

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 Giabal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 8th September 2024 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

First Reading

[Isaiah 35:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1](#)

(R). Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R)

Second Reading

[James 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.



Gospel Acclamation

[cf Matthew 4:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mark 7:31-37](#)

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Next Week's Readings (14th/15th Sept 2024) – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B
1st Reading: [Isaiah 50:5-9](#) 2nd Reading: [James 2:14-18](#) Gospel: [Mark 8:27-35](#)

Parish Activities

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 Tuesday of the month at 10.30am 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 Quiet Room.

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 afternoons in the quiet room at the church at 2pm.

Parish Councillors

Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Bernadette Witham, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean, Julie Whittaker, Peter Castles, Georgina Humphrys, Brandon Joesph, Clare Watson

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at risk:

In Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, we commit ourselves to ensuring the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk in our Parish community. The best interests of the child, young person or adult at risk come first.

Our Parish takes a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults at risk may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Sue Whitelegg, Jo and Ray Johnston (**0437 839 838**). If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000. You are encouraged to provide feedback on Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Toowoomba Diocese Safeguarding Resources can be found at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-policy-resources/>

GOSPEL FOCUS

Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

Sunday Reflection...

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Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world. There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present. Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

Living the gospel

Open to compassion

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Isaiah's Prophecy

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

Thought of the day.....



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Barry Kirwin, Douglas Liebke, Russell Kirwin, Rosalie Newmann, David Fraser, Clem Walsh, Teresa Maud Dwyer, Zoe Axtell, Jeremiah Lalor, Thomas Julian MacGinley, Lena Coelho, John Reardon, Charles Peter Davis, Fr Myles Patrick Smith, William Brennan DD

Those Who Are Sick: Van Vu, Bev Brown, Eileen Reedy, Robert McLean, Kevin Arnott, Con Sullivan, Carmel Green, Ernie Kupfer, Jasmine Fletcher, Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

September Birthdays: Kathy Dangerfield, Sandra Sullivan, Helen Kupfer, Val Bowe, Jo Michel, Max Jones, Jenny Ferguson, Chris Golightly, Dave Morrow, Clyde Hudson, Brian Thomson

Parish News...

Sat 7/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 8/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass including Children's Liturgy o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 9/9	
Tue 10/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Liturgy of the Word o 10.30am Prayer Group in Quiet Room o Glenvale Villas Visitation
Wed 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10am Mass o 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 12/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Liturgy of the Word o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room o 2pm St Vincent de Paul meeting in Quiet Room
Fri 13/9	

Date Claimers

27th September – St Vincent de Paul Feast Day
 28th/29th September – Migrant and Refugee Sunday
 13th October – Annual Parish Family Mass

Do you speak a language other than English?

The Liturgy Group is looking for people who speak a language other than English to read the Welcome and/or Prayers of the Faithful for the Refugee & Migrant Sunday celebrations on the weekend of 28th/29th September. If you're interested, please phone the Parish Office on 4634 1453.

Flick and Tick – Last Chance

Please remember to complete the [Flick and Tick Form](#) before Monday. Paper copies are also available at the back of the church. Click here for the [Guide to Parish Ministry](#). St Mary of the Cross MacKillop says "God loves generous souls. Let us try to be the generous ones".



About the Season of Creation

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is "To hope and act with Creation". Amid the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer from eco-anxiety. As people of faith we are called to lift the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action but one embodied in concrete actions of prayer and preaching, service and solidarity. Read Pope Francis' message [here](#).

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
14 th Sept at 6pm	G Hoopert A Mendoza	N & D Clark	G Ferguson	N Doyle S Kelly	P & E Castles	H. K Ober W. K Walsh W. L Walsh	J Ferguson	M Cushway
15 th Sept at 9.30am	J Poulton S Dias	L Dwan A Cournane	P Murphy	S Connolly J Anderson	Coonan Family	H. M McLean W. P Murphy W. A Cournane	A Winder	C & S Dias
15 th Sept at 5.30pm		J & C Sullivan	K Langdale	B Bambosek R Johnston	J Johnston A Bishop	H. W Beeston W. J Salty W. B Stark	A Hickey	S Whitelegg

Safeguarding Sunday - 8 September 2024

Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

Our Parish Safeguarding Reps

Concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults at risk may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Sue Whitelegg, Jo and Ray Johnston (0437 839 838). Our Parish takes a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk is the responsibility of every person in our Parish community. If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000.



Sue Whitelegg



Ray and Jo Johnston

Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday 2024

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, neglected or exploited and whose trust and innocence has been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future, their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

Help us all to listen with open hearts, so that when children and adults at risk speak, they are truly heard.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

"Every conversation matters"

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY
8 SEPTEMBER 2024



E NEWS UPDATE

A newsletter from the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba for clergy, parishes, schools, staff and the wider community.

PRAYERS FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

Date: 18/9/24 Wednesday

Time: 12:30pm

Where: Online via Zoom, [register here](#)

The National Council of Churches in Australia invites you to join us as we pray for peace in the Holy Land during the Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. [Find out more here.](#)

ORGAN FIREWORKS

Date: 23/9/24 Monday

Time: 10:00am

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral Tmba **Cost:** Free

St Patrick's Cathedral and Organ Society of QLD present an organ recital featuring Brisbane organist Dr Steven Nisbet OAM. See [flyer](#) and [poster](#) for details.

RUMORS: CROWS NEST PARISH FUNDRAISER

Date: 25/9/24 Wednesday

Time: Doors open at 7:00pm, seated by 7:25pm

Where: Toowoomba Repertory Theatre, Margaret St Tmba

Cost: \$25 per person, call/text 0418 152 073 to purchase

Enjoy a night of laughs at the theatre and support Crows Nest Parish to help upgrade their First Aid facilities. *Rumors* by Neil Simion (Comedy). The deputy mayor of New York has shot himself, but it's only a flesh wound. Still it sets off a series of chaotic events, lies and rumors.

Note, due to the age of venue, we are sorry to advise that there are no disabled toilet facilities. Access to auditorium is via two steps.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Date: 29/9/24 Sunday

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has published online resources to help Catholic communities, parishes and schools mark the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In his message to mark the day, Pope Francis emphasises the Church's commitment to walking alongside migrants and refugees. The message theme "God walks with His people," draws parallels between the biblical Exodus and the journeys of modern-day migrants.

Season of Creation Contemplations

In the Jesuit and Ignation Spirituality Australia (JISA) *Season of Creation Contemplations*, you are invited to experience creation with your senses, through five weekly contemplations, from Wednesday 4 September to Wednesday 2 October 2024. The five weekly contemplations offer us a time to pause and immerse our senses in the sacredness and interconnectedness of all God's creation – stones, winds, waters, trees and birds. You can take the short audio reflections into nature and you can share them with your friends and colleagues. [Click here](#) for this week's contemplation – A conference of stones. [Click here](#) to complete your registration to receive the contemplation in your inbox each week.

