

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, 29th January 2023 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

[Zep 2:3; 3:12-13](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3](#)

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

[1 Cor 1:26-31](#)

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[Mt 5:12](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mt 5:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

Next Week's Readings (4th/5th February 2023) – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: [Is 58:7-10](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Cor 2:1-5](#) Gospel: [Mt 5:13-16](#)

Parish Activities

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

ANAM CARA – Wednesday 9.00am 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

Purity

Purity and impurity was a major issue in 1st Century Jewish society. The Priests and Pharisees maintained that only pure adherence to the Law could make a person acceptable in God's eyes. Impurity came to be associated with physical disease and injury. Those with severe disease or disability were regarded as sinful and punished by God. Jesus' statement, 'Happy are the pure of heart', would have scandalised those who maintained that purity came through strict observance of Law. Jesus suggests that purity (and impurity) comes from within a person rather than from the outside – regardless of their observance of the Law.

Sunday Reflection...

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To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says, and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching. The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus' teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation. The gospel outlines the kind of person the disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation.

Living the Gospel

Be-attitudes

One way to read the Beatitudes is that Jesus was commending and blessing the various people who found themselves in those sorts of conditions. Another, is as a list of qualities that all people should strive to exhibit. It's not just some people who happen to be economically poor who are blessed. Rather, we must all have a poverty of spirit – a humility about our need for God's merciful action in our lives. All are called to hunger and thirst for justice and all are called to be merciful. The Beatitudes are not a menu to select from, but rather an essential list of ingredients.

Gospel Focus

Covenant

The structure of the Beatitudes can be seen as yet another attempt by God to re-establish a covenant between Godself and the people. Throughout Jewish history, God called the people back into relationship and re-established God's covenant with them. Like all the previous versions of the covenant, the Beatitudes contain both a series of demands and a series of promises. It is a two-way deal. The first part of each Beatitude is a statement of what the people are called to do and the second part is God's promise of how they will be rewarded for their right action.

Thought of the Day...



"Rover really put up a battle last night, dear, when I put him out."

Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Annette Boland

Anniversaries: Agnes Hayes, Margaret Hurley, Christian Oberholzer, Stephen Logan, Jim Brown, Paula Ruhle, Maria Murphy, Stephen Kruger, Mary Madden, Mary Nicholson, James Corkin, Fr Howard Crowe, Msgr Michael Potter,

Those Who Are Sick: Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Damian Laurence, Fiona Heneghan, Audrey Bentley, 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 28/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6pm Mass
Sun 29/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass – inc. Children's Liturgy o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 30/1	
Tue 31/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mass 10am o 10.30am Prayer Group
Wed 1/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.00am Anam Cara in Presbytery o 10am Mass o 6.30pm SPRED Meeting
Thu 2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass o Craft Group 10.30am
Fri 3/2	

Confirmation and First Eucharist 2023 – Enrolments Now Open

Enrolments are now open for the Confirmation and First Eucharist program for 2023 which is available for children in Yr 4 and above and who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

- Please click [here](#) for the Initial Parent Letter including program dates and full information.
- Please click [here](#) for the Registration Form. **Registrations close on the 13th February.** No enrolments will be accepted after this time.

Little Black Books

The Little Black Books for Lent have now arrived and are available for purchase for \$2.00 from the back of the church. Please place your money into the envelope provided and place into the collection plate.

Word of God Sunday

Next weekend we celebrate Word of God Sunday. The Word of God Sunday is devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

Lenten Program

Please indicate your interest in participating in a Lenten Program this year by adding your name to the list at the back of the church. Final numbers are required by Sunday 29th January please.

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day and Volunteer's Mass – Morning Tea & BBQ

On the weekend of the 11th and 12th of February, we would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers with a sausage sizzle/morning tea.

Please join us to celebrate our volunteers at the:

- sausage sizzles after the 6pm and 5.30pm Masses or
- the morning tea after the 9.30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.



Children's Liturgy recommences 29th Jan

Children's Liturgy is held on Sunday mornings during school terms at the 9.30am Mass. The aim is to gather children between Prep and Year 4 in a separate space to celebrate Liturgy in a way that is more appropriate to their level of understanding. Activities include hearing the scripture and celebrating it through craft, drawing, drama and song. If you would like to support our Children's Liturgy leaders as a helper/assistant please advise the Parish Office. No experience or active participation is necessary. The Parish Office can assist with obtaining a Blue Card.

