



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 September 2025 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading

Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. (R.)

2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. (R.)

3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our

days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Phim 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'



Next Week's Readings (13th/14th Sep 2025) – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Year C

1st Reading: Numbers 21:4-9 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel: John 3:13-17

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/>

HISTORICAL context

Radical poverty

The earliest Christian communities were characterized by a redistribution of all wealth and possessions to ensure that the needs of every single member were met. This was the first interpretation of Jesus' teaching to give up possessions to embrace discipleship. Modern religious life, grounded in the monastic traditions of the Middle Ages, embraces a radical poverty in order to free religious from societal notions of status and power so that they might more freely and openly serve others. Lack of possessions and wealth brings a humility and openness that is almost impossible when playing the game of 'keeping up with the Joneses'.

Sunday Reflection...

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The wisdom tradition from which the first reading is taken is rooted in the fact that life is a series of choices. The epistle and the gospel reading provide us with examples of the way Christians should choose. Finally, the psalm's description of the fleeting nature of life sets the context and tone of our decision-making.

Discipleship demands that, in the face of all the choices available to us, we keep our priorities straight. In the gospel, Jesus insists that we must be single minded. We must cling to the one thing necessary, and that one thing is authentic discipleship. In choosing Jesus, we choose other things as well. We choose new relationships with the very people to whom we have already been committed. Those who were slaves, or lower class, or employees, or providers of service are now regarded as sisters and brothers in Christ. In choosing Jesus, we also choose the cross. We choose to live in a way that calls us to travel the high road: to forgive offences committed against us; to live simply so that others can simply live; to take responsibility for the moral character of society.

The fleeting nature of life as characterised in the psalm forces us to look at the meaning of life. When the day dawns for us to return to dust, what will we have gained from life? The realisation of our finiteness and the transitory nature of life should help us to set our priorities right and should give us the courage to remain faithful to them.

Scriptural context

Honor and Shame

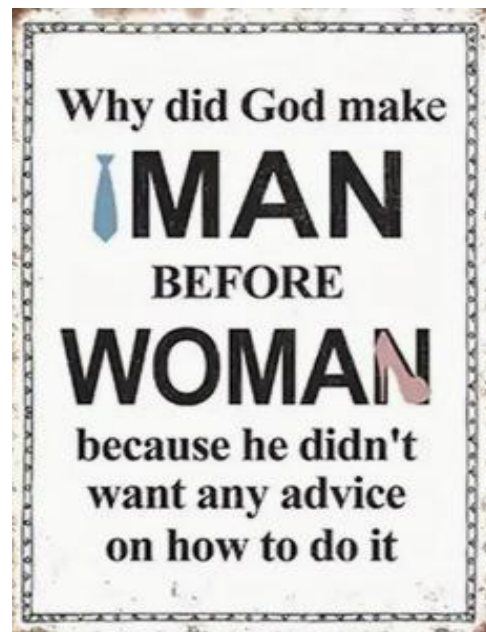
The first example of counting the cost that Jesus relates is about a man building a house without the means to complete it suffering the fate of his neighbors making fun of him. Whilst the thought of neighbors laughing at our mistake may not be too serious to us, it was a devastating thought in the 1st Century. A social code of honor and shame dominated the world view at the time. To be shamed by your actions or by the actions of others was humiliating and lowered social status. Jesus frequently used the honor-shame code to make his point and challenge social expectations.

Living the gospel

Give up my possessions?

We live in an era of extraordinary wealth in some countries contrasted against extraordinary poverty and need in other countries. Accumulation of possessions has become a driving force in our society. Flat screen televisions, iPods, multiple computers, games consoles, portable DVD players, multifunction cell phones are all 'must-have' items. The thought of surrendering such items may be almost impossible to consider. However, Jesus' message about being a disciple calls to us. How can some people in the world surround themselves with such luxuries while others don't have enough to eat? Does the love of 'possessions' blind us to the needs of others?

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Jenny Fallon, Neil Harrigan, Margie Cruz, Margaret Kynoch

Anniversaries: (5th – 11th Sep) Pat O'Mara, Raymond Stein, Ellen Kearney, Philomena Sleba, Eroni Vakaci, Barry Kirwin, Douglas Liebke, Russell Kirwin, Rosalie Newmann, David Fraser, Clem Walsh, Teresa Maud Dwyer, Zoe Axtell, Jeremiah Lalor, Thomas Julian MacGinley, Lena Coelho, Rev Fr Myles Patrick Smith, Most Rev William Brennan DD

Those Who Are Sick: Robyn Fallon, Margaret Kynoch, 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, Patrick Wright

September Birthdays: Kathy Dangerfield, Sandra Sullivan, Helen Kepfer, Val Bowe, Jo Michel, Kathy Langdale, Max Jones, Scotty, Jenny Ferguson, Chris Golightly, Dave Morrow, Clyde Hudson, Denise Short, Brian Thomson

Parish News...

