcome to attend.

Easter Sunday Mass Time

At all Masses this weekend, Father Quinlan will ask for a show of hands to indicate your preferred Easter Sunday Morning Mass Time. Please have a think about what time you would prefer, 8am, 9am or 9.30am. Please note there is no Mass on Sunday evening.

Easter Ceremonies – Choir Practice

Choir practice for the Easter Ceremonies will be held after the 9.30am Mass on the 2nd April and a quick run through will be held after the 3pm Passion of the Lord Service on Friday the 7th April. All are welcome!

Spiritual Spring Cleaning

Lent is a wonderful season in the Church calendar – time set aside to renew and prepare ourselves to receive the fullness of life in the resurrection. It’s a time for a bit of a spiritual ‘spring-clean’. After all, the word ‘Lent’ means ‘springtime’. Just as a ‘spring-clean’ in our homes gives us a renewed sense of order and purpose, a spiritual spring-clean lifts our spirits, sweeps out the bad habits and creates space in our lives for God.

Giving up chocolate or other sweet indulgences is a traditional favourite for Lenten promises. However, in order for our Lenten commitments to really serve the purposes of Lent, it is better to approach what we ‘give up’ from the point of view of how giving it up frees us to more fully embrace life in Christ. It’s not deprivation for the sake of deprivation... it’s for the sake of greater love, more abundant life, deeper peace, more life-affirming joy. Think in terms of what you are embracing rather than what you are forgoing. For example, instead of ‘giving up’ sugar, I’m embracing a daily ritual of honouring God – every time I drink my sugarless tea, I am reminded to thank God for his love.

Lent is a great time to sweep our lives clean of any habit, attitude or practice that serves ourselves rather than God and those God sends us to love. Used well, Lent becomes something so rich in blessings that you will look forward to it year after year.

Spiritual Spring-Cleaning tips

Missed the start of Lent? No bother – start whenever you can – even an imperfect attempt is better than none.

Make a plan. Make it achievable. And write it down. Poorly defined goals tend to get lost in the clutter of life.

Keep forgetting to honour your Lenten promise? Diarise it. Set the alarm on your phone. Put sticky notes on the bathroom mirror. Pen it on the back of your hand. Get an accountability partner (kids make excellent ones!)

Regressed to bad habits? Just start over. Don’t let the evil one discourage you – recommit regularly to your Lenten promise.

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
18th Mar at 6pm	G Soh V Soh	Ward Family	C Ferguson	M Cleary R O’Brien	M & M Quinn	K Ober		G School
19th Mar at 9.30am	L Anderson J Newman	Dias Family	P Murphy	J Coman M McLean	Anderson Family	T O’Mara	A Winder	K Kruger
19th Mar at 5.30pm	N Obst E Obst	J Michel A Hickey	L Bentley	B Bambosek R Johnston	Ryan Family	J Smith	K Langdale	M Ryan



Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

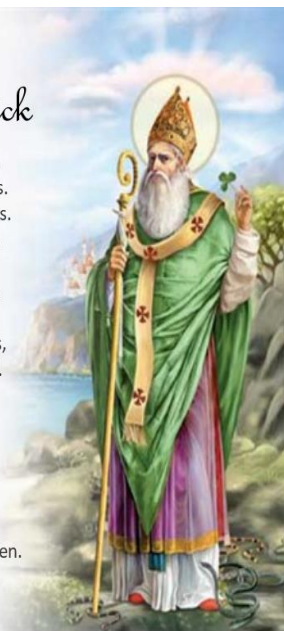
With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought. While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Prayer of St Patrick

May the Strength of God pilot us.
 May the Power of God preserve us.
 May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the Hand of God protect us.
 May the Way of God direct us.
 May the Shield of God defend us.
 May the Host of God guard us
 Against the snares of the evil ones,
 Against temptations of the world.
 May Christ be with us!
 May Christ be before us!
 May Christ be in us,
 Christ be over all!
 May Thy Salvation, Lord,
 Always be ours,
 This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.



DIOCESAN UPDATE

ENEWS

Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARISHIONERS,
 PARISH STAFF, CLERGY
 AND MEMBERS OF THE WIDER CHURCH COMMUNITY

LOVED ART & CHERISHED CRAFT EXHIBITION

St Anthony's Parish is holding a Loved Art & Cherished Craft Exhibition ([poster](#)) on 25th March from 6-9pm in the School Hall. Parking is available in Stephen Street. Entry is \$15, which includes a glass of bubbly on arrival and hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening. Multi draw raffle tickets on sale plus drinks, please bring cash ONLY. Some items will be offered for sale, some just to admire. All proceeds from the event will support the Laurie Reedy Fund which assists migrants and those in need in our community. For more info please call Parish Office - 4636 1737

PARISH MINISTRY SUPPORT PERSON

St Anthony's Parish is calling for Expressions of Interest for the position of Parish Ministry Support person. This position will be for 12-15 hours per week (negotiable) from Tuesday to Friday inclusive commencing as soon as possible, or by negotiation. To register your interest, please provide a short summary (no more than one or two paragraphs) outlining how your experience relates to the role description, which can be collected from Parish Office. For further information please contact Parish Pastoral Council chair, Ms Chris Gwydir on 0478 132 070.

RESOURCE: GOING DEEPER PODCAST

Shane Dwyer and a monthly special guest will be having an organic discussion about Catholicism, theology and life. During the Lenten Season, daily gospel reflections will be available instead of the usual interview style podcast, enjoy this Lenten special! [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#) or search "Going Deeper" from Evangelisation Brisbane on your podcast app.

MYSTERY & MISSION: THE ART OF LITURGICAL CELEBRATION CONFERENCE

The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council will present a joint national conference at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane from 28 to 30 September 2023.

This conference presents an opportunity to renew, re-energise and revitalise liturgy and liturgical music in parishes. This short [Conference Video](#) provides a brief overview of the event.

For full conference information and registration, visit mysteryandmission.com.au

Can't find Slavery-Free Easter Eggs?

Can't find slavery-free Easter eggs in your supermarket? Ten years ago there was almost no slavery-free chocolate in our supermarkets in Australia. Now, because of public pressure and consumer demands, most supermarkets will sell some. Thank you for contributing to the demand for slavery-free chocolate, but we have a long way to go. Slavery-free chocolate is delicious and is no more expensive than other chocolate.

Try ALDI, Haigh's, and leading supermarkets. Please remember that if you are putting together a fundraising chocolate raffle for your school, parish or workplace, choose products displaying the [Fairtrade](#) or [Rainforest Alliance](#) logo on the wrapper or be guided by the Chocolate Scorecard <http://www.chocolatescorecard.com> to find companies working towards the elimination of slavery in the chocolate industry.

Fairtrade Chocolate Brands

- Benetto's
- Moser Roth
- REWE Beste Wahl
- Deavas
- Pico
- Riegelein
- Chocolate and Love
- Tony's Chocolonely

