



# Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453

Email: [ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Year C

### First Reading

[Numbers 21:4-9](#)

A reading from the book of Numbers

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 77:1-2, 34-38, R. v.7](#)

*(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!*

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. *(R.)*

2. When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. *(R.)*

3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. *(R.)*

4. Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. *(R.)*

### Second Reading

[Philippians 2:6-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philippians

*He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.*

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia!

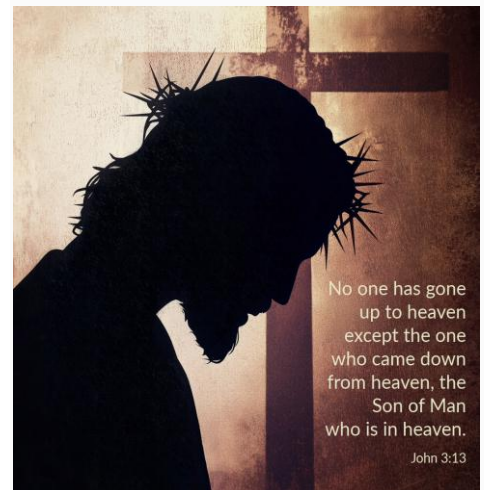
### Gospel

[John 3:13-17](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'



No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

John 3:13

Next Week's Readings (20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Sep 2025) – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

1st Reading: [Amos 8:4-7](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Timothy 2:1-8](#) Gospel: [Luke 16:1-13](#)

## 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/>

### Scriptural context

#### Lifted up

The gospel of John, written later than the other three canonical gospels, reflects a very different understanding of the cross. In this gospel writer's imagery, the cross is the means by which Jesus is 'raised up'. This theology flows through the entire gospel and in today's excerpt, from very early in the gospel, we see the language of the Son of Man being "lifted up". Furthermore, it is through the raising up of Jesus that all people are also raised up. It is through the Son, sent by the Father, that all people may enter into eternal life.

### Sunday Reflection...

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Today we concentrate on the power of the cross in our lives. It is the ultimate demonstration of the nature of God. Christ gave of himself even to death on the cross. This is characteristic, not only of the man Jesus, but of the Godhead. Creation is the first example of divine emptying; redemption is the ultimate example. Unlike Good Friday when we stand before the stark cross and mourn the death of our innocent messiah, today we stand before the glorious cross and praise God for God's incomprehensible goodness toward us. God's graciousness is poured out indiscriminately, prodigally as only profound love can be given. Such is the nature of our God, and the cross is the symbol of this nature.

Jesus compares the pole in the wilderness on which was fixed the serpent to the cross which becomes the source of our healing. It was through the cross that Jesus conquered sin and death and won for us access to God. It is through the cross that we die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. As painful as life's crosses may be, they serve to transform us. It can be our hope in the midst of pain and suffering and brokenness, because it promises to carry us into new life.

Through the goodness of God, which has been poured out for us, we have been granted eternal life. It is incomprehensible to think that death is the way to life, but that is the message of this feast. The cross, which is a sign of shame and misery, is now a symbol of glory and exaltation.



### Have you thought?

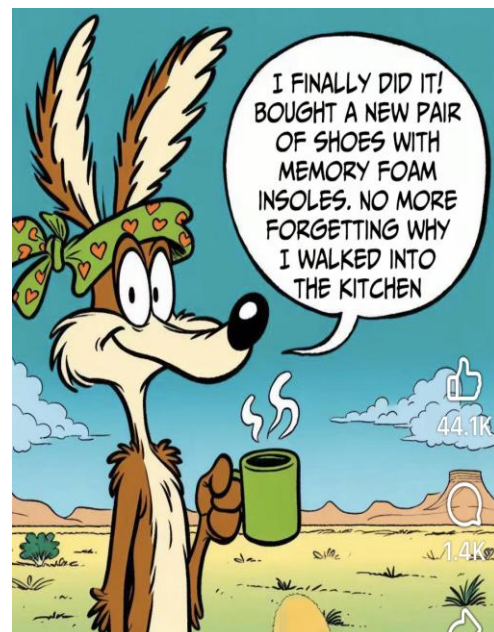
#### Cross or crucifix?

