

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, 1st December 2024 First Sunday of Advent – Year C

First Reading

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1](#)

(R). To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

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. 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)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading

[1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2](#)

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

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.



Gospel Acclamation

[Psalm 84:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Luke 21:25-25. 34-36.](#)

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

Next Week’s Readings (7th/8th December 2024) –Second Sunday of Advent – Year C

1st Reading: [Baruch 5:1-9](#)

2nd Reading: [Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11](#)

Gospel: [Luke 3:1-6](#)

Parish Activities

ANAM CARA – Wednesday 9.00am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information mornings are held on the 1st Sunday 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.

FRIENDSHIP & CRAFT 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 Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

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

Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Bernadette Witham, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean, Julie Whittaker, Peter Castles, Georgina Humphrys, Brandon Joesph, Clare Watson

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. If you have any concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults at risk please contact our Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Sue Whitelegg or Jo and Ray Johnston on **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? Baptism

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

Sunday Reflection...

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The advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment happens within world history. The first reading locates God's act of restoration in the city of Jerusalem. The gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. They point us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. They show us that God works within everyday life, in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary. John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony. The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

Historical Context

At this time

This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

Living the Gospel

Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

Thought of the day.....



"I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included."

— BERNARD MANNING

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Joe Short, Frank Brosnan, Gerard Hanssen, Bart Logan, Winifred (Win) Schultz, Theresa Burke, George Oliver

Those Who Are Sick: Kathie Ober, Brian Reardon, Jan Sullivan, Van Vu, Bev Brown, Eileen Reedy, Kevin Arnott, Carmel Green, Ernie Kupfer, Jasmine Fletcher, Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

December Birthdays: Mary McConachy, Carmel Ryan, John Axtell, Diann O'Mara, Evie Ward

Parish News...

Sat 30/11	o 6pm Mass
Sun 1/12	o 9.30am Mass including Children's Liturgy o 4.30pm JAM Session o 5.30pm Mass o 6.15pm Dinner and Carols
Mon 2/12	
Tue 3/12	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group Meeting in Quiet Room
Wed 4/12	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10am Mass o SPRED 6.30pm
Thu 5/12	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room
Fri 6/12	o End of School Mass - 12pm in School Hall

Date Claimers

- o 10th December – Anointing at Glenvale Villas 11am
- o 16th December – Communal Rite of Reconciliation at 6pm
- o 22nd December – Set up Salo Centre from 10.30am
- o 24th December – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6pm at the Salo Centre
- o 25th December – Christmas Morning Mass at 8am at OLOL Church
- o 26th December – No Mass

Children's Liturgy

Please note this Sunday is the final Children's Liturgy for 2024. Children's Liturgy will recommence on Sunday, 2nd February 2025.



Christmas Celebration Dates and Times

Individual Reconciliation

Saturday, December 7th, 14th, 21st at 4.45pm and after 10am Mass on the 19th, 20th and 21st December.

Communal Reconciliation

Monday, 16th December at 6pm

Christmas Masses

Tuesday 24th December: 6pm at Salo Centre, Rome St, Newtown.

Wednesday 25th December: 8am at OLOL Church

*Note there will be no 9.30am or 5.30pm Mass on the 25th December.

Christmas Masses

Please put your name on the list at the church entrance to indicate your availability to help at any of the following celebrations.

- **Monday, 16th Dec:** Communal Reconciliation 6pm OLOL
- **Tuesday, 24th Dec:** 6pm Vigil at Salo Centre
- **Monday, 25th Dec:** 8am Mass at OLOL Church

Christmas Transport

If you need transport or are able to provide transport to the Christmas Masses, both at the Salo Centre or OLOL Church, please advise the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Christmas Choir Practice

The choir enhances our Christmas celebrations and plays a key role in how our community experiences the Christmas season. Please consider joining the choir for these special celebrations. There will be a practice at 11.30am on the 22nd Dec at Salo Centre.

