

Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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

Email: olol.parish@bigpond.com | <https://ololparish.org.au> 

Priest in Residence - Rev John Quinlan

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

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson Email: olol.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, 28th April 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B

First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 21:26-28, 30-32, R. v.26](#)

(R). I will praise you Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust (R.)

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' (R)

Second Reading

[1 John 3:18-24](#)

A reading from the first letter of St John

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 15:4-5](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 15:1-8](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Parish Activities

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 Quiet Room.

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 Quiet Room.

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 afternoons in the quiet room at the church at 2pm.

Parish Councillors

Cristianne Dias, Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Candice Poulton, Bernadette Witham, Anna Chandler, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean and Julie Whittaker.

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at risk:

In Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, we commit ourselves to ensuring the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk in our Parish community. The best interests of the child, young person or adult at risk come first.

Our Parish takes a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults at risk 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. You are encouraged to provide feedback on Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Toowoomba Diocese Safeguarding Resources can be found at <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-policy-resources/>

Living the gospel

Bearing fruit

The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer. The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world. Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.

Historical context

The 'True' vine

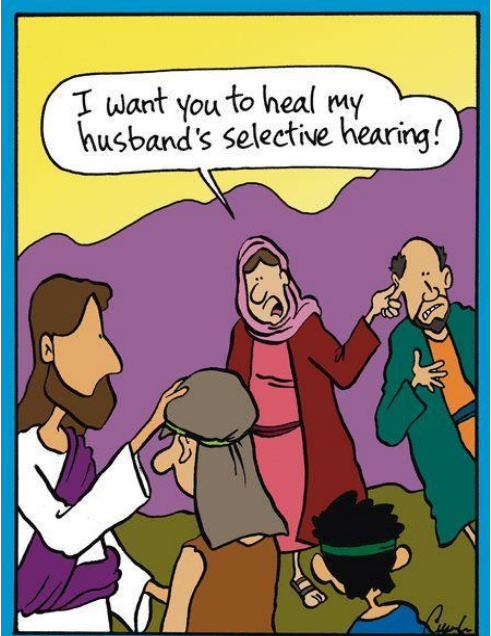
The image of the vine has its origins in Psalm 80 where the nation of Israel is likened to a vine: 'You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.' (Ps 80:8-9) However, the people of Israel have forgotten who they are and who it was that planted them in their country – it is like the rootstock of a grafted plant has taken over and gone wild. Jesus' presence as the 'true vine' reminds them of what they are called to be.

Scriptural context

In context

The imagery that Jesus used in his parables and in extended metaphors such as the one used in this week's gospel sometimes seems a little foreign to a 21st Century audience. However, the world in which Jesus lived and taught was dominated by small scale farmers and producers in an agrarian economy. His use of images such as 'shepherd', 'vine', 'tenants', 'farmers' and 'wineskins' would all have been immediately recognisable to his audience. They would also have appreciated much more than we do the subtlety of Jesus' use of such images when he twists them in an unexpected way.

Thought of the day.....



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Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Anna Bazilio Ramalho

Anniversaries: Lucy Jannusch, Mona Boyce, Mavis Gesch, James Rush, Peter Murphy, Jim Ryan, Brian Kruger, Lil Cronin, Bill Collins, Flo Maguire, Michael McKenzie, Francis Lynch, Joan Ross, Alex Morrison, Mario Frattin, Alan Curr, Fr Leo O'Donohue, Fr John Concannon, Fr Reginald Prior

Those Who Are Sick: Bev Brown, Eileen Reedy, Robert McLean, Kevin Arnott, Con Sullivan, Carmel Green, Ernie Kupfer, Jasmine Fletcher, Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Damian Laurence, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Kevin Boland, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Judy Reardon, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

April Birthdays: Christina Dever, Veronica O'Connell, Thomas Kelly, Monica Thompson, Pat MacGinley, Joe Kelly, Catherine Dyson

Parish News...

Sat 27/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4.45pm Reconciliation o 6.00pm Mass
Sun 28/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.30am Mass o 10.30am Sacramental Workshop o 5.30pm Mass
Mon 29/4	o
Tue 30/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass o 10.30am Prayer Group in Quiet Room
Wed 1/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.00am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 10am Mass o 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 2/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Mass o 10.30am Friendship & Craft Group in Quiet Room
Fri 3/5	

Date Claimers:

- 1st May – Feast of St Joseph The Worker
- 5th May – JAM Session 4.30pm
- 6th May – Labour Day (Office Closed)
- 12th May – The Ascension of the Lord
- 12th May – Mother's Day
- 18th/19th May – Parish Pastoral Council Elections

Notice Board

Please check the notice board at the back of the church to see if there is any mail for you.

Celebrating Our Lady of Lourdes - Survey

Please don't forget to complete the survey forms which you will find on the end of the pews. We are seeking your assistance with identifying what it is that is important to everyone here at our church as we move forward through the years to come

Winter Shelter needs your support!

Winter and Winter Shelter is just around the corner! Our parish will be involved with other Toowoomba churches again this year in providing accommodation for the homeless during our winter months. Training sessions will be held this Sunday April 28th or Saturday May 18th from 1pm – 4pm at the Rangeville Community Church.

For more information about opportunities for volunteering and training, please click [here](#) or contact Jo Johnston (0418733615) or Ray Johnston (0418730908).

Winter Shelter Toowoomba provides more than just a place to stay. It is about providing hope, dignity and community for those experiencing homelessness.

“Together we can provide warmth, shelter and food for those who need help.



Washing Church Linen

Now that we have re-introduced the Precious Blood at Communion, we would really appreciate help to wash and iron the purifiers. We are looking for a group of people from each Mass time to share the load.



Please let the office staff know if you can help.