A friend witnessed a scene in a jewellery store where a customer was looking at a cross on a necklace when the young sales girl suggested, "We also have these ones with the little man on them." Whilst Catholics tend to display and wear a crucifix (a cross with the corpus, or body of Christ upon it), other Christians tend to use an empty cross. One theological understanding suggests that the empty cross signifies that the salvation won by Christ through his sacrifice was achieved once and for all with his resurrection whilst the crucifix signifies that the salvific work of Christ is an ongoing act.

### Historical context

The historical reality of the Romans' use of crucifixion as a form of annihilation means that today we have only a single archaeological example of remains of a crucified man from 1st Century CE, discovered in the 1980's. Examinations of the remains by Israeli scholars suggest that our common portrayals of the crucified Christ may not be historically accurate. Victims' arms were normally tied, not nailed, to the cross beam and feet were nailed on either side of the upright. Death was caused by asphyxiation. Eventually, the crucified person was unable to raise their upper body sufficiently to draw breath.

### Thought of the week...





## Please Pray For...

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

**Anniversaries: (12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sep)** John Reardon, Charles Peter Davis, Margaret MacGinley, Betty Tewes, Alex Upton, Johanna Wetherspoon, Alma Lewald, Dorothy Markham, Yva & Tom Bowe, James & Margaret Meara, Mary Sullivan, Jenny Young, Rev Fr Lino Valente, Rev Fr Francis Burke, Rev Fr Michael Skehan

**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 Kupfer, Val Bowe, Jo Michel, Kathy Langdale, Max Jones, Scotty, Jenny Ferguson, Anne McGrath, Chris Golightly, Dave Morrow, Clyde Hudson, Denise Short, Brian Thomson

## Parish News...

Sat 13/9	o 6.30pm Mass (Safeguarding Sunday)
Sun 14/9	o 9.45am Mass (Safeguarding Sunday)
Mon 15/9	o Bupa Visitation
Tue 16/9	o 6am – 6.55am Reconciliation o 7am Mass o 10am Liturgy of the Word o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room
Wed 17/9	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 18/9	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft Group in the Quiet Room o 5.30pm Mass o 6pm – 7pm Adoration with Benediction
Fri 19/9	

### Date Claimers:

- 27<sup>th</sup> September – The Feast of St Vincent de Paul
- 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September – Migrant and Refugee Sunday
- 12<sup>th</sup> October – Family Mass (No 6.30pm Mass)
- 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> October – World Mission Sunday

### Children's Liturgy

This weekend is the final Children's Liturgy for this term. Children's Liturgy will recommence after the school holidays on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Please note there is no Children's Liturgy on the 12<sup>th</sup> October due to the Family Mass.

### 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 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September. If you're interested, please phone the Parish Office on 4634 1453.

### Family Mass

Our Annual Family Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. More information to follow shortly.

## Safeguarding Sunday

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice. Sue Whitelegg, Ray Johnston and Jo Johnston are our Parish Safeguarding Representatives. The Parish Safeguarding Phone Number can be found on the noticeboard and in your bulletin each week.

### Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

You guard us, Lord God, beneath the shelter of your wings till the storms of destruction pass by (Psalm 57:1). The storms of abuse have struck and have not yet passed by. We see the damage done and we seek shelter in you. Beneath your wings we gather the survivors and their loved ones, all the victims, living and dead. We gather those who work to bring healing and to make the church a safe place for all. We gather all the faithful, The Body of Christ, bearing the wounds of the Cross. May the Church grow more like you, wings spread wide to provide for all, till the storms of destruction pass by and peace without end has come. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- Archbishop Mark Coleridge

