

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, 27th November 2022 First Sunday of Advent - Year A

First Reading

[Is 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal 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

[Rom 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 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

[Ps 84:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mt 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 (3rd/4th December 2022) – Second Sunday of Advent – Year A
1st Reading: [Is 11:1-10](#) 2nd Reading: [Rom 15:4-9](#) Gospel: [Mt 3:1-12](#)

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

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...

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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 Day...



"ADVENT CALENDAR? NO JUST MY PILL ORGANISER!"

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Dorothy Shannon, John Johnstone, Maria Johnstone, John Murphy, Gary Stahlhut, Johannah Parsons, Frank Brosnan, Gerard Hanssen, Joe Short, Bart Logan, Fr William McCormack

Those Who Are Sick: 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

November Birthdays: Cristianne Dias, Helen Stein, Cathy Morris, Marg Roessler, Kev Roberts, Margaret McNab, Jenny McDonald, Frank Jones, Fr Kerry Costigan

Parish News...

Sat 26/11	Mass 6.00pm
Sun 27/11	Mass 9.30am Mass 5.30pm Ecumenism Group Meeting 10.30am (note change of date from 26 th Nov)
Mon 28/11	Liturgy Group Meeting 7pm
Tue 29/11	Mass 10am Seniors' Christmas Party 10.30am
Wed 30/11	Anam Cara 9.30am in the Presbytery Mass 10am
Thu 01/12	Mass 10am Craft Group 10.30am
Fri 02/12	

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.

Children's Worksheets

This weekend we are re-introducing the Children's worksheets. You will find the link [here](#) if you wish to print it at home or there will be paper copies and coloured pencils available in the church for the children to use during Mass.

Working Bee – Saturday 3rd December

From 8am to do a few little odd jobs.

Morning Tea provided.

1. Disability signs to be moved
2. Wheel stops to be painted
3. Clean laundry
4. Mary MacKillop picture to be hung in church



Columban Art Calendar

We have received another supply of Columban Art Calendars. They are for sale for \$10 from the Piety Stall. They make excellent Christmas gifts for loved ones.

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.**

Everyone is welcome!!



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 some practices beforehand and these dates will be advertised in the upcoming bulletins.

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
3 rd Dec at 6pm	G Soh V Soh	G Schoorl M Greer	G Ferguson	M Cleary S Kelly	P & E Castles	K Ober	M Connell	M Cushway
4 th Dec at 9.30am	E McLean L Anderson	R Fallon P Town	P Murphy S Dias	J Coman M Ondrus	Poulton Family	T O'Mara	L Dwan	M Webb
4 th Dec at 5.30pm	H Ryan E Haylock	B & C Roberts	B Reardon	B Bambosek R Johnston	A Bishop K Uprichard	C Golightly	D Stark	M Stark

Week 1 – Advent Journey 26th/27th Nov

This year, we take this journey in spirit, body, and mind as individuals and as a community of faith. It is a season where God invites us to “choose” hope, love, joy and peace – the gifts we experience through Jesus – in the midst of a world clamouring for our attention and devotion.

For many centuries, the Church has identified the beginning of the Christmas celebration with a time of reflection and expectation called Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and reminds us of the anticipation and expectation held over hundreds of years by the people of Israel for their Messiah and promised King.

Today, we mark Advent with the display of a wreath - its circle reminds us of God Himself, eternal and endlessly merciful. It is evergreen – reminding us of the hope of eternal life. We also mark the beginning of Advent with a progressive Nativity Scene and a Gifting Tree with 3 organisations that we can gift money to, to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

May the Advent season inspire us to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and to help grow solidarity in our families, in our faith community and throughout the world.



Christmas Appeal for Vinnies & Tony's Kitchen

The OLOL St Vincent de Paul Conference and the OLOL 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 the weekend of the 10th/11th December.



Prayer for 1st Week of Advent

Dear God, help us to accept that we are the clay and that you are the potter. Throughout this first week of Advent, help us remember that we are your people and that you are our God. Help us get our priorities right and put the most important things first: loving God and loving our neighbour.

Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make throughout this week so that we choose to do what honours our creator and what shows our love of others.

Father in heaven, we offer thanks to you for the many gifts and talents you have given to all the people on earth, to our family and friends, to the neighbours we know and the neighbours we have yet to befriend.

Lord Jesus, we wait in joyful hope for you. Come into our hearts so that when the time comes we will be prepared to join you in everlasting joy. Amen.

OLOL 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.



Invite to Mass in the Maronite Rite

Fr Fadi Salami will be celebrating Mass in the Maronite Rite on Sunday 4th December at 11.00am at St Anthony's Church in Memory Street. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to attend this Mass.

SPRED need your help...

SPRED are currently looking for new people to be faith companions for their Friends living with intellectual disabilities. They are in urgent need of more volunteers for 2023. There are a number of Friends who won't be able to attend SPRED in 2023 unless people like yourself are able and willing to offer your time and friendship. If you feel this is a way that you could serve others, please contact the SPRED Office or see or call Mark Whitelegg, who is our SPRED Parish Representative on Ph. 0408 987 902.



SPRED...

Where Faith and Friendship Meet

INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: Wednesday, November 30, 5.30pm—6.15pm

WHERE: SPRED Centre, 34 Hume Street

(N.B. Entrance to Centre via Jellicoe Street at rear of building)

PLEASE CONTACT THE SPRED Office for more information or to confirm your attendance

Ph: 4632 8427 Email: spred@twb.catholic.org.au