Date Claimers:

4th / 5th February – Word of God Sunday
 18th /19th February – Project Compassion Launch
 21st February – Shrove Tuesday
 22nd February – Ash Wednesday
 26th February – 1st Sunday of Lent

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ip ad Operator	Piety Stall
4 th Feb at 6pm	G Soh V Soh	B Witham M Cushway	G Ferguson	R Jayawardhana B Witham	M & M Quinn	L Walsh	G Schooli	J Wells
5 th Feb at 9.30am	E McLean L Anderson	A Cournane R Fallon	M Ondrus S Dias	P Murphy C Anderson	Poulton Family	Cleber Dias	L Dwan	M Webb
5 th Feb at 5.30pm	N Obst E Obst	J Michel A Hickey	K Tague	B Bambosek L Bentley	Hickey Family	G Doherty	D Stark	M Stark

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver – 2023 Fundraiser

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are hosting their first fundraiser for 2023. "Mother and Son" is a delightful comedy adapted for stage. It features everyone's favourite Mum and her long-suffering son Arthur. The play navigates the complex and hilarious relationships among Arthur and his mother, his new girlfriend and his dentist brother and wife who are always willing to assist with Maggie. The play is being presented at the Repertory Theatre on Tuesday February 21. Doors will open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are \$25 each and include supper. A raffle with excellent prizes will be available. Tickets can be purchased from The Sisters on 07 46321818 or Helen on 0416055976. All proceeds go to The Missions.

What's on at Sychar

Evening Prayer in the style of TAIZE

Seven Monday sessions 6 February to 20 March
6.00 pm – 7.00 pm (approx)

[See flyer for details](#)

[Book now via Try Booking](#)

Encountering the Christ of the Gospels

Eight sessions 7 February – 28 March
9.30 am – 12.00 pm

[See flyer for details](#)

[Book now via Try booking](#)

Christian Meditation (WCCM)

Weekly Tuesday Meditation at 4.00 pm during school term

[See flyer for details](#)

Contemplative (Centering) Prayer

11.00 am – 12.00 pm Thursdays
beginning 9 February

[See flyer for details](#)

[Book now via Try Booking](#)

Men Seeking Wisdom

Weekly Thursday sessions
7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

For information contact one of the following:

Robie Jayawardhana rjayawardhana@gmail.com

Jason Obst job70644@bigpond.net.au

Peter Nolan nolan8@bigpond.com

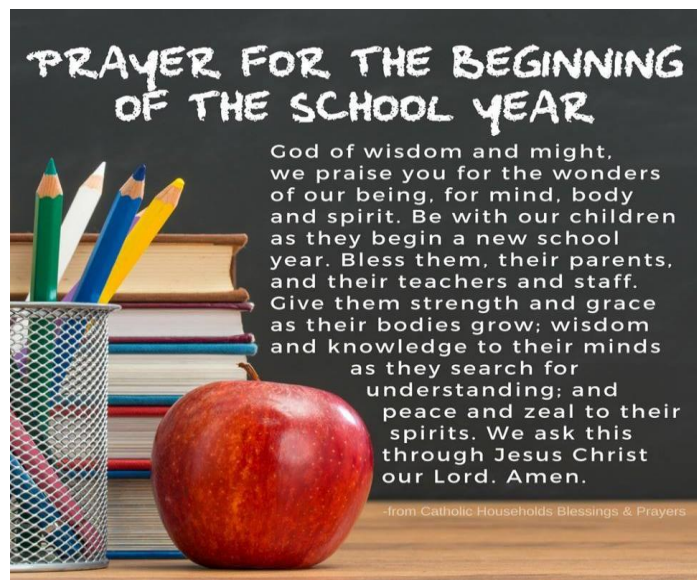
Anam Cara (Spiritual Conversation in the Ignatian tradition)

Weekly Friday sessions 1.00pm – 2.00 pm (approx)

Come and See Sessions 10 & 24 March [Flyer](#)

For further information contact Clare Smith or Mary Allen at

clare_james1@bigpond.com or maryallen@inet.net.au



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. Pope Francis says "Education is an act of love that illuminates the path for us to recover a sense of fraternity, so we will not ignore those who are most vulnerable". Please click [here](#) for a short video appeal released by the Vatican on January 10th.

Looking through the Lens of Laudato Si'

7 Questions to Ask Measuring Integral Ecology in Our Lives

Week 3:

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.

Are we responding in a way that is considering ecological economics? Are our economic transactions supporting sustainable, ethical and fair production, consumption and investment? Are they supporting ecology? E.g. Are the producers of this product paid a fair and just wage? Are they using the earth's resources in a sustainable manner?



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

A copy of the Diocesan Privacy Statement can be found on our Parish Website and on the Church noticeboard.