

Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH



153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453 | f: 4634 1940

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, 18th December 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Is 7:10-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 23:1-6. R. see v 7. 10](#)

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading

[Rom 1:1-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

[Mt 1:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mt 1:18-24](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Then Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Next Week's Readings (24th/25th December 2022) - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day - Year A

1st Reading: [Is 52:7-10](#) 2nd Reading: [Heb 1:1-6](#) Gospel: [Jn 1:1-18](#)

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/>

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Today's first reading is from the prophet Isaiah and contains the prophecy that is quoted in the gospel passage. The book of Isaiah was written at a time when the people of Israel were under threat and had once again fallen away from their covenant with God. Isaiah's prophecy is one of the 'Messiah' prophecies but despite the future-focus is a promise to the people of the time that God-is-with-us. The promise is that God-is-with-us now, despite the conditions we find ourselves in, and God-will-be-with-us in the future when God's Messiah is born of a young woman.

Sunday Reflection...

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Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Advent

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us - that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us now, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

GOSPEL FOCUS

What's in a name?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.

Thought of the Day...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Mary (Mollie) Pauli, John Geraghty, Anthony (Tony) Bradbury **Anniversaries:** Margaret Jacklin, Rhonda Brosnan, Margaret Shelley, Rose Smith, Catherine Kruger, Chahira Coorey, Malisa Golightly, Bill Walsh, Patricia Wright, Frank Connolly, Marlene Devlin, Jessie Webber, Jim Canning, Bridget Leahy, Trevor Schoorl, Mal Golightly, Michael O'Shea, Fr James Wiemers,

Those Who Are Sick: Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Damian Laurence, Fiona Heneghan, Audrey Bentley, Jan Sullivan, 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 17/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6pm Mass
Sun 18/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass o Set up Salo Centre after 9.30am Mass o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 19/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 11am Funeral Tony Bradbury o 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
Tue 20/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass - Individual Reconciliation after Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church
Wed 21/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass - Individual Reconciliation after Mass
Thu 22/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass - Individual Reconciliation after Mass
Fri 23/12	Parish Office closes until 9 th January
Sat 24/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6pm Christmas Mass Salo Centre
Sun 25/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 8am Christmas Mass OLOL Church o No 5.30pm Mass
Mon 26/12	Public Holiday - no Mass
Tue 27/12	Public Holiday - no Mass
Wed 28/12	o 10am Mass
Thu 29/12	o 10am Mass
Fri 30/12	

Special Thanks

We offer a very special thanks to the musicians, the MC and all the readers who made the Christmas Carols so lovely. And thanks to you, the parishioners, for your support and help.



Christmas Celebration Dates & Times

Individual Reconciliation

Saturday, 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 Mass Setup

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

Christmas Choir Practice

11.30am on the Sunday 18th December at the Salo Centre.

Ukraine Collection

Congratulations and many thanks to all those who donated so generously to the Special Advent Collection for Ukraine. As a parish, we raised a total of \$2535 which will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons.

Reconciliation – OLOL Church

Time	Welcomers	Commentator	Minister of the Word	Examination Of Conscience	Ipad Operator
Mon 19 th Dec 6pm	Ferguson Family	B Witham	J Wilson	M Ondrus, C Smith, L Walsh	Kelly Family

Christmas Eve Mass – Salo Centre

Time	Welcomers	Altar Servers	Commentator	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Collectors
Sat 24 th Dec at 6pm	MK Thomson & G Schoorl Ward Family	E Ward E Dwan	J Coman	R O'Brien R Jayawardhana	Poulton Family	K Walsh C Jolley R Fallon	K Roberts J Kelly G Ferguson J Dwan

Christmas Day – OLOL Church

Time	Welcomers	Commentator	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Minister	IPad Operator	Collectors
Sun 25 th Dec at 8am	M Ondrus	T O'Mara	A Cournane J Axtell	C & J Smith	L Bentley	B Bambosek	J Smith G Bambosek

Roster 31st Dec/1st Jan

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
31 st Dec at 6pm	G Soh V Soh	N & D Clark	Michelle Moore	N Doyle J Adriano	G Hoopert & Family	K Walsh	Regan Family	G Schoolr
1 st Jan at 9.30am	G Ryan I Ryan	K Kruger A Cournane	S Connolly S Dias	Cleber Dias J Anderson	A Cournane R Fallon	C Watson	M Conrick	R Coonan
1 st Jan at 5.30pm	E Haylock H Beutel	S Whitelegg K Langdale	L Bentley	J Michel J Axtell	vacant	J Smith	D Stark	V Barker

Week 4 –The Advent Journey Continues 17th/18th December

The angels proclaimed “Peace on Earth” when the Baby Jesus was born. Today we wonder as we listen to the evening news, is peace possible? We all need two kinds of peace in our lives. We need inner peace, but we also need peace with others. Inner peace begins with a relationship with God, and it continues as we focus on His strength and allow Him to fill us. We can exchange our weakness for His strength in any area of life. If inner peace is eluding you these days and anxiety is spilling over in your life, choose to trust God. You can choose to put your hand in His and draw from His patience and wisdom as you take each step. He will guide you through the maze of life if you ask Him. Choosing to trust God with those blind corners in your life will take you down the road to inner peace. Choosing not to trust Him will take you down the road to stress and worry. Inner peace is there for the choosing. Peace with others begins as we understand that God has called us to be peacemakers in our world. We can help bring peace to our world one heart at a time.



Christmas Collection

Each year the annual Christmas Collection is shared between the local St Vincent de Paul Conference and another charity as chosen by the Council of Priests. In 2022, one half of the Christmas Collection from all parishes will be used to support Toowoomba’s Dr Tony Ferris with his work in the Mutitjulu Community, a remote indigenous community in the Northern Territory. A collection will be taken at each of the Christmas Masses. Should you wish to give via Electronic Funds Transfer, the bank details are:

Heritage Bank

BSB: 638-070

Account Number: 5938538

Reference: Christmas Collection

Many thanks for your kind and generous donations.

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.

Office Closure Over Christmas & New Year

The Parish Office will close on Fri 24th Dec and reopen on Mon 9th Jan 2023. We would like to wish all our Parishioners and visitors to our Parish a Happy and Holy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Clergy Retreat

All Diocesan Clergy will be on retreat from Sun 8th Jan to Fri 13th Jan 2023. **The only 5.30pm Mass on the 8th Jan will be celebrated at St Patrick’s Cathedral.** There will be no Mass or Liturgy of the Word Tues 10th, Wed 11th or Thurs 12th Jan.

Prayer for 4th Week of Advent

Father in heaven, help us to remember that all our gifts come from you. When we think we are in charge, remind us that we are your people and that you are our God. And let us have no gods – not wealth, not power, not fame, not material things – before you.

God above, as you found favour in the Virgin Mary, help us live so that you find favour in our lives. Help us to be holy.

Help us, Lord, to follow Mary’s example of faith and trust. Along with Mary, help us, too, to say: “Yes, God, I am yours. Do with me as you want. Make me your hands on earth.”

Holy Spirit, inspire us to live every day as if Christmas were just a week away.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Many thanks from the Parish Office

We feel privileged and somewhat spoilt to have the “best ever parishioners” here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Thank you all so much for the generous gift of your time and for your commitment to and support of the many parish groups and ministries. Your kindness and thoughtfulness throughout the year is very much appreciated. We wish you and your families much peace and joy this Christmas and a 2023 filled with much happiness. Jenny and Karlie.

★ ★
Thank You!
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Please Note: There will be no parish bulletin next weekend 24th/25th December