

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, 17th March 2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year B

First Reading

[Jeremiah 31:31-34.](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12](#)

(R). Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R)

Second Reading

[Hebrews 5:7-9](#)

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

He learnt to obey and become for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 12:26](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

[John 12:20-33](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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

Love of life

Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night. This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.



Have you thought?

Why Greeks?

The gospel reading begins with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. Why is it significant that they were Greeks? The Jews were very clear about the distinction between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). Regardless of their intentions and goodwill, a Gentile was simply not a Jew. Greeks, who worshipped an entire pantheon of gods, were regarded as almost as far from Jewish belief in one God as was possible. Yet Jesus made clear that his message was for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike. His death and resurrection would bring a 'rich harvest' of belief among Gentiles as well as Jews.

SCRIPTURAL context

The Final Days

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

Thought of the day.....

Last night I ordered a glass of wine with dinner.



The waiter asked to see my ID. I asked, "Do I look too young to drink?"

"No," he said. "I was checking to see if you qualified for the senior citizen discount."

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Laurie Topp

Anniversaries: Lewis Duff, Patrick Murphy, Felicity Kruger, Josephine & William O'Dea, May Remeus, Sam Booth, Gerry McNamara, John Hurley, Esther Condon, Fr Joseph Skelly, Fr Kevin Ryan, Fr Bernard Kane, Fr Derick Furness,

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 16/3	o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 17/3	o 9.30am Mass including Children's Liturgy o 10.30am Sacramental Workshop o 4.30pm JAM Session o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 18/3	
Tue 19/3	o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group in Quiet Room o 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
Wed 20/3	o 9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10.00am Mass o 6.30pm SPRED in the Quiet Room
Thu 21/3	o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room
Fri 22/3	

Date Claimers:

- 19th March - The Feast of St Joseph
- 19th March - 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
- 24th March - Parish Council Nominations Close
- 24th March - Sacramental Workshop
- 25th March - Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 5.30pm

Parish Pastoral Council – Recommendations for Membership

On-line recommendations for Membership to the Parish Pastoral Council are now open and may be lodged by clicking [here](#). Alternatively, use the paper forms available from this weekend at the church entrances and place in the boxes provided. Recommendations close after the 5.30pm Mass next weekend, 24th March.

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 Palm Sunday Weekend. 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



The chocolate score card

We eat chocolate for comfort, celebration, and indulgence. Cocoa is the key ingredient in chocolate. What is really going on with the sourcing of cocoa? The Chocolate Score Card, a campaign of [Be Slavery Free](#), will help you understand what an ethical supply chain looks like. Visit chocolatescorecard.com to see how your favourite brands and retailers measure up this Easter. Look for these brands when buying your Easter chocolate.



Large Palms needed for Palm Sunday

If you or anyone you know has large palm fronds that the Liturgy Group could use on Palm Sunday, please advise the Parish Office as soon as possible.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 16 & 17 March

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. Please donate to Project Compassion 2024. 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/projectcompassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Easter Rosters and Information

Palm Sunday 23rd/24th March

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Carkpark
23 rd March at 6pm	E Ward T Kelly	G Schoorl P Castles	C Ferguson	1) J Kelly 2) B Witham N) L Walsh J) R'Brien O) J Wilson	Ward Family	D Clark	M. Connell	G Ferguson
24 th March at 9.30am	S Dias J Dias	P Town C Poulton	P Murphy	1) A Cournane 2) T Ryan N) C Dias J) J Adriano O) T O'Mara	_____	C Watson	K Kruger	N/A
24 th March at 5.30pm	H Beutel H Ryan	A & R Thompson	M Whitelegg	1) J Ryan 2) A Jessen N) J Axtell J) Daniel Salty O) Desley Salty	A Bishop K Uprichard	_____	A Hickey	N/A

Holy Thursday 28th March – 7pm

Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Oil Bearers	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad
S Dias J Dias	Salty Family	B Witham	1) R O'Brien 2) L Walsh	(1) L Bentley (B) P Castles (C) J Wilson	A Cournane M Cushway	M Ondrus	J Ferguson

Good Friday 29th March at 10am – Stations of the Cross

Musician	Welcomers	Commentary	Reader 1	Reader 2	Ipad
J Wilson	M. Cushway	R Stevens	M Ondrus	J Coman	J Axtell

Good Friday 29th March at 3pm – Celebration of the Passion

Altar Servers	Welcomers	Solemn Intercessions	Readers	Gospel	Extraordinary Ministers	Collectors	Ipad
S Dias J Dias	J & R Johnson	1) D Salty 2) D Salty	1) C Smith 2) R O'Brien	N) L Bentley J) J Coman O) J Axtell	1) B Witham	K Roberts _____	M. Cushway

Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday – 30th/31st March

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Outside
30 th March at 7pm	_____	D & N Clark	C Dias	1) J Johnston 2) L Walsh 3) L Bentley E) R Johnston	P & E Castles	R O'Brien	M Cushway	Lights/Fire K Walsh Carpark G Ferguson
31 st March at 8am	_____	A Suhr A Cournane	J Coman	1) T O'Mara 2) M Conrick	T Ryan Family	R Fallon	A Winder	N/A

Carpark Closed

The Liturgy Group reminds parishioners that for the safety of all, the **Church entry on Goodwood Street will be closed from 5.45pm for the 6.00pm Palm Sunday Vigil (23rd March) and from 6.45pm for the 7pm Easter Vigil (30th March)**. If you need to park in the church carpark, please make sure you arrive before this time. Please keep in mind that there is **no access via Holberton Street** to the carpark.

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 Ceremony Times

- ❖ 23rd March - Palm Sunday Vigil Mass 6pm
- ❖ 24th March – Palm Sunday Mass 9.30am & 5.30pm
- ❖ 28th March - Holy Thursday Mass at OLOL 7.00pm
- ❖ 29th March – Good Friday Stations at 10am and 3pm for Passion of the Lord **Please Note: Set up for the Easter Vigil will take place after the 3pm Good Friday service. Helpers needed please.**
- ❖ 30th March – Easter Sunday Vigil Mass at 7pm
- ❖ 31st March – Easter Sunday Mass at 8am (No 9.30am or 5.30pm Mass)

Easter Choir Practice

Choir practice will be held on Sat 16th and Sat 23rd March at 10am and Fri 29th March at 4pm. All are welcome!