

# Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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Priest in Residence - Rev John Quinlan

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson Email: [olol.pastoralcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

### First Reading

[Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R.9](#)

(R.) If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we the people who  
belong to his pasture, the flock that is led  
by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

(R)

### Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 7:32-35](#)

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

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

[Matthew 4:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light; a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

[Mark 1:21-28](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Next Week's Readings (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February 2024) – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B  
1st Reading: [Job 7:1-4. 6-7](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23](#) Gospel: [Mark 1:29-39](#)

## 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/>

### SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

#### The Messianic Secret

A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, "who do you think I am?" They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

### Sunday Reflection...

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Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape. The demonic seduces us in more ways than we can count and we are often caught in its web before we recognise what has happened. There have always been many and varied voices that claim to have the remedy for our ills. Preachers and politicians have stirred up crowds and ignited their emotions. Promises have been made and predictions advanced, yet the conflict goes on, the demons continue to hold sway. The demon recognised the authority in the voice of Jesus. Do we recognise it? When we are released by Jesus from the demons that possess us, we are freed from the stranglehold of evil and liberated to live far less encumbered and divided lives. No Earthly reality will possess us, neither relationships nor obligations nor even religious practices. Rather, we will be possessed by Christ who liberates us for the reign of God. Therefore, whether married or unmarried, whether in the midst of the community or at its margins, we will be able to heed the voice of God in our hearts and to recognise Jesus in our midst.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

#### He said what?

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

### GOSPEL FOCUS

#### Exorcisms

This week's gospel features an exorcism by Jesus – driving an unclean spirit out of a possessed man. Some people read these acts of exorcism as being literally true. Others are keen to demonstrate that these 'possessions' described in the gospels are able to be explained by various manifestations of mental illness. The thrashing fits described in the gospels have been likened to epileptic seizures and episodes of paranoia and schizophrenia might explain the first century understanding of possession. Rather than trying to justify or explain away these events, we must seek to understand the gospel writer's purpose in including such episodes.

### Thought of the day.....

IN ALL THE TIME I'VE KNOWN HIM, HE'S NEVER ONCE CHANGED HIS CLOTHES...



**Please Pray For...**

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:** Jim Brown, Jim Kerlin, Brenda Curr, Edith Sweeney, Michael Drew, Anna Rebl, Fr William Behm

**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, Ted Schulz, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

**January Birthdays:** Faye Kroh, Desley O'Connell, Margaret White, Chloe Soriano, Molly Ferguson, Karlie Ward, Lily Ward.

**Parish News...**

Sat 27/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 9.30am Ecumenism Group Meeting</li> <li>o * Please note there is no reconciliation this weekend. See below for alternatives.</li> <li>o <b>6.00pm Mass</b></li> </ul>
Sun 28/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>9.30am Mass</b></li> <li>o <b>5.30pm Mass</b></li> </ul>
Mon 29/01	
Tue 30/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>10.00am Liturgy of the Word</b></li> <li>o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room</li> </ul>
Wed 31/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery</li> <li>o <b>10.00am Liturgy of the Word</b></li> <li>o 6.30pm SPRED in the Quiet Room</li> </ul>
Thu 01/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>10.00am Liturgy of the Word</b></li> <li>o 10.30am Friendship &amp; Craft Group in Quiet Room</li> </ul>
Fri 02/02	

\*Please note that Reconciliation will not be available this weekend at our parish. Some alternative options are as follows:

- o 8am-9am Saturday at St Patrick's Cathedral
- o 5.15pm Saturday at St Anthony's Parish

**Date Claimers:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> February – Word of God Sunday
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Registrations close for First Communion and Confirmation for 2024
- 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February – Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day and Volunteers BBQ/Morning Tea
- 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday Mass 10am and 5.30pm

**Australia Day Mass**

Please join us for Mass to celebrate Australia Day this Friday, 26 January, at 10:00am in the Church.

**Morning tea will be served after Mass.**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day and Volunteer's Mass – Morning Tea & BBQ**

On the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of February, we would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers with a sausage sizzle/morning tea. Please join us to celebrate our volunteers at the sausage sizzles after the 6pm and 5.30pm Masses or the morning tea after the 9.30am Mass.

**Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.**



**Confirmation and First Eucharist 2024 – Last Chance to Register**

Last chance to enrol for the 2024 Sacrament of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Children in Year 4 or above and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation are eligible to enrol.

- Please click [here](#) for the Initial Parent Letter including program dates and full information.
- Please click [here](#) for the Registration Form. **Registrations close on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.** No enrolments will be accepted after this date.

**Little Black Books/Lenten Reflections**

The Little Black Books for Lent have now arrived and are available for purchase for \$4.00 from the back of the church. Please place your money into the envelope provided and place into the collection plate.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb at 6pm	I Whittaker J Whittaker	Ward Family	C Ferguson	B Witham J Soriano	Ward Family	D Clark	Soriano Family	M Cushway
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 9.30am	E Dwan J Poulton	Anderson Family	P Murphy	M Ondrus T O'Mara	Dias Family	C Anderson	T Ryan	R Coonan
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 5.30pm	H Ryan E Haylock	Hickey Family	C Golightly	J Ryan J Johnston	Hickey Family	W Beeston	K Langdale	J Sullivan

**Adopt a Liturgy – Easier than you think!**

The Liturgy Group is keen to hear from anyone that might like to consider adopting just one parish celebration. For some of us, owning one small job rather than committing to something on a regular basis would better suit our job demands, family commitments and personal interests.

The Liturgy group has developed wonderful resources for each of their celebrations making the coordination much less time consuming and complicated and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference provides resources too. It's probably much easier than you think! The Liturgy Group and the parish staff will provide all the support you need. Suitable celebrations to adopt are:

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Australia Day              | LOLO Feast Day        |
| Anzac Day                  | ATSI Sunday           |
| World Day for Grandparents | Social Justice Sunday |
| Migrant and Refugee Sunday |                       |

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Australia Day Prayer**

We bless you, God of the universe,  
for this land,  
for its contrasts of landscape and climate,  
for its abundance of wealth and opportunity.  
We bless you for our history,  
with all its struggle in adversity,  
its courage and hope,  
Give us in our diversity  
tolerance and respect for each other  
and a passionate commitment to justice for all.  
Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



**Children’s Liturgy recommences 28th Jan**

Children’s Liturgy is held on Sunday mornings during school terms during the 9.30am Mass. The aim is to gather children between Prep and Year 4 in a separate space to celebrate Liturgy in a way that is more appropriate to their level of understanding. Activities include hearing the scripture and celebrating it through craft, drawing, drama and song.

If you would like to support our Children’s Liturgy leaders as a helper/assistant please advise the Parish Office. No experience or active participation is necessary. The Parish Office can assist with obtaining a Blue Card.

**Pope’s Monthly Intention for January 2024**

*For the gift of diversity in the Church*

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Please click [here](#) to watch a video of Pope Francis discussing January’s intention. Pope Francis invites us not “to fear diversity.” Rather, he tells us, “this diversity should make us rejoice.”



**Christmas Collection Thank you**

This year, as a parish, we raised \$3,166 for the annual Christmas Collection. These funds will be forwarded to the Our Lady of Lourdes St Vincent de Paul Conference, to provide back to school needs for families most in need, and also to support those who lost their homes and livelihoods in the bushfires in Tara and surrounding areas.

It is not too late if you would still like to contribute to the good works that St Vincent de Paul do for our local community.

You can make a deposit or bank transfer at any time by using the following bank details:  
Account Name: OLOL SVDP  
BSB: 064-786  
Account Number: 100026959



**WELCOME**

We welcome visitors to our Parish. If you are new to the area or have recently started attending Church services at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, would you please fill out the following details below so that we can add you to our Parish Register and weekly bulletin mailout. These details are only handed out if your permission is given.

TITLE.....NAME.....  
 ADDRESS.....POSTCODE.....  
 PHONE NUMBER.....MOBILE.....  
 EMAIL ADDRESS.....

Please hand in at Church or email to: [olol.parish@bigpond.com](mailto:olol.parish@bigpond.com)