



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, 30th November 2025 First Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in external peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. see v.1.](#)

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,

there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. (R.)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls,

in your palaces, peace!' (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends

I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading

[Romans 13:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.



Gospel Acclamation

[Psalms 84:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Matthew 24:37-44](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Next Week's Readings (6th/7th Dec) – Second Sunday of Advent - Year A
1st Reading: [Isaiah 11:1-10](#) 2nd Reading: [Romans 15:4-9](#) Gospel: [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

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/>

gospel focus

Get Ready!

Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart.

Historical context

The Advent Wreath

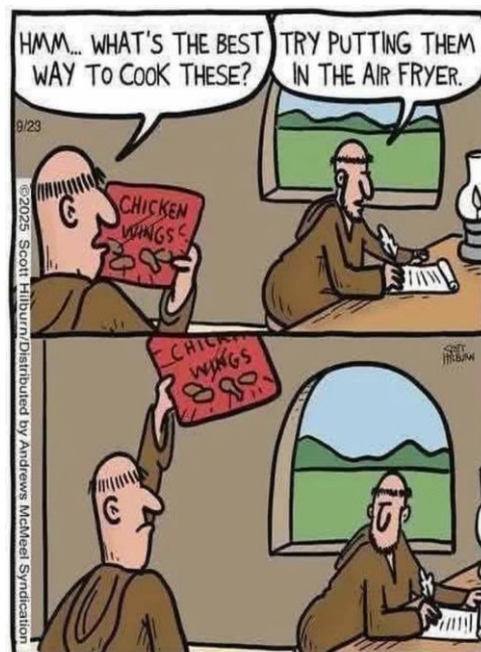
One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

Scriptural context

Burglars in the night

The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (28th Nov-4th Dec) Frank Brosnan, Gerard Hanssen, Joe Short, Bart Logan, Winifred (Win) Shultz, Theresa Burke, George Oliver,

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

November Birthdays: Helen Stein, Cristianne Dias, Joshua Newman, Ivy Ryan, Grace Ryan, Cathy Morris, Marg Roessler, Kev Roberts, Margaret McNab, Jenny McDonald, Frank Jones, Audrey Bentley, Fr Kerry Costigan

Parish News...

Sat 29/11	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 30/11	o 9.45am Mass & Children's Liturgy o 5.30pm Parish Carols
Mon 1/12	o 6.30pm Parish Council Meeting in the Quiet Room
Tue 2/12	o No 7am Mass or Reconciliation today o 10am Liturgy of the Word o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room
Wed 3/12	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 4/12	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Final Craft Group meeting for the year o 5.30pm Mass o 6pm - 7pm Adoration with Benediction
Fri 5/12	

Date Claimers:

- 7th Dec - 10.30am Baptism Preparation
- 8th Dec - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9th Dec - Glenvale Villas Visitation
- 15th Dec - 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Special Birthday Wishes

We would like to wish Carmel Ryan a Very Happy 96th Birthday for Tuesday, 9th December. Congratulations and may your year ahead be filled with all the peace and joy you deserve.

LOLO Christmas Tree

A Christmas Tree at the back of the church has been decorated with envelopes from various charities. You may like to donate to one of the charities either on your own behalf, or as a special Christmas token to a loved one in place of a present.



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

Information regarding Christmas Mass Setup at the Salo Centre and Christmas Choir practice times will be included in the bulletin in the coming weeks.

Christmas Masses

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.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

The OLOL St Vincent de Paul Conference is seeking donations for their Christmas Appeal. Your generous donations of non-perishable foods, non-alcoholic drinks, toiletries, toys and books can provide urgent relief for those in our community doing it tough this Christmas, brighten their Christmas and give them hope for a better future. Donations can be left in the plastic tubs in the Church foyer.



Date	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
6 th Dec at 6.30pm	Hoopert Family	G Ferguson	J Wilson B Witham	Kelly Family	H. W Hoopert W. C Golightly W. R O'Brien	Kelly Family	G Schoorl
7 th Dec at 9.45am	A Suhr A Cournane	K Langdale	J Bonell C Watson	Dias Family	H. D Young W. P Murphy W. S Rosentreter	K Kruger	M Webb

First Sunday of Advent

Today marks the beginning of the season of Advent. Scripture offers us a grace-filled summons: come, ascend, and keep awake. Advent is far more than a countdown to Christmas. It is a sacred season of preparation, hope, and waiting that gives direction and purpose to our lives. It is a time to pause, to reorient our hearts, and to walk with longing and readiness toward the one who is coming. It is also a season of watching and waiting with hope. Jesus, in Matthew's Gospel, reminds us to "Keep awake". Keeping awake is to live with our hearts open and our eyes attuned to the quiet ways that Christ is present in our lives every day. Let us begin this Advent journey by going up the mountain. Let this be our prayer: that we may be awake, with lamps lit, hearts prepared and lives ready to receive the Lord whenever and however he comes.

(Adapted from In Holy Stillness Daily Reflections for Advent Archdiocesan Ministries)

formation@bne.catholic.net.au

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

-Father Henri JM Nouwen



Seeking Volunteers

We are seeking some more 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.

ENEWS UPDATE

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE SYNOD FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

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 [here](#) and [read more about it here](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR ACYF ATTENDEES

This weekend a group of young people and the young at heart will be travelling from our Diocese to Melbourne to join some 6000 people for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (30/11-2/12/25). We pray for a safe journey and a fulfilling encounter with others and Christ. Please keep Bishop Ken Howell, Rachel Pingel (Youth Ministry Officer), Fr Bony Abraham (Warwick Parish) and our ACYF group in your prayers during this time

PRINT COPY: DILEXI TE (I HAVE LOVED YOU)

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more.

[Purchase a printed copy now from St Paul's Publication Australia for \\$12.95 now.](#)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING ON THE ABC

The ABC will broadcast the **Pope's Christmas Mass** from the Vatican on 25 December at 9:30am – 11:30am. It will also be available on iView for about a month after the Mass. There are also the following Christmas programs that might be of interest:

Sunday 21/12 @ 11:30am: **Songs Of Praise: Carols For Christmas Eve.**

Tuesday 23/12 @ 7:30pm **The Piano UK: at Christmas**

Thursday 25/12 @ 5:00pm **Royal Carols: Together at Christmas 2025**

Thursday 25/12 @ 7.30pm **The King's Christmas Message 2025**

Thursday 25/12 @ 7:40pm **The Royal Variety Performance 2025**

CHRISTMAS WITH CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia!

Your generosity helps provide humanitarian aid, clean water, education, and food security to vulnerable communities worldwide.

Asia Storm Appeal

Communities in the Philippines and Vietnam urgently need assistance after catastrophic storms.

👉 [Learn more or donate](#)

👉 [Read & share our media release](#)

Global Gifts Christmas Cards

Give sustainable gifts that change lives. Order by **5 December** for Christmas delivery.

👉 [Shop now](#)

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