

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, 24th February 2024 Second Sunday of Lent - Year B

First Reading

[Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 115:10, 15-19.R. 114:9](#)

(R). I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R)

Second Reading

[Romans 8:31-34](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

[See Matthew 17:5](#)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

[Mark 9:2-10](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Next Week's Readings (2nd/3rd March 2024) - Third Sunday of Lent - Year B
1st Reading: [Exodus 20:1-17](#). 2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 1:22-25](#). Gospel: [John 2:13-25](#)

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? Mountaintop Moments

Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week's first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about 'peak experiences' – moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain 'in the moment' rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

Sunday Reflection...

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We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God. Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Not quite

Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer's message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus' purpose and presence. They still haven't fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

GOSPEL FOCUS

A new vision

Part of Peter's mistake is to see the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us.

Thought of the day.....



This is Sister Teresa known for her high intelligence.

Better known as Nun the wiser 🤪

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Mary Leach, Mel Murray, Dean Morrison, Patricia Vanderwal, Rebecca Betros, Catherine Dunkin, Marion Rodgers, Leo Glennon, Ellen Ros MacGinley, Msgr John Bergin, Fr Michael Hayes, Fr Michael Cronin, Fr Henry MacFarlane, Fr Brian O'Dwyer

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 24/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Ecumenism Group Meeting o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 25/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass including Children's Liturgy o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 26/2	
Tue 27/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group in Quiet Room
Wed 28/2	<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 29/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.00am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room
Fri 1/3	

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

Birthday Wishes:

Happy Birthday to Vic White who turned 85 on the 23rd February! Many Happy Returns Vic!

We wish Bryan Carlin a Happy Birthday for the 27th February when he will turn 91 years young! Have a wonderful day Bryan!



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.



Fasting and Abstinence

The season of Lent emphasises three things: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer means prayer, that's pretty simple. Almsgiving refers to acts of charity or generosity and fasting refers to going without something.

During Lent we can choose to fast from something on which we've become dependent, something we think we can't live without, or something that distracts us from God. We could fast from television, chocolate, alcohol, gambling, hurting words, anger, worries, bitterness, selfishness. The key is choosing something you can sustain the whole of Lent. The law of fasting applies to those who are aged 18 to 59.

Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from certain kinds of food. Catholics abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fish is not considered meat for this purpose. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference decreed on 4 October 1985 that Fridays throughout the year, including in Lent (other than Good Friday), are not obligatory days of abstinence from meat provided that an alternative form of penance is practised. Abstinence from meat applies to those aged over 14 years.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
2nd Mar at 6pm	I Whittaker J Whittaker	Whittaker Family	B Witham	R O'Brien R Jayawardhana	R Campbell M Cushway	K Ober	C Juillerat	D Clark
3rd Mar at 9.30am	S Dias J Dias	P McDonnell A Mullins	C Hudson	T Ryan M Cash	A Cournane A Suhr	M Ondrus	S Connolly	A Suhr
3rd Mar at 5.30pm	E Obst H Beutel	M & J Ryan	J Axtell	M Whitelegg J Beutel	Hickey Family	A Jessen	K Langdale	S Whitelegg

Second Sunday of Lent – 25th February

Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines. Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child. After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family. "I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you." 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: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

World Day of Prayer – Friday 1st March

All are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer service at 10am

on Friday, 1st March

at St John's Lutheran Church, 431 Bridge St Wilsonton.

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.](#)

St Ursula's College
TOOWOOMBA

Open Day
Sunday 3 March
10am - 2pm

Every face has a place...
Serviam

E NEWS UPDATE

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

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST PATRICK

Date: 16/3/24 Saturday

Time: Doors open 6:30pm

Where: Cathedral Centre, Neil St Tmba

Cost: \$50 per ticket

Come and enjoy a great night out to celebrate the Feast Day of St Patrick! Tickets will include a meal, a live Irish Band, and plenty of dancing! [Book tickets now.](#)

GRANTS PROGRAM: MERCY FOUNDATION

The Mercy Foundation is now accepting applications for its Social Justice Small Grants Program. The Mercy Foundation was established by the Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney in 1990. It is an organisation committed to social justice and structural change to create greater social equity and inclusion in the Australian community.

Grants up to \$10,000 are available for initiatives addressing social justice issues in communities across Australia. Applications are due by midnight on Monday, 11 March 2024.

[Find out more or apply here.](#)

GRANTS PROGRAM: HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

The 2024 Highways and Byways Small Grants Program, an initiative of the Missionary Sisters of Service is open for applications, with the focus theme of 'Valuing Community Connections in an Ancient Land'. In 2024, Highways and Byways are offering grants up to \$4,000 for projects that advance the program theme. Applications close at 5.00pm AEDT Friday 15 March 2024.

Further information, including program Guidelines, are available via the website: <https://hb.org.au/grants/>.

ECUMENICAL PALM BLESSING

Date: 24/3/2024 Sunday

Time: 8:00am

Where: St Stephen's Uniting Church, Neil St Tmba

All are warmly welcome to attend the Ecumenical Palm Blessing on Palm Sunday.

RESOURCE: FREE REPORTS FROM NCLS RESEARCH

Free reports are available from NCLS Research, covering topics such as disability inclusion, finances and results of the National Church Life Survey 2021. [Download from NCLS website.](#)

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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