

# Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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

Email: [lol.parish@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 The Epiphany of The Lord Year A

### First Reading

[Is 60:1-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11](#)

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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 earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (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

[Eph 3:2-3, 5-6](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

### Gospel Acclamation

[Heb 1:1-2](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

[Mt 2:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Next Week's Readings (14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January 2023) – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: [Is 49:3, 5-6](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Cor 1:1-3](#) Gospel: [Jn 1:29-34](#)

## 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/>

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### The Magi

*In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference "We saw his star as it rose". It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three - based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.*

## Sunday Reflection...

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The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.



## Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

## gospel focus

### Going home

*The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way - indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus - in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves - then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.*

## Thought of the Day...



## Please Pray For...

### Recent Deaths:

**Anniversaries:** Kevin Lowien, Caroline Flohr, Cecilia Cummings, Jill Murphy, Mary Keenan, Fr William Hall.

**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

**January Birthdays:** Faye Kroh, Desley O'Connell, Margaret White, Chloe Soriano, Molly Ferguson, Karlie Ward, Lily Ward

## Parish News...

Sat 7/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 4.45pm Reconciliation</li> <li>o 6pm Mass</li> </ul>
Sun 8/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 9.30am Mass</li> <li>o NO 5.30pm Mass</li> </ul>
Mon 9/1	o Parish Office re-opens this week
Tue 10/1	o NO 10am Mass
Wed 11/1	o NO 10am Mass
Thu 12/1	o NO 10am Mass
Fri 13/1	

### Masses during Clergy Retreat

The Clergy Retreat is being held from the evening of Sunday 8 January to Friday 13 January 2023.

Masses will be celebrated by Fr Michael Cooney at St Patrick's Cathedral as follows:

- 5.30pm Sunday 8 January 2023
- 5.30pm Monday 9 January 2023
- 9am Tuesday 10 January 2023
- 7am Wednesday 11 January 2023
- 7am Thursday 12 January 2023
- 7am Friday 13 January 2023

### Australia Day Mass

Please join us for Mass to celebrate Australia Day.

**When:** Thursday 26 January, 10:00am

**Where:** Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

**Morning tea will be served after Mass.**



## Thank you for your kindness in 2022!

As we come to the end of another year, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of Catholic Mission. You have made a meaningful difference in the lives of many people, and we are grateful for your partnership in this important work. At this time of year, we are particularly mindful of the birth of Jesus and the message of hope and love that it brings. May the joy of the season fill your hearts and homes, and may the coming year be one of blessings and peace for you and your loved ones. Thank you again for journeying with us, together we are mission. Fr Brian Lucas, National Director, Catholic Mission.

### Pope Francis' Christmas Homily

A copy of Pope Francis' Christmas Homily can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the church. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like a copy.

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January

**For educators**

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

### Epiphany Humour



Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan at 6pm	G Soh V Soh	Joseph Family	C Ferguson	Joseph Family J Kelly	M & J Wells	W Hoopert	C Juillerat	K Ward
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan at 9.30am	L Anderson J Newman	Dwan Family	T O'Mara	S Connolly K Kruger	Watson Family	R Fallon	A Winder	C Poulton
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan at 5.30pm	N Obst E Obst	A & R Thompson	J Johnston	A Jessen K Tague	Hickey Family	M Whitelegg	K Langdale	S Whitelegg

## History of World Day of Peace

World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1 every year, began in 1967 when Pope Paul VI announced that the world needs to be sensitised and oriented for peace and understanding. Inspired by the papal letters “Pacem in Terris” and “Populorum Progressio”, the Pope recommended that the church play a greater role in our search for world peace, and so, January 1, was appointed as a holy day to celebrate efforts for world peace. The Pope and the Vatican Church stress the need to care and share tolerance for each other, and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others. The benefits of a peaceful society have been the emphasis of every year’s World Day of Peace. Click [here](#) to read the 56<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace Message of Pope Francis.

## Helpful Hints

The Mass Co-ordinator’s role is to ensure that there is a volunteer available to fulfil each of the ministries for Sunday Mass. You can make their job much easier by:

- arriving for Mass 10-15 mins prior to the start of Mass.
- finding your own replacement if you are unable to fulfil your duties when scheduled.
- checking in with the Mass Co-ordinator prior to each Mass.

## Prayer for the New Year

God of this new year,  
we are walking into mystery.

We face the future,  
not knowing what the days and months  
will bring to us or how we will respond.

Be love in us as we journey.

May we welcome all who come our way.  
Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes.

Fill us with hope and an abiding trust  
that you dwell in us amidst our joys and sorrows.

Thank you for the treasure of our faith life.

Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day  
with the assurance of your walking through the day with us.

God of this new year, we praise you.

Amen

*May I have This Dance? An Invitation to Faithful Prayer throughout the  
Year,*

*By Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria Press), 1992, 2007*

## Thank you from Caritas Australia

On behalf of Caritas Australia, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for your generous support in 2022.

[Click Here](#) to view a short thank you video from everyone here at the Caritas Australia national teams and from our overseas teams in Asia and the Pacific.

We want to say thank you for helping improve lives around the world.

We want to say thank you for standing with the most vulnerable and marginalised people.

We want to say thank you for putting your compassion in action and making a lasting difference.



## The Church in Australia mourns the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Media Release 31 December 2022



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says Pope Benedict XVI will long be remembered fondly in Australia as the Pontiff who led young people from around the globe in prayer at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church from April 2005 until February 2013, becoming the first Pope in centuries to resign. He had earlier served as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the Vatican’s most influential departments, for more than two decades. Pope Benedict died in Rome, where he had lived since his papal retirement, on Saturday evening, Australian time.

“From his time as an expert adviser – or peritus – at the Second Vatican Council onwards, there was no question that Joseph Ratzinger was a major figure within the Church around the world,” said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. “His papacy will be remembered as one of rich teaching, including his encyclicals on love, hope and truth, as well as his book series Jesus of Nazareth, and for important reforms in areas like liturgy and in the handling of child sexual abuse.” Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the bishop who oversaw World Youth Day in 2008, said Pope Benedict had been a key influence and someone with whom he became close. “I had the great privilege of spending some private moments with Pope Benedict, away from the spotlight,” Archbishop Fisher said. “They were moments I will forever cherish. He had a great intellect, which he shared through his work as a professor, a Church leader and ultimately as Pope. He did not seek nor enjoy the spotlight, but he produced some magnificent works that have shaped and will continue to shape Catholic thought and Catholic life.” Archbishop Fisher said he was very grateful to spend some time with Pope Benedict during his visits to Rome. “Reminiscing about his time in Australia and learning from this gentle father figure was a real joy,” he said. Archbishop Costelloe said parishes around the country will hold special memorial Masses for Pope Benedict in the coming days, encouraging those wishing to attend to visit local church and cathedral websites for more information. “These Masses will be a chance to celebrate the life and faith of Pope Benedict, but also to pray for the repose of his soul – just as we do for anyone who has died,” he said. A biography of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is available [here](#).

Pope Benedict XVI’s papal coat of arms

