

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, 11th February 2024 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

First Reading

[Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46](#)

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v7](#)

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.' And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. (R.)

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just! O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. (R)

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1](#)

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

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.



Gospel Acclamation

[Luke 7:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mark 1:40-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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 mornings in the quiet room at the church at 8:00am.

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

What's in a word?

Verse 41 of this week's reading begins, 'Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand.' This translation is from the Jerusalem Bible but if we were to consider other translations of the Bible we would find other phrases used such as: moved with pity; filled with pity; moved with compassion; filled with compassion; or even, filled with anger. By comparison, 'Feeling sorry for him' seems a weak translation. Jesus' reaction is a fully human one of indignation at what this man is forced to endure. It is a gut-wrenching response from the very core of Jesus' humanity.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless. We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it. However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order. Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other. When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God. In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God. There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but unproductive or worthless.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Leprosy

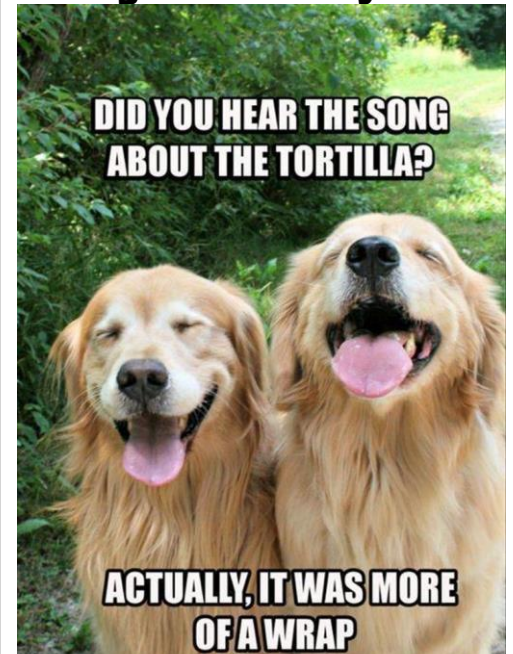
To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

Thought of the day.....



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Ted Shultz, Lynette Davis

Anniversaries: Mary Madden, Mary Nicholson, James Corkin, Francis (Frank) Williamson, Stanley McKenzie, Luke de Winter, David Ross Smith, Ian McQuillan, Margaret Morris, Patricia Booshard, Mary Dwyer, Peter Dowton, Yvonne Adamson, Terry Fallon, Des McGovern, Gloria Glennon, A/Deacon Robert O'Shea, Fr Raymond White

Those Who Are Sick: Anne Fisher, Patrick Byrne, 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

February Birthdays: Margaret Greer, Colleen Redinger, Pat McDonnell, Bryan Carlin, Laura Bentley, Michael Kelly, Vic White, Lyn Stephens

Parish News...

Sat 10/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass followed by BBQ
Sun 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass followed by Morning Tea o 5.30pm Mass followed by BBQ
Mon 12/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Funeral Mass for Lynette Davis
Tue 13/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Funeral Mass for Ted Schultz
Wed 14/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10.00am Mass (Ash Wednesday) o 5.30pm Mass (Ash Wednesday) o 6.30pm SPRED in the Quiet Room
Thu 15/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room
Fri 16/2	

Date Claimers:

- 13th February – Shrove Tuesday
- 18th February – 1st Sunday of Lent
- 18th February – JAM Session at 4.30pm in church
- 5th March – 10am Anointing Mass
- 24th March – Palm Sunday
- 29th March – Good Friday
- 31st March – Easter Sunday

Gluten Free Hosts

If you take a gluten free host at Communion, we ask that you please place the host in the glass bowl upon the altar, rather than in a pyx, and be ready to come forward to receive Communion first via the right hand side of the church near the dress circle. If you are unsure or have any queries, please call the office or ask the Mass Co-Ordinator for assistance. We thank you for your co-operation.

OLOL Feast Day Celebrations & Volunteer's Thank you

- Sausage sizzle after the 6pm and 5.30pm Masses.
- Morning tea after the 9.30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.



This weekend we acknowledge all the wonderful volunteers who serve in our parish. From the very young to the young at heart, we would not be able to offer the many programs or maintain the upkeep of the Church and its grounds, without their service and talent. May we remember to keep in our prayers all our volunteers – past, present and future. May God continue to strengthen and call us.

Prayer for Volunteers

Jesus, we were created in the image of your love. Even now you call your Church to be your hands and feet, to offer loving service to one another in your name. We give you thanks for the Spirit you send to sustain and strengthen us in our works of love.

We give you thanks for the members you raise up to respond with special service, each in their own way, to the needs of our parish and our local communities.

Please bless all who freely labour for your love, especially the volunteers who give of themselves. Bring to fulfilment the gifts they offer in hope of a better world, and help us to see in one another the beauty and dignity that you bestow on each person.

Renew our hearts in grace and gratitude, that we may always find new reasons for joy. Amen.

