



Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453

Email: ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au | <https://www.ololparish.org.au> 

Priest Director: Fr Jamie Collins | Associate Pastor: Fr BJ Perrett

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

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson - olol.pastoralcoordinator@twb.catholic.org.au

Mass times: Saturday: 6:30pm Vigil | Sunday: 9.45am

Weekday Liturgy of The Word/Mass – Tuesday and 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 Gialal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 7th December 2025 Second Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7](#)

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading

[Romans 15:4-9](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Next Week's Readings (13th/14th Dec) – Third Sunday of Advent - Year A

1st Reading: [Isaiah 35:1-6, 10](#) 2nd Reading: [James 5:7-10](#) Gospel: [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

Parish Activities

ANAM CARA – Wednesday 9.00am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information mornings are held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10.45am. Please phone the office if you wish to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – 9.45am Mass (except school holidays) for children in Prep - Yr 4.

FRIENDSHIP & CRAFT GROUP - meet in the Quiet Room at the Church every Thursday after the 10am Mass.

ECUMENISM GROUP - meet the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:45am in the Children's Liturgy Room followed by a cuppa.

LITURGY GROUP - meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the Presbytery.

LOURDES PRAYER GROUP - meet in the Quiet Room every Tuesday after the 10am Liturgy of The Word.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Presbytery Meeting Room.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - meet 1st Sunday of the month at 10:45am in the quiet room at 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, Jeni Bonell, Jessica Ramos, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean, Julie Whittaker, Peter Castles, Georgina Humphrys, Brandon Joseph, 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/>

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist's call to "Prepare the way of the Lord" is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Sunday Reflection...

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Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ. The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives. Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today. John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Out of the wilderness

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Brood of Vipers!

The gospel of Matthew in particular casts the Pharisees in a very dim light. John's insult to them, calling them a brood of vipers, is indeed echoed by Jesus later in this gospel. In this gospel, Jesus describes the Pharisees as hypocrites and blind guides. The community for whom this gospel was written were predominantly Jewish Christians. However, at the time of writing serious cracks were appearing in the relationship between the Jewish community and the Christian sect. This gospel aligns closely with the Jewish tradition but is very critical of the inflexibility of the Pharisees.

Thought of the week...

If we were really patient, we'd wait 'til Jesus' birthday to light his candles, right?



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (5th Dec – 11th Dec) John Durkin, Ronald Mahony, Steve Murphy, Mary Avery, Douglas Reis, Anthony Bradbury, Rev Msgr Michael McKenna, Rev Fr Justin King, Rev Fr Joseph Callaghan, Rev Fr James Byrne

Those Who Are Sick: Garry Birch, Sr Cecilia Bailey, Peter Reynolds, Peter Hickey, Kathie Ober, Brian Reardon, Van Vu, Eileen Reedy, Kevin Arnott, Carmel Green, Jasmine Fletcher, Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara

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

Parish News...

6 th Dec	o 6.30pm Mass
7 th Dec	o 9.45am Mass
8 th Dec	
9 th Dec	o 6am – 6.55am Reconciliation o 7am Mass o 10am Liturgy of the Word o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room
10 th Dec	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery
11 th Dec	o 10am Mass o 2pm - SVDP Meeting in Quiet Room o 5.30pm Mass o 6pm – 7pm Adoration with Benediction
12 th Dec	

Date Claimers:

- 9th Dec – Glenvale Villas Visitation
- 15th Dec – 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Senior's Christmas Party

A special thanks to Liz and her wonderful team for the generous gift of their time and talent and for making the Seniors' Christmas Party so lovely. Thanks also to all those who donated prizes for the multi-draw raffle and those who provided sandwiches and slices for morning tea. Your support and help is very much appreciated.

Many thanks for a wonderful Carol's night

A special thanks is extended to the musicians, singers and the MC who made the carols night so special and so much fun. The gift of your time and talent brought much joy to those who attended. A big shout out to Santa too for stopping in with a little gift for all the younger members of the audience.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal -

Please ensure any donations are received by the 14th December. Thank you for your generosity.



Christmas Celebration Dates and Times

Communal Reconciliation

Monday, 15th December at 6pm at OLOL Church

Christmas Masses

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

Thursday 25th December: 8am at OLOL Church

Christmas Mass Availability

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

- Monday, 15th Dec:** Communal Reconciliation 6pm OLOL
- Wednesday, 24th Dec:** 6pm Vigil at Salo Centre
- Thursday, 25th Dec:** 8am Mass at OLOL Church

Christmas Transport

If you need transport or can 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 for the **Christmas Vigil Mass in the church at 5pm on Saturday 13th December** and again at **9am on Saturday 20th December**.

Christmas Mass Setup

The Setup for the Christmas Vigil Mass will be held on Saturday 20th December from 8am at the Salo Centre, Rome Street. Please come along and lend a hand for an hour or so.

