



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 | Retired Priest - Fr John Quinlan

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 Mass - 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, 11th May 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter – Year C

First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.' It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 29:2, 4-6, 11-13. R. v.2](#)

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

[Revelation 7:9,14-17](#)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

Gospel Acclamation

[John 10:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 10:27-30](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

Revelation 7:17



Next Week's Readings (17th/18th May 2025) – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year C
1st Reading: [Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27](#) 2nd Reading: [Revelation 21:1-5](#) Gospel: [John 13:31-35](#)

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 - 9.45am 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 9:45am 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 at 10am every Tuesday in the Quiet Room.

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 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 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/>

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

The Father and I are one

The final sentence of today's passage has Jesus declaring, "The Father and I are one." It seems a fitting way to finish the gospel reading for liturgical use in the Easter season. However, the passage in John's gospel continues on. Immediately upon hearing these words, the listening crowd grab rocks and are about to stone Jesus to death! They were horrified by his apparent blasphemy - claiming to be one with God. Such a bold declaration of oneness with the Father was no doubt used by the gospel writer to try to eradicate emerging questions about the divinity of Jesus.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. However, the readings for today focus more on the flock than on the shepherd. The overarching theme appears to be unity in diversity. Placing this theme within the context of the Easter season, we might refocus it slightly and suggest that today we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in communities of difference.

Unity in diversity is first found in the divine union of the Trinity. All other models of unity flow from it. Both the first and the second readings depict communities made up of people from every nation, race, people and tongue, Jews and Gentile alike. This is precisely the makeup of most communities today. Parishes and religious groups that were born with a particular cultural identity have changed in complexion and composition. Despite the obvious differences, all are children of the one God, all are joined in their common confession of faith.

Not everyone is happy with diversity. Some within the early community resented the success of Paul and Barnabas and they tried to turn the people against them. This sounds strangely familiar to us. Religious groups born out of struggle and hard work, that were lovingly nurtured and that grew strong, often resist what they perceived to be the invasion of foreigners. If these people could only take as their model the company of the blessed revealed in John's vision, they would see that those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb come from every nation and race and people and tongue.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Do you love me?

Three times Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" and three times Peter answers, "You know I do." Some writers suggest that the three-fold question by Jesus and the three-fold reply by Peter is intended to balance out the triple denial of Jesus by Peter at the time of the arrest and trial of Jesus. Where once Peter denied even knowing Jesus, he now declares his love for Jesus in no uncertain terms. It is a reminder to all of us that there is no act that we can perform that cannot be forgiven by God and from which we cannot come back.



Have you thought? Eternal life

In the gospel passage, Jesus says of the sheep that belong to him, "I give them eternal life." He does not say, I give them the promise of eternal life. The message that comes through the gospel of John is clear that eternal life is not some future existence, but rather a new way of being in the here and now. But that is not to suggest that there is not an 'eternal' quality to eternal life. The gospel of John makes clear that eternal life begins in the here and now but has no end.

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths Robie Jayawardhana (Bernadette Witham's husband), Mary Wagner, June Graham

Anniversaries (9th – 15th May): Patrick Boland, Delma Wells, Kevin Uprichard, Mary Elmes, Mary Quinlan, Leila Hanchard, Win McDonnell, John McDonnell, Michael O'Brien, Brother Julian Sheehy, Jeannette Casey, Rev Msgr Patrick McMorrow, Rev Fr Thomas Isaac, Rev Fr Garrett Murphy, Rev Fr Michael Herbert

Those Who Are Sick: 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

May Birthdays:, John Trueman, Libby Ferguson, Bernie Dever, Abigail School, Janice Moore, Brian Reardon, Marie Logan, Emily Dwan, Mark Whitelegg, Charlie School, MaryKate Thomson

Parish News...

Sat 10/5	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 11/5	o 9.45am Mass
Mon 12/5	o 6.30pm Parish Pastoral Council meeting in the Presbytery meeting room
Tue 13/5	o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room o 7pm Sacrament of Confirmation
Wed 14/5	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED in the Church
Thu 15/5	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft & Friendship in the Quiet Room
Fri 16/5	

Working Bee – This Saturday

Please come along this Saturday 10th May, 8.30am – 10.30am for a Gardening/Maintenance Working Bee for the Church and Parish grounds. Work will be followed by M/Tea.

All welcome to come lend a hand:

Prune/tidy gardens, Spray/pull weeds.

BYO wheelbarrow, shovels, gloves, Secateurs



Sacramental Program Candidates

Next Tuesday, 13th May, our 32 Sacramental Candidates will be Confirmed by Bishop Ken Howell. This follows with their First Communion Celebration held on Sunday the 18th May at 11.30am. We pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten their hearts and strengthen their faith and bless them on their journey.

Funeral Notices

The Funeral Mass for **Robie Jayawardhana** will be celebrated on May 20th at 10am at Little Flower Church, Kedron, Brisbane. Rosary and open casket from 9.15am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation

The Funeral Mass for **Mary Wagner** will be celebrated on May 14th at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral in Toowoomba.

