

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, 18th February 2024 First Sunday of Lent - Year B

First Reading

[Genesis 9:8-15](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 24:4-9](#). R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

3. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R)

Second Reading

[1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation

[Matthew 4:4](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mark 1:12-15](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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/>



Have you thought? Temptation?

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph's carpentry business and not respond to God's call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us. Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

Living the gospel

Change of heart

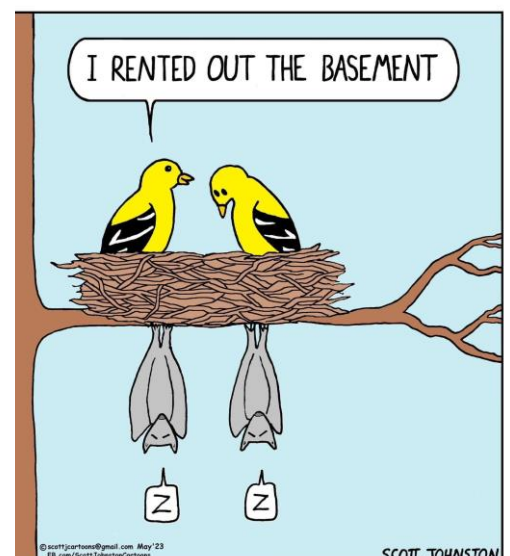
Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

Historical Context

The Wilderness

The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

Thought of the day.....



© scottjohnston@gmail.com May '23
18.com/scottjohnstoncartoons

SCOTT JOHNSTON

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Anne Fisher

Anniversaries: Edna Thomson, Dan Shine, Mary Richters, Marie Langton, Veronica Hodgkinson, Annette Baxter, Ellen Locke, John Arnell, Eileen Bell, Andrew McKindlay, Bryan Burke, Eunice Mahoney, Graham Cosgrove, Fr James Byrne DD

Those Who Are Sick: 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 17/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 18/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass including Children's Liturgy o 10.30am Sacramental Workshop 1 o 4.30pm JAM Session in Church o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 19/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Funeral Mass for Anne Fisher
Tue 20/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group in Quiet Room
Wed 21/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10.00am Mass with School Children o 6.30pm SPRED in the Quiet Room
Thu 22/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 8.00am St Vincent de Paul Meeting in Quiet Room o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room
Fri 23/2	

Date Claimers:

- 5th March - 10am Anointing Mass
- 10th March - 10.30am Sacramental Workshop 2
- 18th March - The Feast of St Patrick
- 19th March - The Feast of St Joseph
- 19th March - 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Thank You!!

To all those people who helped set up, cook, serve and tidy up at last weekend's Volunteer's Thank You morning tea and BBQ's, we say a huge Thank You to you! We are very blessed to have such a wonderful parish community.

Thank You Volunteers!!

Confirmation and First Eucharist Candidates

This weekend, the children of our parish will start the next part of their Sacramental Journey and over the next few months will prepare for their Confirmation and First Eucharist which will be celebrated later this year. You will find their photos on display in the church and we ask that you pray for the candidates and their families as they prepare for this exciting time.

Prayer for Sacramental Candidates

Heavenly Father, God of power and of love.

We pray for all the children who are preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love and may they come to know you as the one true God who loves them without limit.

May their hearts welcome you gladly;

May their ears hear your voice in the scriptures;

May their eyes see you in all things;

And may they proclaim your glory as they walk in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Easter Ceremonies – Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the Easter Ceremonies. If you are able to help, would you please put your name on the sheet on the table at the back of the church. We need as much help as possible during this busy season. Please don't leave all the work to just a few.



	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
24th Feb at 6pm	E Ward T Kelly	P & J O'Sullivan	J Soriano	L Walsh L Borger	N & D Clark	B Witham	K & G Regan	J Wells
25th Feb at 9.30am	E Dwan J Poulton	P & J Gleeson	S Connolly	J Anderson A Cournane	Coonan Family	J Coman	Dias Family	C Watson
25th Feb at 5.30pm	E Haylock M Denny	D & M Stark	T Haylock	Desley Salty J Michel	G Doherty K Uprichard	B Stark	Daniel Salty	J Sullivan

First Sunday of Lent – 17th & 18th February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations. Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children. Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village. Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations. Please donate to Project Compassion. 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.



Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



Project Compassion Prayer 2024

God of all hope, we pray for our world with all its beauty and need. We thank you for the love in our lives that is a mirror of your unending love. May all creation know your compassion this Lent and may we take courage to share it, especially with those who don't have what they need. In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses: 'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous things. Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, move us to act in the company of your Spirit, showing compassion and acting for justice to renew the face of the Earth, now and for all future generations. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen

Message regarding Fr. J Byrne

Earlier this week the Toowoomba Chronicle printed an article concerning a man who is accusing Father Jim Byrne of sexual assault and suing the Diocese of Toowoomba for \$1.7million. As the matter is before the Courts, the Diocese can make no comment and since Father Byrne is deceased, he cannot mount a defence.



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

RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - QLD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Date: 21/2/24, 28/2/24 & 6/3/24 Wednesdays

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

Where: [Online via Zoom](#)

The series will start by breaking open what domestic violence is, including stories from survivors, looking at the dynamics of perpetrators, how to create a supportive church culture, and how to respond to victims and survivors (the dos and don'ts).

To ensure that price is not a deterrent, participants will have the option of attending free of charge or paying \$20 to help the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project continue developing resources and offering courses. Those who pay \$20 will receive two copies of the short book: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Questions women ask about relationships and Christianity." [Register now](#) or [see flyer for details](#).

THE TRANSFORMATION POWER OF THE SCRUTINIES

Date: 28/2/24 Wednesday

Time: 7:00pm AEDT

Where: [Online via Zoom](#)

Christian Initiation Australian Network presents a webinar focusing on the topic of Scrutinies. This is to help those in RCIA work through the Period of Purification and Enlightenment with your Elect as they do their final preparation before baptism at Easter. Presenter will be Dr Carmel Suart of the Archdiocese of Perth. [Register now to receive your Zoom link for this webinar](#).

A MORNING'S PRAYER RETREAT

Date: 2/3/24 Saturday

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston

Cost: \$25 (morning tea included)

Evangelisation Brisbane's "A Morning's Prayer" experiences are mini three-hour retreats held on Saturdays throughout the year. The mornings are perfect for individuals and groups seeking an opportunity for peaceful prayer and reflection but who may not have the time to commit to a traditional full or multi-day retreat.

This retreat will be centred on the journey of Lent and we will hear about what it means to remain as "Easter people" all year after celebrating Jesus' resurrection. There will be a chance to enter in prayer and reflection, a time of discussion and some fellowship.

[Register here](#).

THE FUTURE IS NOW: EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARISH RENEWAL

Date: 22/3/24 Friday

Time: 7:00AM AEDT

Where: [Online via Zoom](#)

Engaging young people is crucial for a vibrant, mission-driven parish. As a leader, how can you involve and empower the young church in your vision for renewal, and provide opportunities for everyone to encounter God's love? Divine Renovation and Alpha invite you to the upcoming online event. [Visit the website to find out more and register](#).

XAVIER SCHOOL OF MISSION

Date: 9-14/6/24 Sunday to Friday

Where: Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo

[Register online](#) by 1/6/24; limited spaces

The Xavier School of Mission aims to equip and form leaders in evangelisation at the service of the Dioceses of Queensland and beyond. It is a dynamic and flexible resource that places the Church's mission to evangelise at the heart of Holy Spirit Seminary's formative process.

The 2024 theme is *One Word, Emerging Voices: Is Mission the Key to a Synodal Church?* Pope Francis is guiding us on the journey of becoming what he calls "a synodal Church", a Church that listens, dialogues, walks and grows together. But what does that look like?

[Visit the website to find out more](#).