Date	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
13 th Dec at 6.30pm	G Schoorl M Cushway	J Johnston	R O'Brien C Ferguson	Ward Family	H. P Hoopert W. M Cushway W. R Johnston	J Ferguson	K Ward
14 th Dec at 9.45am	C Poulton J Burke	M Ondrus	B Trenerry M Conrick	R Fallon K Langdale	H. J Bonell W. C Watson W. A Cournane	T Ryan	C Redinger

Needed - Angels and Shepherds



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

Please come and join us for a truly wonderful Christmas Eve Mass
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Held at St Ursula's College Salo Centre, Rome St Tmba at 6pm

All primary, prep and kindy children are invited to come dressed as:
an angel (white dress, wings, halo) or
a shepherd (old towel/sheet tied at waist, tea towel head dress, toy sheep/lamb.
During the Gospel Reading the angels and shepherds will come up the aisle to the
front of the stage around the Manger for Baby Jesus. There will be a Senior Angel
and Shepherd who the children can follow up the aisle or parents
can accompany their children.

24 DECEMBER

Seeking Volunteers

1) Communion to BUPA Glenvale

We are seeking additional volunteers to distribute Communion to residents at BUPA Glenvale. For those who are ill, in hospitals or nursing homes, the reception of communion is not only a privilege but also a sign of the support and concern of their parish community. If you can commit an hour of your time once every couple of months, please contact the Parish Office on 4634 1453. All the material you need to Minister to the residents will be provided.

2) Hedge Trimming

Well-kept church grounds reflect the care and respect the community has for its space and leaves a positive impression on visitors. The two hedges in the church grounds often need trimming in between working bees. If you are a more practical person and have an hour or two to spare occasionally or would like to be part of a roster, we'd love you to hear from you. Please phone the Parish Office on 4634 1453.

Christmas Movies to enjoy

A Little Womens' Christmas – Toowoomba Strand. There's romance, warmth, and a community that reminds Joy, and us, that love, faith and family are still the things that carry us through. Watch trailer [here](#)

David – Coming to Event Cinemas 18th Dec. A faith-filled animated musical epic. Facing giants like Goliath with unyielding courage and unwavering trust in God, David exemplifies humility, moral fortitude, and divine leadership—core values that resonate deeply with the Christmas message of hope and redemption. Watch trailer [here](#)

ENEWS UPDATE

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

CAROLS ON THE BALONNE

Date: 9/12/25 Tuesday

Time: 6:00pm BBQ, 6:30pm Carols

Where: St George Ampitheatre, St Storge

The Combined Churches of St George present "The Carols on the Balonne". All are welcome to join for BBQ and carols.

ICYMI - DIOCESAN SYNOD 2026

Bishop Ken Howell convoked a Diocesan Synod on the Feast of Christ the King at 9:00am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba. [Watch the announcement video](#) and [read more about it here](#).

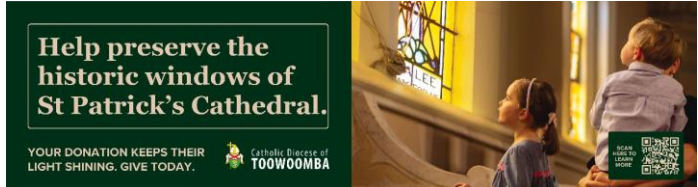
CARITAS: BE A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased, and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. [Donate today](#).

[Newsletter notice](#)

RESTORATION OF ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL WINDOWS

This Christmas, please consider supporting the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral's historic windows. Your generosity will help keep this treasure shining for generations to come. Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible and can be made at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/cathedral/>



Help preserve the historic windows of St Patrick's Cathedral.

YOUR DONATION KEEPS THEIR LIGHT SHINING. GIVE TODAY.

Catholic Diocese of TOOWOOMBA

Second Sunday of Advent

The season of Advent is not just about waiting. It is about actively becoming more like Christ Jesus. This sacred time calls us to slow down, become more aware, and open our hearts, making space for God. It is a season of attention where we are called to listen more deeply and live more intentionally. Today's readings urge us to reflect honestly: What paths in our hearts need to be made straight to truly prepare for the coming of the Lord? Here, we hear the voice of John the Baptist bursting through. It's a voice that cannot be ignored. "Repent," he cries, with urgency and love. John's call demands our attention, for it is a call to change. And change begins with turning our hearts. Turning from whatever hinders love, turning toward the one who gives life. So, this Advent, let us ask the harder questions. Let us prepare not only our homes, but our hearts. Let us become people of welcome, humility, repentance, and courage. Let us make room for Jesus, especially in the wilderness places of our own souls. Let us wait with intention, walk in hope, and turn toward the Light already breaking through.

(Adapted from *In Holy Stillness Daily Reflections for Advent* Archdiocesan Ministries) formation@bne.catholic.net.au