Sat 6/9	o 6.30pm Mass (Retired Priests/Fathers' Day)
Sun 7/9	o 9.45am Mass (Retired Priests/Fathers' Day)
Mon 8/9	o Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary o 3.30pm Reconciliation Practice
Tue 9/9	o 10am Liturgy of the Word o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room o Glenvale Villas Visitation o 7pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wed 10/9	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o
Thu 11/9	o 10am Mass o 10.30 am Craft Group in the Quiet Room o 2pm SVDP Meeting in the Quiet Room
Fri 12/9	

Date Claimers:

9th September – Sacrament of Reconciliation 7pm

13th/14th September – Safeguarding Sunday

Share your Peace With Creation

This year's theme for the Season of Creation is *Peace With Creation*. The Liturgy Group invites all parishioners to share photos of creation where you experience peace. It could be your garden, another place, a thing, a sound, an event. The photos will be put together for a video display at the end of the Season of Creation. We look forward to your support.

PEACE WITH CREATION



Potted Colour for Spring

We would love to fill the church with colourful flowers to help celebrate the Season of Creation and Carnival of Flowers during September. If you have any potted colour that you could lend, please drop them off to the foyer of the church by Friday, 5th September. They will be available to be picked up again at the end of the month. Thanks in advance!



Quiet Room

Winter coughs can be relentless and, for all sorts of reasons, babies and children can be quite fussy, restless and noisy. The Quiet Room is a safe, quiet space which provides privacy and the opportunity to manage challenging moments while preventing noise and restlessness from disrupting the congregation. The large window and audio system help to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can participate in the Mass comfortably. Please consider using the Quiet Room if needed.



Order Now for Next Year's Publications

If you would like to order any of the following publications for next year, please indicate your interest on the sheets at the back of the church.

- God's Word 2026 Daily Reflection Books
- Daily Mass Book 2026
- Ordo 2026

Little Books for Advent and Lent

If you would like to order a Little Book for Advent 2025 or Lent 2026, please advise the office before next Thursday, 11th September as orders need to be placed for both seasons at once. Cost of books is approximately \$4 each.

Special Congratulations

Congratulations to Vic & Margaret White who celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday 3rd September. Wishing you both every blessing on this very special occasion and for the years ahead.



Turn Debt into Hope Petition

A hard copy of Caritas Australia's Turn Debt into Hope petition can be found on the table at the church entrance. For more information or to sign online, click [here](#).

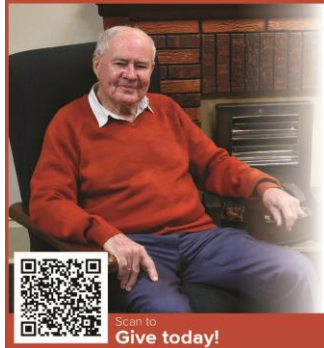
Do you speak another language?

The Liturgy Group is looking for people who speak a language other than English to read the Welcome and/or Prayers of the Faithful for Refugee & Migrant Sunday on the weekend of 27th/28th September. If you're interested, please phone the Parish Office on 4634 1453.

Date	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
13 th Sep at 6.30pm		D & N Clark	P Kelly	B Witham L Borger	M & J Wells	H. M McLean W. J Johnston W. J Sullivan	Regan Family	D Clark
14 th Sep at 9.45am		A Suhr	J Anderson	J Axtell B Trenerry	Blumke Family	H. J Coman W. G Birch W. C Watson	T Ryan	M Webb

Support Our Retired Priests This Father's Day

Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving our communities with faith and compassion. In retirement, they continue to live simply and prayerfully, supported by the Priests' Retirement Foundation. Your tax-deductible gift helps provide essential care, accommodation, healthcare, and daily support, ensuring they are looked after with dignity. Every donation makes a difference. Please consider giving today: www.twb.catholic.org.au/donate



Honouring a Lifetime of Service: Support Our Retired Priests

Father Hal Ranger has spent nearly 70 years walking in the footsteps of Christ, from parish life to army chaplaincy, from the streets of South Melbourne to the heart of Toowoomba. Now approaching 90, he continues to live simply and faithfully, supported by the Priests' Retirement Foundation.

