

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, 10th March 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year B

First Reading

[2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23.](#)

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 136.R. v. 6](#)

(R). Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R)
4. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R)

Second Reading

[Ephesians 2:4-10](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are

God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel

[John 2:13-25](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up..

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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 Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Quiet Room.

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

Cristianne Dias, Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Candice Poulton, Bernadette Witham, Anna Chandler, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean and Julie Whittaker.

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 (**Joe & Sarah Kelly 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

Not to condemn ...

The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, "so that through him the world might be saved." It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe "is already condemned." God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness - we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

Sunday Reflection...

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Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin. Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.



Have you thought?

God in popular culture

Think for a moment of the last time you saw or heard a reference to God on a television program, in a song, or some other popular medium. Chances are, the reference was one of a judging, vengeful, punishing God. This sort of image plays particularly well with a modern audience. It's easier to dismiss God as irrelevant if we can paint God in that sort of image. TV sitcoms do it particularly well with thunderclaps, bolts of lightning and booming, disapproving voices from above. It's much harder to dismiss a God of love who will go to extremes to demonstrate that love.

Historical Context

Babylonian Exile

In the book of Leviticus (25:4), it is commanded that every seventh year, the land was to be allowed to have a 'Sabbath year' - no tilling soil, no planting, no harvesting. The people failed to observe this command and the prophet, Jeremiah, interprets the destruction of the Temple and exile into Babylon as God's opportunity to enforce the period of Sabbath rest for the land. The people were in exile in Babylon for 70 years, ending about 537 BCE when the Persian emperor, Cyrus conquered the Babylonians and agreed to return the Israelites to their land. He also returned to them all of the treasures looted from the Temple so that it may be rebuilt.

Thought of the day.....

*If you hear me say,
"I put it in a really safe
place," just know
you'll never see "it"
again*



Words to heal the soul

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Josef Rebl, Pat Burke, Lorna Andrews, Norma Jessen, Patricia Johnston, Nancy Haig, Ivy Dahler, Gwen Betros, Patricia Lucht, Patricia "Patsy" Wilkes, Moya Coleman, Fr Dominic Burke, Fr Hector Thomas Sheeran

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

March Birthdays: Thelma Johnstone, Pat McGovern, Regina Thompson, Ron O'Brien, Judy Wilson, Peter Reynolds, Sarah Dias, Harrison Dwan, Kevin Mahoney

Parish News...

Sat 9/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass including Children's Liturgy o 10.30am Sacramental Workshop o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 11/3	
Tue 12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group in Quiet Room
Wed 13/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10.00am Mass o 6.30pm SPRED in the Quiet Room
Thu 14/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room o 2pm St Vincent de Paul meeting in Quiet Room
Fri 15/3	

Date Claimers:

- 16th/17th March – Parish Council Nominations Open
- 16th March – Youth Night 6pm
- 17th March – JAM Session
- 17th March – The Feast of St Patrick
- 19th March – The Feast of St Joseph
- 19th March - 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
- 24th March – Parish Council Nominations Close
- 24th March – Sacramental Workshop

Children's Bulletins

The weekly Children's Bulletin is a fun way for your kids to learn about the Catholic faith and is available on the table at the entrance to the church. The readings, puzzles and games are all based around the readings of the day and help your child/children understand the Mass in a fun and engaging way.

LOL Easter Raffle

LOL Parish Youth Group will hold an Easter Raffle with all proceeds going to Project Compassion. Tickets will be on sale, before and after weekend Masses until Easter Sunday. Prizes will be drawn at Easter Sunday 8.00am Mass. By supporting Fairtrade at Easter, you are empowering small scale cocoa farmers in developing countries to improve their lives and livelihoods, invest in their communities and control their futures. Tickets \$1ea



Easter Ceremony Times

- ❖ 23rd March - Palm Sunday Vigil Mass 7pm
- ❖ 24th March – Palm Sunday Mass 9.30am & 5.30pm
- ❖ 25th March – Chrism Mass at St Pat's at 5.30pm
- ❖ 28th March - Holy Thursday Mass at LOL 7.00pm
- ❖ 29th March – Good Friday Stations at 10am and Passion of the Lord at 3pm
- ❖ 30th March – Easter Sunday Vigil Mass at 7pm
- ❖ 31st March – Easter Sunday Mass at 8am (No 9.30am or 5.30pm Mass)

First Rite of Reconciliation Times

- ❖ 16th March at 4.45pm
- ❖ 19th March after 10am Mass and at 4.45pm
- ❖ 20th and 21st March after 10am Mass
- ❖ 23rd March at 4.45pm

Easter Ceremonies – Choir Practice

Choir practice for the Easter Ceremonies will be held on Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd March at 10am and a quick run through will be held at 4pm on Friday the 29th March after the 3pm Passion of the Lord Service. All are welcome!

