

Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH



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Email: lol.parish@bigpond.com | <https://lolparish.org.au> 

Priest in Residence - Rev John Quinlan

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson Email: lol.pastoralcoordinator@gmail.com

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.45pm

Mass times: Saturday: 6:00pm Vigil | Sunday: 9.30am & 5.30pm

weekday masses - Tuesday, Wednesday & 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, 4th December 2022 Second Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Is 11:1-10](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7](#)

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

[Rom 15:4-9](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in

one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel

[Mt 3:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Next Week's Readings (10th/11th December 2022) – Third Sunday of Advent– Year A

1st Reading: [Is 35:1-6, 10](#) 2nd Reading: [Jas 5:7-10](#) Gospel: [Mt 11:2-11](#)

Parish Activities

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Friday afternoons in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from 1:00pm - 5:30pm.

ANAM CARA - Wednesday 9.30am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information nights are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Please phone the office if you wish to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 9.30AM Mass (except school holidays) for children in Prep - Yr 4.

CRAFT & FRIENDSHIP GROUP - meet every Thursday at 10:30am in the quiet room at the church.

ECUMENISM GROUP - meet the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room followed by a cuppa.

LITURGY GROUP - meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the presbytery.

LOURDES PRAYER GROUP - meet after the 10am Mass every Tuesday.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Presbytery.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - meet 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30am in the quiet room of the Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings in the quiet room at the church at 8:00am.

Parish Councillors

Cristianne Dias, Jon Dwan, Robie Jayawardhana, Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Candice Poulton, Julius Soriano, Sue Whitelegg and Bernadette Witham.

Parish Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Representatives:

Our Parish is committed to supporting the right of everybody to be and feel safe. Concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable persons may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representatives (**Joe & Sarah Kelly 0437 839 838**). If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000. Further details of safeguarding procedures can be found on the noticeboard.

Toowoomba Diocese Safeguarding Resources can be found at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/professional-standards-safeguarding-children-the-vulnerable-policy/>

GOSPEL FOCUS

Out of the wilderness

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

Sunday Reflection...

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Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ. The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives. Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today. John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist's call to "Prepare the way of the Lord" is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Brood of Vipers!

The gospel of Matthew in particular casts the Pharisees in a very dim light. John's insult to them, calling them a brood of vipers, is indeed echoed by Jesus later in this gospel. In this gospel, Jesus describes the Pharisees as hypocrites and blind guides. The community for whom this gospel was written were predominantly Jewish Christians. However, at the time of writing serious cracks were appearing in the relationship between the Jewish community and the Christian sect. This gospel aligns closely with the Jewish tradition but is very critical of the inflexibility of the Pharisees.

Thought of the Day...



'Microsoft support?
My windows won't open'

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Theresa Burke, George Oliver, John Durkin, Ronald Mahony, Steve Murphy, Mary Avery, Msgr Michael McKenna, Fr Justin King,

Those Who Are Sick: Audrey Bentley, Jan Sullivan, Neil Fanning, Bella Liddy-Morrow, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Trish Betros, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Kevin Boland, George Streidl, Ros Kettle, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Fr Don Murray, Judy Reardon, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Ted Schulz, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

December Birthdays: Carmel Ryan, Mary McConachy, John Axtell, David MacGinley, Evie Ward

Parish News...

Sat 03/12	8am Working Bee 6pm Mass
Sun 04/12	9.30am Mass 10.30am Social Justice Meeting 5.30pm Mass
Mon 05/12	6.30pm Parish Council Meeting
Tue 06/12	10am Mass 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church
Wed 07/12	9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery 10am Mass
Thu 08/12	8am SVDP meeting in the Church 10am Mass 10.30am Craft Group in the Church
Fri 09/12	

New Rosters have started

The new Mass ministry rosters for 2023 have now commenced. The rosters were emailed out to all volunteers on the 2nd November. If you are rostered on, please ensure you are arriving to Mass at least 15 minutes early to assist the Mass Co-ordinators in ensuring all roles are filled prior to Mass starting.

Weekday Mass Roster

Please add your name to the sheet at the back of the church if you are available to be a reader or Extraordinary Minister during one or more of the 3 weekday masses.

Money Collection During Mass

To assist the money collectors and ensure a smoother collection process, would you please take the plate and pass it along to the people next to/behind you, even if you are not placing anything on the plate. Thank you.

Parish Christmas Carols

Sunday 11th December 6.30pm-7.30pm.
Pizza and drinks provided. **For catering, please indicate your interest on the sheet at the back of the church.**



Christmas Celebration Dates & Times

Individual Reconciliation

Saturday, **December 10th and 17th** at 4.45pm and after 10am Mass on the **20th, 21st and 22nd December.**

Communal Reconciliation

Monday, **19th December** at 6pm

Christmas Masses

Saturday **24th December:** 6pm at Salo Centre, Rome St, Newtown.