### 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.

Date	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
20 <sup>th</sup> Sep at 6.30pm		P & J O'Sullivan	J Johnston	R Johnston M McLean	E & P Castles	H. W Hoopert W. S Kelly W. K Ober	Kelly Family	J Wells
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep at 9.45am		Poulton Family	K Langdale	C Anderson M Conrick	R Fallon	H. J Bonell W. A Cournane W. P Murphy	A Winder	

## Invitation to YCW Event

The YCW Movement was formed 100 years ago. To celebrate this event, a gathering has been arranged for Tuesday 16 September 2025 at Sunnybank Community Sports Club Café, 470 McCullough Street, Sunnybank at 10am. The event will include a short prayer service, followed by an opportunity to socialise and reminisce. Food and hot & cold drinks will be available for purchase. If you would like to join us for this event, please phone David Jefferies on 041144692 or email to [ycwreunion@gmail.com](mailto:ycwreunion@gmail.com) for catering purposes.

## Winter Shelter Wrap-up for 2025

Winter Shelter has finished for another year and the dedication across 10 church venues ensured that guests were provided with warmth, safety and comfort throughout their stay. This year, the Day Space was also expanded to operate 7 days per week. Some Important Numbers from this year:

**Number of guests = 29 (+ 2 dogs).**

- 728 bed nights!
- Average length of stay 25 nights
- 3 guests stayed for more than 10 weeks
- 24 guests transitioned into accommodation ranging from private rental and social housing to Hostel and Hotel accommodation!
- Total guests over the past 5 years = 149

**Number of active volunteers = 395**

- Volunteers came from 28 different churches and from the community
- 146 first time volunteers
- Over 8000 hours of service

Thank you to all who contributed in some way, from those who volunteered for shifts to those who provided baked goods, meals and donations.

**St Patrick's Cathedral Floral Display**  
**What brings us Hope?**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**September** **9.00am - 5.00pm**



ST PAT'S WELCOMES YOU TO COME ALONG AND EXPERIENCE

THE BEAUTIFUL DISPLAYS FROM OUR LOCAL

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS / COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

AND BUSINESSES



## 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. Click [here](#) for Contemplation Week 3.



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

## BATTLE OF MEEWAH COMMEMORATION

Date: 12/09/25 Friday

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Where: Tobruk Memorial Drive Park, Picnic Point Tmba

The Battle of Meewah was part of the Frontier Wars, the battle for land that took place across our vast continent. Led by Multuggerah, it is another instance of the great courage of First Nations Peoples as they fought to resist the settler invasion of their lands. [Please see flyer for further information.](#) Everybody is most welcome (Please bring a hat and water bottle)

## A CONVERSATION WITH CHRIS SIDOTI

Date: 25/9/25 Thursday

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

The world is witnessing harrowing events in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel – events that raise urgent questions of justice, human rights and accountability. Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform and Garratt Publishing present a conversation with Australian human rights lawyer Chris Sidoti, a member of the UN Human Rights Council's International Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem and Israel. [Find out more and register here.](#)

## THE PROMISE

Embark on a spiritual journey of hope this Advent and Christmas with *The Promise: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2025*, a beautifully presented 88-page book of daily reflections designed to guide you from the beginning of Advent (30 November 2025) through to the Baptism of the Lord (11 January 2026). Produced by the Diocese of Wollongong, books are available at bulk discount pricing. [To order or find out more, visit the DOW website.](#) If you have any questions or you would like to place a phone or email order, call (02) 4222 2411 or [orders@dow.org.au](mailto:orders@dow.org.au)

## CALLING GREEN THUMBS!

St Patrick's Cathedral is looking for greenery for the Carnival of Flowers Floral display running 19-23/9/25. Set up commences next week. If you can help, please contact Sue Bauer 0427 932 165 for details.

## ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL RESTORATION RAFFLE

Support Toowoomba Catholic Diocese and purchase tickets in the Raffle. Tickets are selling fast so don't miss out. Click [here](#) for more information or to purchase tickets. Prices start at \$10 per ticket.

## 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. They will be available to be picked up again at the end of the month.

Thanks in advance!