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ip ad Operator	Piety Stall
16th Mar at 6pm	I Whittaker J Whittaker	Hoopert Family	L Borger	R O'Brien B Smith	Ward Family	L Walsh	Soriano Family	M Cushway
17th Mar at 9.30am	E Dwan J Poulton	Dias Family	T Ryan	J Coman M McLean	Blumke Family	Cleber Dias	M Conrick	R Coonan
17th Mar at 5.30pm	M Denny E Obst	Hickey Family	W Beeston	C Golightly R Johnston	K Langdale G Doherty	J Axtell	D Stark	M Stark

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 9th & 10th March

Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees. Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Please donate to Project Compassion. 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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE
GENERATIONS

Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

HE IS RISEN

OLOL Young People

Grades 5 - 8 Welcome

LET'S CELEBRATE EASTER!

**MARCH 16, 2024 | 6PM MASS
FOLLOWED BY ACTIVITIES & DINNER**

REGISTER ATTENDANCE VIA THE PARISH OFFICE
OLOL.PARISH@BIGPOND.COM

E NEWS UPDATE

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

JUBILEE MASS

Date: 16/3/24 Saturday Time: 11:30am Where: St Patrick's Cathedral
The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver invite you to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Religious Consecration of Sr Miriam Lorenz S.S.P.C. Please join the sisters afterwards at their convent: 71 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, for light refreshments and also to meet Mother Selin, Mother General. *For catering purposes, please RSVP by Friday March 8th. Telephone: (07) 4632 1818*

TATTOOS ON THE HEART

Date: 3, 4 & 5/10/2024 Where: Brisbane

This will be no ordinary event, it will be an encounter with a Church on the streets – on the margins – a field hospital. *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* with Fr Greg Boyle, SJ, founder of HomeBoy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Each speaking event is aimed at a different audience, from schools to parishes.

[See flyer for details.](#)

SYNOD OF BISHOPS UPDATE

Fr Nathan Webb is our diocese's contact. Parishes will receive a letter shortly from Fr Nathan regarding the next step in the local process and nominating a local contact person. These resources are part of the next step in the local response. **Synod Resources** Resources can be found on the Australian Synodal Church webpage: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch> and on the official website for the Synod 2021-2024: <https://www.synod.va/en.html> [Diocesan Consultation Reflection Guide](#) [Synod of Bishops - Intercessions for Lent 2024](#) **Toward a Constitutively Synodal Church – Free Online Course.** Free Registration for the Third Intercontinental Massive Online Course (MOOC) is now open. The MOOC will address the theme *Toward a Constitutively Synodal Church*. All videos will be facilitated virtually in March 2024 and will be offered at no cost to participants worldwide. Lectures that are pre-recorded and available in Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Italian, Polish and German can be watched at any time throughout the month of March. For more information or to register, go to formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/

PODCAST: AUSTRALIAN WOMEN PREACH

On International Women's Day, the podcast **Australian Women Preach** celebrates three years of raising women's voices in preaching the Gospel. The weekly podcast features women from a rich diversity of backgrounds, cultures, theological perspectives and denominations preaching on the Gospel passage scheduled for each Sunday. An initiative of WATAC (Women and the Australian Church) and The Grail in Australia, the podcast now has 157 episodes and preaching aligned to a full three-year cycle of the Catholic Lectionary. Since it began, it has had more than 36,000 plays and has gained over 450 followers. Sample some of this rich fare on Spotify: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/awp>

PODCAST: CATHOLIC INFLUENCERS

Catholic Influencers presents two weekly broadcasts through which Catholics can delve deeper into the upcoming Sunday Mass readings and relevant life issues from a Catholic perspective. The podcasts include an extended explanation of the upcoming Sunday Mass readings hosted by Fr Rob Galea, Alyssa Agius, Justine Hughes and Augie Angrisano; the other is Sunday Homilies preached by Fr Rob Galea. Visit their website to find out more catholicinfluencerspodcast.com

CAN YOU HELP? USED STAMPS & UNWANTED STAMP COLLECTIONS

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) invites residents and businesses to collect stamps from their incoming mail for reuse by local community groups. Community groups take these stamps and re-sell them to raise funds for local and overseas missions work. Mr Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE said, "We also welcome no-longer-wanted stamp album collections; and collections of stamps." You can post a pack of used stamps to the HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) office, PO Box 6118, Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 or drop them off at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.