Christmas Mass Setup

Sunday, 22nd December at 10.30am at the Salo Centre.

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
7 th Dec at 6pm	T Kelly J Whittaker	Ward Family	C Ferguson	J Kelly R O'Brien	N & D Clark	H. K Ward W. S Kelly W. E Castles	Kelly Family	D Clark
8 th Dec at 9.30am	E Young	A Suhr A Cournane	J Anderson	M Ondrus A Cournane	Coonan Family	H. J Coman W. P Murphy W. M McLean	T Ryan	P Town
9 th Dec at 5.30pm		K Langdale S Whitelegg	J Axtell	A Jessen J Adriano	K Langdale A Bishop	H. A Beeston W. M Morcom W. J Sullivan	A Hickey	V Barker

First Sunday of Advent

The coming of Christ at the end of time connects the season of Advent to that of Ordinary Time. The latter has just concluded with the feast of Christ the King and its focus on Christ's ultimate reign as shepherd and sovereign of all. Today Jesus issues an urgent call for his listeners to be vigilant, to be awake and ready for the day of the Lord. The call to watch for the coming of the Lord may seem like a threat, but it is meant to challenge us to be fully alive in the here and now. When Jesus first emerged from obscurity into the public arena, his clarion cry was to 'repent and believe in the good news' (Mk 1:15). That's the point of repentance: to let go of the ways of death in order to freely embrace the gift of life. In some contrast to the agitation of the gospel, the prophet Jeremiah reassures his hearers with God's promise of a new era, and the apostle Paul prays for and appeals to the Thessalonians with loving devotion. Along the way the psalm offers us a timely opportunity to renew our trust in the goodness of God. Today's readings conspire to invite us to stand tall, take heart, and get on with living 'the life that God wants'.



A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking
the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

-Father Henri JM Nouwen



E NEWS UPDATE

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

SACRED HEART JUMBLE SALE ON AGAIN!

Date: 8/12/24 Sunday

Time: 7:00am-12:00pm

Where: Sacred Heart Church, North St Tmba

Thank you once again for your generous donations and support of our Jumble Sale last month. We still have many of your wonderful items, so we're hosting another sale. In addition to great bargains, we'll be offering a delicious sausage sizzle, spring rolls, baked goods, and festive treats.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL STANTHORPE 150 YEAR DINNER DANCE

Date: 8/2/2025 Saturday

Time: 6:00pm start

Where: Bathersby Centre, Stanthorpe

All are welcome to come celebrate this wonderful milestone for St Joseph's School in Stanthorpe. Ticket information will be available soon. [Follow the Facebook page for updates.](#)

For more information, please email SJS150Years@twb.catholic.edu.au

SAVE THE DATE: TONY ALONSO

Date: 15-17/5/25

Where: Brisbane, see flyer for details

Liturgy Brisbane has scored a major coup in securing renowned US liturgical composer and theologian, Tony Alonso during his Australia/NZ tour in May 2025. Tony will offer a public lecture, a full-day schools-focussed presentation, a public concert and a workshop for parish music ministers.

[Please see the Save the Dates flyer for further information.](#)

Full details and registration will be available in late January 2025.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Date: 3/12/24 Tuesday

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations observed day. In Australia, IDPwD is a joint effort between government, schools, organisations, community groups, businesses and individuals. The Catholic Church in Australia is committed to upholding and protecting the dignity and wellbeing of all people with disabilities.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Disability Projects Office [has prepared a range of helpful media resources.](#)

WELCOME DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF CARITAS - JOE KELLY

We welcome Joe Kelly as our new Diocesan Director of Caritas. Joe is currently the APMI at St Ursula's College Toowoomba. No doubt you will hear from Joe in the coming weeks. In the meantime, you can contact him on joseph.kelly@caritas.org.au or mobile 0407 305 512.

[Newsletter inserts for Lebanon Crisis Appeal and Caritas Christmas Appeal.](#)

[Powerpoint slide for Lebanon Crisis Appeal.](#)