

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 Giabal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 14th December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Isaiah 35:1-6, 10](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4](#)

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The

Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

[James 5:7-10](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[Isaiah 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

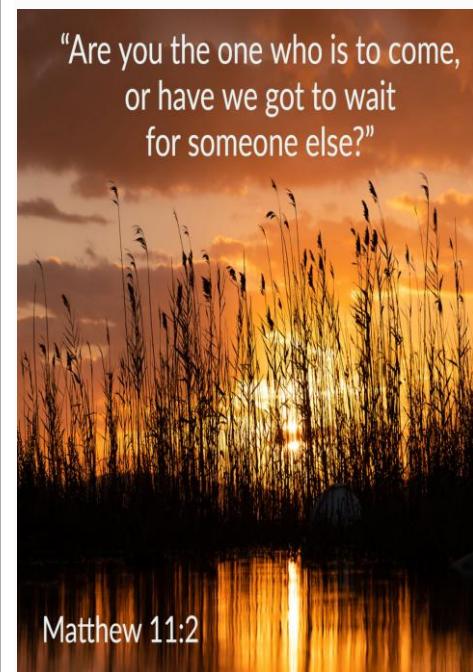
[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf

hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Matthew 11:2

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](https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-policy-resources/) can be found at

<https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-policy-resources/>

Historical Context

Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

Sunday Reflection...

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Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

Scriptural Context

John the Baptist

Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

Living the gospel

Gaudete!

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means Rejoice! The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near. When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

Thought of the week...

A man and a woman were traveling on a bus.

Woman: Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place.

Man: Awwww! Are you single?
Woman: No, I'm a dentist.

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Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (12th Dec – 18th Dec) Kathleen Rafter, Terry Kajewski, Margaret Jacklin, Rhonda Brosnan, Rev Fr James Wiemers

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...

13 th Dec	○ 6.30pm Mass
14 th Dec	○ 9.45am Mass
15 th Dec	○ 10am BUPA Visitation ○ 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
16 th Dec	○ 6am – 6.55am Reconciliation ○ 7am Mass ○ 10am Liturgy of the Word
17 th Dec	○ 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery
18 th Dec	○ 10am Mass ○ 5.30pm Mass ○ 6pm – 7pm Adoration with Benediction
19 th Dec	

Date Claimers:

- 24th Dec – 6pm Mass at Salo Centre
- 25th Dec – 8am Mass at OLOL Church

2025 Annual Christmas Collection

The annual Christmas Collection will be shared between the OLOL St Vincent de Paul Conference for back-to-school support and the missionaries of St Francis de Sales' Parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Rioverde, Ecuador where many are suffering from extreme poverty. Your generous support will ensure that these communities, despite their many setbacks, can face the future with hope and resilience.

Birthday wishes

We wish Peter Castles a very special 70th birthday on Tuesday 16th December. May the years ahead be filled with much joy and peace.

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1st Rite of Reconciliation before Christmas

The First Rite of Reconciliation will be offered at the following times:

6am Tues, 16th Dec & Tues 23rd Dec at OLOL.

4pm Sat 13th Dec at St Anthony's

3.30pm Sat 20th Dec at St Anthony's.

Groups taking a break

The Anam Cara group is taking a break and will not be meeting on December 24th or December 31st. The group will resume again on the 7th January.

The Craft group will finish on Thursday 11th December and resume again on Thursday 22nd January.

New members are always welcome.

Prayer Group is taking a break and will return in the New Year. Date to be advised.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy has now finished for the year and will return on Sunday 1st February after school has recommenced next year. We thank the Leaders and Assistants for their ongoing support of this very important parish ministry.

Mass times during Clergy Retreat

Clergy Retreat will be held from Sunday 4th January through to Friday 9th January. Masses will be held at the following times:

Our Lady of Lourdes

Sunday 4th 9.45am

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monday 5th 5.30pm

Tuesday 6th 9.00am

Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th at 7.00am

Reconciliation – OLOL Church

Time	Welcomers	Commentator	Minister of the Word	Examination Of Conscience	Ipad Operator
Mon 15 th Dec 6pm	G & J Ferguson	L Walsh	R O'Brien	J Bonell	M Cushway

*Christmas Rosters will be published in next week's bulletin.

Date	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
20 th Dec at 6.30pm	D & N Clark	C Ferguson	J Johnston R Johnston	Hoopert Family	H. K Ward W. G Ferguson W. R Campbell	G Schoorl	M Cushway
21 st Dec at 9.45am	K Langdale A Suhr	P Murphy	M Ondrus A Cournane	Poulton Family	H. T Ryan W. R Fallon W. G Birch	J Cash	R Coonan



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.

• **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.

Third Sunday of Advent

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” How easy it is to miss God’s presence because we are watching in the wrong direction. This is why James exhorts us to patience and attentiveness. Patience is not passive. It is the deep trust of one who watches and believes in God’s slow work. It means staying awake even when the signs are small. God’s presence so often arrives quietly, in the background, in the ordinary. If we are not paying attention, we might miss it. Advent calls us to be watchful, not just of Christ’s coming at Christmas but of the ways God is arriving in our lives each day. We must stay awake to the reality that God is already at work, not only in grand gestures but also in the kindness of strangers, the resilience of those who suffer, and the simple beauty of creation. As Pope Francis reminds us, “Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life; he is always there – he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life” (Angelus, November 27, 2022). When we, like John, wonder, “Are you really the one?” Jesus invites us to look again, to listen, to notice. The signs of his presence are all around us. We only need to stay awake.

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



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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

The Christmas Mass Times directory is now live on the Diocese's website. Visit www.twb.catholic.org.au/christmas-timetable/ to find Mass times and seasonal office closures. The page is being updated all the time with new information.

PRIESTS' RETREAT - MASS AVAILABILITY

Each January, our clergy take well-deserved time to rest and renew on retreat. During this time, there will be disruptions to the regular Mass timetable.

During the 2026 Clergy Retreat, 4-9/1/26, the [normal Mass schedule](#) will be followed at St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba. All are welcome to St Patrick's. For other locations in the diocese, please contact your local parish.

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](#).

2025 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Each year, part of our Christmas Collection goes towards a special need, often beyond our shores. This year, the Diocesan Council of Priests have decided to support The Missionaries of St Francis de Sales' Parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Rioverde, Ecuador, where many are suffering from extreme poverty. This area serves over 35,000 people across 45 rural villages in the Esmeraldas Province. Your generous support will ensure that this community, despite its many setbacks, can face the future with hope and resilience.

Calling all Angels and Shepherds



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.

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DECEMBER