Help Needed for Ash Wednesday Mass

If you are attending the 5.30pm Mass on Ash Wednesday and can help with a ministry, please contact Catherine Dyson on 0427 302 453 as soon as possible.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
17th Feb at 6pm	I Whittaker J Whittaker	M & D Greer	P Kelly C Ferguson	J Kelly J Soriano	Hoopert Family	S Kelly	M Cushway	G Schoorl
18th Feb at 9.30am	E McLean L Anderson	T Ryan A Suhr	T O'Mara	K Kruger S Connolly	Poulton Family	T Ryan	M McLean	M Webb
18th Feb at 5.30pm	H Beutel H Ryan	S Whitelegg K Langdale	V O'Connell	B Bambosek Daniel Salty	J Johnston A Bishop	M Whitelegg	T Haylock	M Stark

Our Lady of Lourdes

On February 11, 1858 Bernadette Soubirous was collecting firewood at a grotto when a golden cloud and a beautiful Lady appeared. She beckoned Bernadette to come closer and then prayed a rosary with her. This was only the first of eighteen times the Bernadette saw Our Lady!

"She has the appearance of a young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She is dressed in a white robe, girdled at the waist with a blue ribbon which flows down all around it. A yoke closes it in graceful pleats at the base of the neck. The sleeves are long and tight-fitting. She wears upon her head a veil which is also white. This veil gives just a glimpse of her hair and then falls down at the back below her waist. Her feet are bare but covered by the last folds of her robe except at the point where a yellow rose shines upon each of them. She holds on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses on her feet."

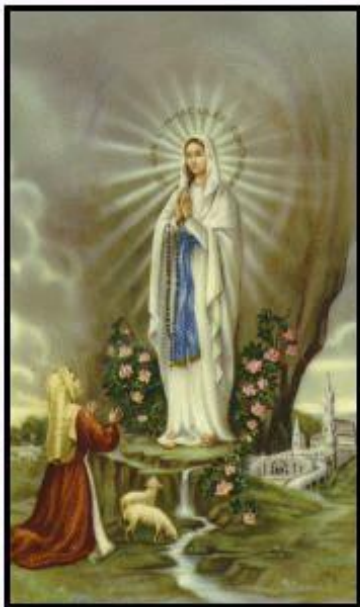
Bernadette saw Our Lady two more times a few days later and was asked to return to the grotto everyday for fifteen days. Each day Bernadette arrived, followed by more and more people.

Our Lady told her to "drink from the fountain and bathe in it." Bernadette was confused because there had never been a natural spring in that location. But, obediently she began digging a small pool of water began to form. The next day, the pool had grown and two days later, the pool had become a full stream.

On March 25, the day of the sixteenth apparition, the beautiful Lady revealed herself to Bernadette: *"I am the Immaculate Conception."*

A chapel has been built at the site of the apparition and many have visited and been cured of illness by the healing waters of the miraculous stream. Bernadette joined the convent of the Sisters of Charity and died at the age of 34. Bernadette's body was exhumed and has been found to be incorruptible and can be viewed today at the Chapel of Saint Bernadette at the motherhouse in Nevers, France. St. Bernadette was canonized a saint in 1933 by Pope Pius XI.

<https://baylorcatholic.wordpress.com/>



Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. 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 the back of the church, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



NEWS UPDATE

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Date: 1/3/24 Friday Time: 10:00am

Where: St Josh's Lutheran Church, Wilsonton.

All are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer service. Pastor Marcus Schultz will be the guest speaker on the day. Following the service, a shared morning tea will be held. All are welcome to attend.

[Find out more about World Day of Prayer.](#)

RETREAT: REFRESH YOUR FAITH

Date: 16 & 17/3/24 Saturday & Sunday

Where: Crows Nest Tourist Park, Crows Nest RSVP By 20/2/24

All are invited to join a retreat organized by St Vincent de Paul which promises to be challenging, stimulating and contemporary. Theme is "Spirituality in a Secular World", facilitated by James Hodge, Director of Mission, St Vincent de Paul. [See flyer for details and how to RSVP.](#)

WAY OF THE CROSS

Date: 29/3/24 Friday

Time: 7:30am-9:00am

Where: Starting on the steps of St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba
Organised by the Social Justice Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Join us for a walk around the CBD stopping at various stations. Each stop is a 'station' and we will pause, read a reflection and pray. The reflections will help us be in solidarity with some of the many injustices in our world.

Please wear walking shoes, and if the weather is inclement, suitable clothing and umbrellas. You may also wish to bring a water bottle for your own comfort.

[Follow Facebook Event Page](#) to find out more or receive updates.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE, TOOWOOMBA 125 YEARS

This year, St Mary's College is celebrating 125 Years of education. Old Boys, partners, friends, family and past and present staff members are invited to celebrate this incredible milestone. A series of events are organised to mark the occasion. [Visit St Mary's Old Boys Association's events page](#) to find out more.

POSITION VACANT: ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT OFFICER (ST ANTHONY'S PARISH)

St Anthony's Parish Toowoomba is seeking applicants for the position of Administration Support Officer for up to 20 hrs/wk. Details are available on [Seek.com](#) or apply directly at the Parish Office.

A full Position Description is available from the Parish Office – admin@stanthonysparish.com.au