Project Compassion

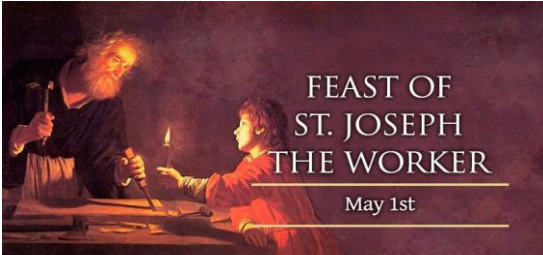
Thank you to our very generous parishioners who together donated approximately \$5,750 to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 collection.

THANKYOU!

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
4th May at 6pm	I Whittaker J Whittaker	Whittaker Family	C Ferguson	R O'Brien L Walsh	Ward Family	H. G Ferguson W. K Walsh W. M Cushway	Soriano Family	M Cushway
5th May at 9.30am	S Dias J Dias	Dias Family	J Anderson	J Bonell J Coman	A Cournane A Suhr	H. M Ondrus W. M McLean W. C Anderson	Dias Family	R Coonan
5th May at 5.30pm	E Haylock M Denny	R & R Thompson	J Axtell	Desley Salty J Beutel	K Langdale A Bishop	H. A Jessen W. Whitelegg W. J Johnston	Daniel Salty	J Sullivan

Feast of St Joseph the Worker – 1st May

May 1 is the feast day of Saint Joseph the Worker, reflecting his status as a carpenter and patron of workers. While Saint Joseph has his principal feast day on March 19, the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker was introduced by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as an ecclesiastical counterpart to International Workers Day, also held on May 1. Saint Joseph was the foster father of Jesus and is held up by the Church as a model of the holiness of human labour. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is referred to as “the carpenter’s son”. Pope Pius XII said Saint Joseph was a model of holiness to all workers and the feast day was established to both honour Saint Joseph and to make people aware of the dignity of human work, which has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God.



Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Madonna Magazine gift subscription

Annual Subscription: \$64 (Four Issues – Spring, Summer, Autumn And Winter) Madonna is a magazine of spiritual reading for lay people. Through personal stories and reflections, it demonstrates the presence of God in our everyday lives.

<https://www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions>

Make a donation to our local St Vincent de Paul Society

You can donate to SVDP via the below bank details or simply place money into a clearly marked envelope and place onto the collection plate at Mass. These funds go towards helping our local families in need and you can tell mum you've made a donation to SVDP on her behalf.

Account Name: SVDP Our Lady of Lourdes
BSB: 064-786 Account Number 100026959

Majellan Magazine gift subscription

A yearly subscription to the Majellan provides a long-term reminder of what it means to be family. Published 4 times a year, it is packed with stories about family and faith to help families be the best they can be. It is a perfect gift for mums starting at only \$24 per year. Go to:

<https://majellan.media/product/the-majellan-magazine-gift-subscription/>

Thank You!!

This year, the OLOL Youth Group planned the Anzac Day Mass. We wish to thank the children for the very prayerful and touching celebration. Well done Youth Group!



NEWS UPDATE

A newsletter from the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba for clergy, parishes, schools, staff and the wider community.

THREE SAINTS FESTIVAL

Date: 5/5/24 Sunday

Time: Mass 1:00pm, Food and entertainment from 3:00pm

Where: St Joseph's Church Stanthorpe

When Sicilian culture and Catholic tradition come together, it creates a beautiful day of

celebrations, good food and dancing. Come for the whole day or just the evening, but be ready to eat and dance and eat some more! Traditional Italian Sweets, Roasted Chestnuts, a Gourmet BBQ and bar with live entertainment will follow the traditional Mass, Rosary and procession of the Three Saints, capped off with a spectacular laser light show. All are welcome.

For more information, visit [Three Saints Stanthorpe](#)

[Facebook](#), email threesaintsstanthorpe@gmail.com or contact St Joseph's Parish, Stanthorpe on 07 4681 2157.

[See flyer for details.](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Each year in Queensland, May is designated the Domestic Violence Awareness month. On 1st May at 6pm, the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project (JCDVPP) invite you to attend a Candle Vigil to remember all who are affected by Domestic Violence. The Vigil will take place at the Chapel at St Francis College

Milton. <https://qct.org.au/images/JCDVPP/VigilPoster.pdf>

For those who are unable to attend the Vigil, a liturgy is being created so that you can hold the Vigil locally. Contact admin@qct.org.au if you would like a copy of the liturgy.

ECUMENICAL SEMINAR: LET GOD RECHARGE YOUR

BATTERIES

Date: 21-23/6/24

Where: St Ursula's College Tmba

Cost: See flyer for options

Downs and Toowoomba Churches Together welcome all to a seminar featuring guest speaker Rev Bruce Johnson. [See flyer for details.](#)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of Parish Administration Officer at St Patrick's Cathedral and St Thomas More's. This is a permanent part-time position.

As this role is spread over 2 locations, you may like to consider applying for any of the following:

1. St Patrick's Cathedral, 123 Neil St, Toowoomba (12hrs /2 days)
2. St Thomas More's Parish, 71A Ramsay St, South Toowoomba (12hrs /2 days)
3. Combined 1 & 2.

Position Description is available by contacting St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Office on 4637 1500 or

admin@stpats.org.au

Pope's Monthly Intention for April

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Pope Francis says “Many women are treated as “something to get rid of.” “There are countries where women are forbidden to access aid, open a business, or go to school.” Did you know this is still happening in the 21st century? It's time to act! In a new Pope Video intention, produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Pope Francis emphasizes the importance that “governments need to commit to eliminate discriminatory laws everywhere and to work toward guaranteeing women's human rights.” Please click [here](#) to watch the video.