Please consider a gift to help provide accommodation, healthcare, and daily support for Fr Hal and other retired priests.



www.twb.catholic.org.au/donate

Weekday Mass and Confession Times

(at Our Lady of Lourdes church until the end of Dec 2025)

Tues: Confession 6:00 – 6.55am
Mass 7:00am**

Thurs: Mass 5.30pm
Adoration, with Benediction from 6:00 – 7:00pm
(Confession available)

**No Mass or Confession Sept 23rd, Dec 2nd or Dec 16th

NOTE: These Mass and Confession times will not continue after the Mass on Tuesday, December 23rd.

Prayer for the Season of Creation

Written by Michael McGirr



God of all life,
We thank you for the gift of creation,
For the water that keeps us alive,
For our food and shelter,
All of which come from the generosity of Earth.

We thank you for the very air we breathe
Which we share with every creature.

May we take good care of Earth
As our common home takes care of us.

May we work for justice for those
Most hurt by damage to our environment.

May we enjoy the beauty of nature
And pray that it be treated with deeper respect.

Jesus asked us to learn from the lilies of the field
And the birds of the air.

We ask this in his name
Amen.

Season of Creation '25 Star Contemplations

Journey with Jesuit & Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA) through five weekly Star Contemplations — reflections inspired by the mystery and majesty of the night sky. Each week, you will receive a complimentary guided video contemplation featuring a star-filled image, created by Michael Hansen SJ. These contemplations are invitations to listen deeply — to what stirs in your heart, and to what God might be revealing through the beauty of creation. Register [here](#) to receive them in your inbox each Thursday. Week 1 contemplation available [here](#).



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

JUBILEE OF CONSOLATION/ BEREAVEMENT MASS

Date: 15/9/25 Monday **Time:** 9:00am

Where: St Thomas More's Church, Ramsay St Tmba
Monday 15/9/25 is the Jubilee of Consolation, part of Jubilee of Hope 2025. St Thomas More Parish Toowoomba will celebrate this Jubilee with a special Mass for the families and friends of the recently deceased. Those recently deceased will also be included in prayer. Mass will be followed by a morning tea provided by STM Care & Consolation members. All are welcome to attend.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASTORAL LETTER "ON IMMIGRATION"

Immigration continues to be a topic of much discussion in Australia. In 1950, Catholic bishops issued *On Immigration*, a landmark pastoral letter urging the community to offer generosity to those seeking to make Australia their new home in the post-war era. Seventy-five years on from the letter, Australia's Catholic bishops are issuing the statement *Under the Southern Cross: A Journey of Faith and Unity*. The bishops are seeking to remind Australians of, to quote the statement, the "timeless call to hospitality and generosity". [The statement can be found here](#)

WORKSHOP: FIND OUR VOICE, HOLD YOUR GROUND

Date: 23/10/25 Thursday

Time: 9:30am-2:30pm

Where: Burke and Wills Hotel Tmba

Cost: \$50.00 (See below)

Do you need some advocacy fundamentals to be able to better advocate for your family member, or for yourself as a person with disability? Community Resource Unit (CRU) will be presenting our workshop [Find Your Voice, Hold Your Ground](#) which is an introduction to the principles & strategies of advocacy for people with disability and family members. There is a cost to attend, but if this is a barrier to you, please contact us at CRU to discuss.

For more information and to register, go to [Humanitix](#)

CARITAS: SEASON OF CREATION

As we enter the Season of Creation, we are invited to reflect deeply on this year's theme, *Peace with Creation* - a world marked by ecological crisis and growing inequality, this season calls us to renew our relationship with the Earth and with one another.

The theme, *Peace with Creation* aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. Together, these movements urge action to end the injustice of climate and economic crises, redirecting resources from wealthy lenders to vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal.

Relay of Hope - join the global Relay of Hope by co-ordinating parishioners to light a candle in unity and solidarity for debt and economic justice. You can download a Relay of Hope Guide to assist you - [Turn Debt into Hope - Relay of Hope Guide](#)

Turn Debt into Hope (TDIH) Petition - Season of Creation is a great opportunity to re-engage your parish in reflecting on the impact that climate debt is having on the most vulnerable communities and invite them to sign the *Turn Debt Into Hope* petition.

[Week 1 contemplation available here](#) (hard copy)

[Turn Debt into Hope Petition | Act Now | Caritas Australia](#)

Join our Parish Catholic Earthcare Community (Free) – We have over 100 parishes around Australia working to care for our common home. You'll receive resources, tools, invitations to events and support. For more information or to register please go here: [Catholic Earthcare](#)