Sunday **25th December:** 8am at OLOL Church

*Note there will be **no 9.30am or 5.30pm Mass** on the 25th December.

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, 19th Dec:** Communal Reconciliation 6pm OLOL
- **Saturday, 24th Dec:** 6pm Vigil at Salo Centre
- **Sunday 25th Dec:** 8am Mass at OLOL Church

Christmas Transport

If you need transport or are able to 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 after 9.30am Mass on the 11th Dec at OLOL church and another practice at 11.30am on the 18th December at the Salo Centre.

Christmas Mass Setup

Sunday, 18th December after the 9.30am Mass at the Salo Centre.

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
10 th Dec at 6pm	I Whittaker J Whittaker	G Hoopert & family	L Borger	B Witham J Wilson	Ward Family	Mark Moore	J Ferguson	J Robertson
11 th Dec at 9.30am	J Newman	C Watson C Poulton	M Ondrus	C Anderson M Conrick	Anderson Family	J Coman	M McLean	A Suhr
11 th Dec at 5.30pm	H Beutel H Ryan	J Michel A Hickey	K Langdale	L Bentley B Reardon	Hickey Family	W Beeston	K Tague	J Sullivan

Week 2 – The Many Symbols of Advent 3rd/4th Dec

The most important symbol used during Advent is light. The progressive lighting of candles symbolises the coming of the spiritual light of Christ into the world.

The round wreath is a symbol of the eternity of God, who, like a circle, has no beginning or end. Each Sunday of Advent (and the week that follows) is represented by a candle. Candle 1 - Hope, Candle 2 - Love and Candle 4 - Peace are blue or purple and Candle 3 - Joy is pink or rose coloured. In the ancient world dye was very expensive and could only be afforded by kings. The blue/purple candles tell us that the one whose birth we are preparing to celebrate is our true King. The rose candle on the 3rd Sunday tells us that Advent is half over and Christmas is drawing closer. Its lighter colour is a symbolic anticipation of our joy when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we continue on our Advent journey to Bethlehem, we await with great anticipation the coming of Jesus. God is already here with us and He desires for us to embrace the life that He will send in His one and only Son, Jesus Christ – the one that brings us hope, peace, joy and love to the world and to each of us.



LOL 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 included below either on your own behalf, or as a special Christmas token to a loved one in place of a present.



Prayer for 2nd Week of Advent

Father in heaven, during this second week of Advent, help us see clearly the times when we have sinned. Accept our sorrow for having pulled away from you, and give us firm resolve to stay close to you.

God above, help us conduct ourselves in holiness. We long to be the people you expect us to be. Help us as we strive to make our souls spotless and our hearts and minds at peace. **Help us, Lord**, to remember that we were baptized for a reason. Help us realise our baptismal call to live as children of God.

And dear God, don't let us miss chances this week to be welcoming to other people and to work in harmony with everyone. Help us as we try to change our ways so that we are good examples of people who love and follow the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Special Advent Collection For Ukraine 10th/11th December 2022

A second collection will be held next weekend to support the people of Ukraine.

Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, gave an update on the situation in Ukraine during the plenary meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference earlier this month. He thanked the bishops for praying – and inviting their communities to pray – for Ukraine, and asked them to renew those prayers.

He also requested that bishops hold a special collection to “support refugees and people in Ukraine during this winter, which will be the most challenging for our country for decades of independence”.

The bishops gave strong support to that proposal, and are encouraging dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools and other ministries to facilitate a special collection during Advent for Ukraine.



Christmas Appeal for Vinnies & Tony's Kitchen

The LOL St Vincent de Paul Conference and the LOL Social Justice Group are seeking donations for a joint Christmas Appeal for St Vincent de Paul and Tony's Kitchen. Your generous donations of non-perishable foods, non-alcoholic drinks, toiletries, toys and books can provide urgent relief for those doing it tough this Christmas, brighten their Christmas and give them hope for a better future.

Please see the noticeboard for suggested Christmas Hamper items.

Donations can be left in the plastic tubs in the Church foyer. Alternatively, monetary donations can be placed in a clearly marked envelope in the collection basket.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated. **Donations need to be finalised by next weekend, the 10th/11th December.**



Marian Valley Bus Trip

There will be a bus trip to Marian Valley on Thursday, 8th December for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The bus will depart from Neil St, outside of the Cathedral, at 7.30am. The cost of the trip is \$40. For bookings or further information, please contact Theresa on 0434 528 904.

Senior's Christmas Party

A special thanks to Liz, Catherine, Bernie, Uta, Susan, Lucy & Alex for the generous gift of their time and talent and for making the Seniors' Christmas Party so lovely. Thanks also to all those who donated prizes for the multi-draw raffle and provided sandwiches and slices for morning tea. Your support and help is very much appreciated.