Beatitudes for Women

Blessed is the woman of faith and hope,
She will be a sign of the presence of God among us.
Blessed is the woman of relationships,
She will be a bond of unity and a sign of the fullness of God.
Blessed is the woman who welcomes,
She will be kindness, the sign of the love of the Lord.
Blessed is the woman of the Word,
She will be a Word of God for others.
Blessed is the woman of discernment,
The wisdom of God will be her riches.
Blessed is the woman of peace and reconciliation,
The strength and joy of the Lord will be hers.
Blessed is the woman who journeys towards the fullness of Christ,
She will live in the freedom and light of the Lord.
Blessed is the woman of prayer,
She will live in communion with God and her brothers and sisters. Amen

Happy Mother's Day



"For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation."

Psalm 139 (138):13-14

We would like to acknowledge all the wonderful Mothers, Grandmothers and Mother-like figures in our parish. We hope you all enjoy a very Happy Mother's Day.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
17th May at 6.30pm	E & L Ward	Hoopert Family	L Borger	J Kelly	Kelly Family	H. L Walsh W. R O'Brien W. M Cushway	Regan Family	J Sullivan
18th May at 9.45am	J Poulton J Dias	A Suhr P Town	P Murphy	M Ondrus C Watson	Coonan Family	H. R Fallon W. B Denny W. A Cournane	Dias Family	P Town

CRAFT GROUP

Bring your favourite project along and join the Craft Group each Thursday morning following the 10am Mass. If you're not a crafter, you're still very welcome for a cuppa and a chat. The team warmly welcomes new members any time.



Parish Pastoral Council Elections Update

This year we had three parishioners accept their nomination to Parish Pastoral Council so there is no need for an election. We thank Jeni Bonell and Jess Ramos most sincerely for generously accepting their nominations and for their preparedness to serve the parish community and Jo Johnston for accepting a second term. We also acknowledge and thank Bernadette Witham and Ray Johnston for their contribution to the Parish Pastoral Council over the last three years.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. During this week, we pray for all vocations.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father,
You created me with a specific purpose for my life;
this is my vocation.
Please help me to hear, understand, and follow Your call
with my whole heart,
especially when it seems most difficult.
We ask that You inspire people whom You call to the
priesthood and consecrated life
to courageously follow Your will.
Send workers into Your great harvest
so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love,
the suffering are comforted,
and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

ENews UPDATE

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

GUIDED WOMEN'S RETREAT BY BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESAN MINISTRIES

Date: 1-3/8/25 Friday to Sunday Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston

Cost: [See booking site for details](#)

Join us at the scenic and peaceful Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre for our annual Women's Retreat. This weekend is an opportunity to come away from the busyness of life, to take time to be in the presence of God and be revitalised in your faith. There will be opportunities for personal prayer, group discussion, input and fellowship. [Book tickets here.](#)

ROSIES TOOWOOMBA NEEDS A NEW BARBIE!

Given the rising cost of living more people are turning to Rosies for food assistance alongside a cuppa and a chat. In order to meet the needs of the community the Toowoomba Team have transitioned to provide more food offerings. [To find out more and give, visit the Grill4Good page.](#)

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE FOR POPE FRANCIS

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is making available an email address condolencebook@catholic.org.au for anyone wishing to write messages of condolence following the death of Pope Francis. This might be useful to help Catholics express their grief. The ACBC will find an appropriate and respectful way of passing them on to the Nuncio.

REMINDER: UPCOMING EVENTS

SYCHAR HOUSE OF PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY: [Please view the website](#) for current happenings.

MAY IS DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH: Find resources for [Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month here.](#)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS EVENT: 11/5/25, 8:30am-4:00pm @ Holy Spirit Seminary Banyo. Contact Deacon BJ Perrett on 0499 102 073 or bjperrett@twb.catholic.org.au

FEAST FOR FREEDOM FUNDRAISER: 17/5/25, St Anthony's Community Centre. Enquiries to St Anthony's Parish Office 4636 1737.

ST THERESA'S PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT: 23/5/25 From 5:30pm, St Theresa's Parish Centre Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts Tmba. [See flyer for details.](#)

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL: 30/11-2/12/25, Melbourne. [Register your interest to find out more here.](#)

Prayer for the Election of A New Pope

God Our Father, You who guide your Church with Your fatherly care and watch over her with Your great love.

We ask You to pour out upon the Cardinals gathered in Rome the spirit of wisdom, discernment, and peace.

Enlighten their hearts with the light of the Holy Spirit that they may understand Your will and act for the good of the universal Church.

Unite them in love, that they may choose the Pope whom You desire for Your Church at this time.

May the successor of St. Peter continue the mission of the Good Shepherd, which Your Son Jesus Christ entrusted to the head of the Apostles. May He preserve the unity of faith and the ecclesial communion.

We lift up our prayers to You through the intercession of Our Mother Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and all the Saints who faithfully served Your Holy Church.

We pray to You, O Lord. Amen.

