



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, 18th January 2026 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading

[Isaiah 49:3, 5-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10, R. vv.8, 9.](#)

(R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 1:1-3](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 1:14, 12](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 1:29-34](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise

with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'



Next Week's Readings (24th/25th January 2026) – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
1st Reading: [Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17](#) Gospel: [Matthew 4:12-23](#)

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/>

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

Sunday Reflection...

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Ours is an historical religion. It not only unfolds within the joys and disappointments of time and place, but it is rooted in actual events that took place in the lives of real people. The Christ to whom we commit ourselves is not a mythic character, a figment of communal religious imagination. He is someone who was born into history, at a specific period of time, in a particular place. He was known by real people like John the Baptist; he submitted himself to historical rituals like baptism. He had followers who testified to the truth of both his existence and his life. Jesus was a man of history.

Like Paul, we too have been called to be apostles. We received this call when we were baptised. The beginning of the year, with its custom of making new resolutions, is a wonderful time to remember to what we have committed ourselves. At times it seems that our own apostleship is no less daunting than was Paul's. However, it is no less immediate either. Whether the period of history is the first half of the first century, as was the time of Jesus, or the second half, as was the time of Paul, or the twenty-first century, as is our time, salvation unfolds within the events of time. Furthermore, the followers of Jesus always return to the events of his life in order to discover the meaning of the events in their lives. These past events are reinterpreted in the ongoing present. Discipleship is never otherworldly.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.

Thought of the week...

Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the phone? Do strangers call to pay my bills? And if they do, why don't you let them?



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (16th Jan – 22nd Jan) Melua Murray, Michael O'Sullivan, Jack Hogan, Thomas Garner, Joy McLoughlin, Charles & Alma Mountford, Jim Kerlin, Brenda Curr, Anthony Joseph

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

January Birthdays: Faye Kroh, Desley O'Connell, Margaret White, Russell Campbell, Peewee Clark, Chloe Soriano, Brandon Joseph, Molly Ferguson, Karlie Ward, Lily Ward, Jo Johnston

Parish News...

Sat 17 th Jan	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 18 th Jan	o 9.45am Mass
Mon 19 th Jan	o BUPA Visitation
Tues 20 th Jan	o 10am LOW o 12.30pm Mass OLOL School Staff
Wed 21 st Jan	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery
Thurs 22 nd Jan	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 23 rd Jan	

Christmas Collection – There's still time!

Please use the bank details below or place your contribution, marked Christmas Collection, on the plate.

Heritage Bank BSB: 638-070

Account Number: 5938538

Reference: Christmas Collection

Many thanks for your kind and generous donations.

Confirmation and First Eucharist 2026

Enrolments are now open for the Confirmation and First Eucharist program for 2026. Children in Year 4 or above and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation are eligible to enrol. Please click [here](#) for the Initial Parent Letter and [here](#) for the Registration Form. **Registrations close on Monday 2nd February 2026.** No enrolments will be accepted after this date.

Please be mindful when parking

Our neighbours have advised on a number of occasions that they are having considerable difficulty getting in and out of their driveways because cars are being parked too close to their driveways. Please always be mindful and courteous when parking in and around the church grounds and ensure all our neighbours have plenty of clear and safe access to and from the road.

Fr BJ's appointment

Bishop Ken Howell has appointed Fr BJ to St Anthony's Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for an additional two years, with his current term ending end of 2027. The bishop extends his gratitude to the parishes for welcoming Fr BJ and is sure both parishes will thrive under the servant leadership of the (yet-to-be-appointed) pastor and his associate.

Note from Fr BJ: Thank you all so much for the many ways you have welcomed me and helped me grow in 2025. Thank you also for the love you showed Fr Jamie and I over the Christmas season. I very much look forward to continuing as parochial vicar in the parishes over the coming two years and assisting the parish priest in his leadership and service.

Parish Meeting – note change of time

As part of the process leading to the appointment of a new pastor for the parish, parishioners are invited to take part in a meeting to be held on Wednesday 4th February at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 6pm – 7.30pm. These gatherings will provide an opportunity for parishioners to participate in small group discussion centred on the strengths of the parish and its future needs. Your insights and reflections are valued and will help inform this important appointment. All parishioners are most welcome to attend. A light supper will follow.

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day & Volunteer Celebrations

On the weekend of the 7th & 8th of February, we would like to thank and celebrate all our wonderful volunteers. Please join us for dinner from 5pm – 6pm on Saturday evening or at morning tea after the 9.45am Mass. **Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.**



Date	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
24 th Jan at 6.30pm	D & N Clark	B Witham	R O'Brien J Wilson	P & E Castles	H. P Hoopert W. M Cushway W. G Ferguson	G Schoorl	W Hoopert
25 th Jan at 9.45am	K Langdale A Suhr	M Ondrus	M Conrick C Watson	Ryan Family	H. J Bonell W. R Fallon W. P Murphy	K Kruger	V Barker

Lenten Program – are you interested?

Some Lenten Programs are better suited to group sessions, others to individual preparation. Can you please indicate on the sheet at the back of the church:

- if you would you prefer group or individual preparation,
 - if your preference is a group session, what day/time would suit you best,
 - whether you would like your own copy of the book and CD
- Please go to the following website for more information and samples of their programs.

Garratt Publishing

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9781923095175/>

Diocese of Wollongong

<https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/lenten-program/>

Archdiocesan Ministries Brisbane

<https://archdiocesanministries.org.au/lent-resource/>

Nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time

While not regarded as a specific season, the weeks that are outside the periods of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter are known as Ordinary Time. There are 34 weeks of Ordinary Time which, for the most part, incorporate semicontinuous readings of the Gospel of each liturgical cycle. They feature a presentation of the teachings and mission of Christ: in Cycle A: Matthew, Cycle B: Mark and John, and in Cycle C: Luke. There are two 'blocks' of Ordinary Time: the first falls between Christmas and Lent, the second is a longer period between Pentecost Sunday and Advent. The weeks of Ordinary Time, like all in the Liturgical Year, revolve around the central day of Sunday, the celebration of Christ's resurrection.



Prayer for Ordinary Time

God of Eternity,
as I walk the path of Ordinary Time,
help me to count the many ways you are present-
in the comings and goings of family, friends, co-workers
and acquaintances:
in the sounds of summer and the beauty of your
magnificent creations:
in the daily routines and responsibilities that make up the
rhythm of my days.
Make all time, extra-ordinary as I seek to become more
attuned to your presence.
Amen.

Abrahamic Faiths Gathering

Date: Tuesday, 3rd February 2026

Time: 5.45pm, followed by a light dinner

Venue: Garden City Mosque,
217 West Street, Harristown Qld 4350

The evening will begin with a short presentation by each faith group
on:
"What is still considered sacred?"

- Mohammad Aminul Islam, Imam of Garden City Mosque.
- Ariel Heber, President and Community Liaison,
Queensland Jewish Community Services Inc.
- Emma Stinson, Year 12 St Ursula's student,
member of St Theresa's Catholic Parish, Toowoomba.

For further information please contact,

Eric Donges – Phone: 0427 639 843 email: opaeric@gmail.com
or John Agnew – Phone: 4666 3225 email: agnewjj@yahoo.com.au

Organised by the Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together

With Gratitude



The OLOL St Vincent de Paul Conference wishes to thank all those who gave so generously to this year's Christmas Appeal. Your very generous donations will be used to support families in our area with back-to-school costs.

We are very fortunate to have such a generous parish and wish you all every peace and joy for 2026.

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to the area or have recently started attending Church services at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and would like to be added to our Parish register to receive our weekly bulletin and/or other parish information, please complete the following details.

TITLE: NAME:

ADDRESS: POSTCODE:

PHONE NUMBER: EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please add me to your Parish Register: Yes ☐ No ☐

Privacy Statement: Our Lady of Lourdes respects the privacy rights of all individuals associated with parish community life. We seek your permission to use the information collected to fulfil the Parish commitment. Yes ☐ No ☐

Please hand in at Church or email to: ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au