

# Welcome to OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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

Email: [olol.parish@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### The Feast of The Epiphany of The Lord – Year C

#### First Reading

[Isaiah 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 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10, R. v.5](#)

(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

[Ephesians 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

[Matthew 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 (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> January 2025) – The Baptism of the Lord – Year C  
1st Reading: [Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11](#) 2nd Reading: [Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7](#). Gospel: [Matthew 3:15-16, 21-22](#)

## Parish Activities

**ANAM CARA** – Wednesday 9.00am in the Presbytery

**BAPTISM** information mornings are held on the 1st Sunday 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.

**FRIENDSHIP & CRAFT 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 Tuesday of the month at 10.30am 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 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

Jo Johnston, Ray Johnston, Bernadette Witham, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean, Julie Whittaker, Peter Castles, Georgina Humphrys, Brandon Joesph, Clare Watson

## 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. If you have any concerns about the safety of children, young people and adults at risk please contact our Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Sue Whitelegg or Jo and Ray Johnston on **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/>

## 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...

© Diane Bergant

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.....



"Two pair ain't gonna cut it, Joseph. I've got Three Kings."

## Please Pray For...

**Recent Deaths:** Beverly Brown

**Anniversaries:** Rohan Kajewski, Simon Davidson, Patricia Collins, Eileen Bougoure, Jenny Horney, James Kearney, Kevin Lowien, Caroline Flohr, Cecilia Cummings, Jill Murphy,

**Those Who Are Sick:** Kathie Ober, Brian Reardon, Jan Sullivan, Van Vu, Bev Brown, Eileen Reedy, Kevin Arnott, Carmel Green, Jasmine Fletcher, Margaret Conrick, Hazel Soriano, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Audrey Bentley, Yvonne Oliveiro, Gregory and Genia Casey, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Frank Kenneally, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

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

## Parish News...

Sat 4/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 4.45pm Individual Reconciliation</li> <li>o <b>6pm Mass</b></li> </ul>
Sun 5/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>9.30am Mass</b></li> <li>o <b>NO 5.30pm Mass</b></li> </ul>
Mon 6/1	
Tue 7/1	o <b>No Mass today</b>
Wed 8/1	o <b>No Mass today</b>
Thu 9/1	o <b>No Mass today</b>
Fri 10/1	

### Craft Group having a break

The craft group are having a break and will resume on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### Office Closure Over Christmas & New Year

The Parish Office will reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. We extend special thanks to all members of our parish community for your amazing support throughout the year. We hope the Christmas season brings much peace and happiness to you and your families and the New Year brings opportunities for rest and many moments of joy.

### Mass times during Clergy Retreat

Clergy Retreat will be held from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January through to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Masses will be held at the following times:

#### Our Lady of Lourdes

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>: 9.30am only – NO 5.30pm Mass

#### St Patrick's Cathedral

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>: 5.30pm

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00am

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 7.00am

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>: 5.30pm

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 7.00am

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 7.00am

## Christmas Collection

The annual Christmas Collection will be shared between the OLOL St Vincent de Paul Conference and the Caritas Appeal in support of those suffering from the devastating conflicts in Lebanon, with the aim to bring immediate relief to displaced families and individuals facing hardship. A collection will be taken at each of the Christmas Masses. If you prefer to give via Electronic Funds Transfer, the Bank

Account details are: Heritage Bank

BSB: 638-070

Account Number: 5938538

**Reference: Christmas Collection**

*Many thanks for your kind and generous donations.*

### Birthday Wishes

Wishing Russell Campbell every blessing for his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. We hope the year ahead is filled with much happiness and good health.



### Roster changes from 15/16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

Our Mass times will change from the 15/16<sup>th</sup> February when Fr Quinlan will commence his well-earned retirement and Fr Jamie will celebrate Mass with us. The new Mass times will be:

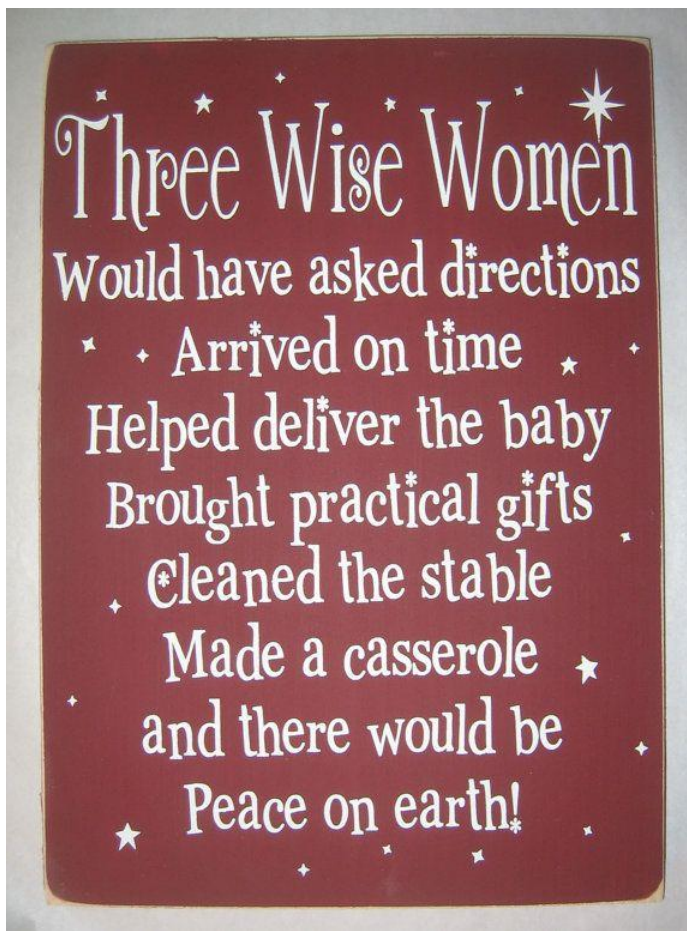
#### **6.30pm Saturday Vigil and 9.45am Sunday.**

At present there are no arrangements in place for a 5.30pm Mass. We ask all parishioners, particularly our 5.30pm community, to give consideration to your preferred Mass time so we can include you in the rosters under the new arrangements. We will contact you again very soon to ask for your preferred Mass time and ministries. If you have already decided, please contact the parish office on 4634 1453 or [lol.pariah@bigpond.com](mailto:lol.pariah@bigpond.com)



*We'd love to hear from you!*

Time	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Jan at 6pm</b>	J Whittaker	Ward Family	P Kelly	L Borger J Wilson	M & M Quinn	H. J Kelly W. S Kelly W. K Walsh	Soriano Family	J Wells
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Jan at 9.30am</b>	E Young	A Suhr A Cournane	T Ryan	M Conrick J Bonell	P Town R Fallon	H. A Cournane W. C Watson W. M McLean	K Kruger	R Coonan
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Jan at 5.30pm</b>		K Langdale S Whitelegg	V O'Connell	M Morcom J Adriano	K Langdale A Bishop	H. J Axtell W. J Salty W. R Johnston	D Stark	M Stark



# ENEWS UPDATE

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

## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

Wishing everyone a very happy and holy Christmas. Bishop Ken Howell's Christmas Message is now available via YouTube or [you can read it here](#). Parishes, please share with your community.

The Christmas Mass Times page is now live on the diocesan website [www.twb.catholic.org.au/christmas-timetable/](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au/christmas-timetable/)

This page also lists diocesan office closure times as well as information on how to access some ministries over the Christmas/New Year period.

[We will be live streaming](#) Midnight Mass and 9:00am Christmas Day. ABC will broadcast the Pope's Christmas Mass from 9.30-11.30am on Christmas Day.

## **SAVE THE DATE: FR HANS ZOLLNER SJ**

Date: 3/2/25 Monday

Time: 10:00am

Where: Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo

Fr Hans Zollner, S.J. is a German Jesuit, theologian, psychologist and licensed psychotherapist. He is the founder and president of the Pontifical Gregorian University's Institute of Anthropology Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Dignity and Care, and is one of the leading experts on safeguarding and prevention of sexual abuse. More information to come in early 2025.

## **CARITAS VANUATU EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass casualties.

This appeal will provide support to our on the ground partners who are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements by providing emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support, and recovery efforts. **Please donate today:**

<http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>

## **MASS FOR YOU AT HOME**

Australia's longest-running religious television program "Mass for You at Home" will continue its beloved ministry in 2025. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Diocese of Wollongong have signed an agreement to continue producing and broadcasting the program, which first aired on Australian television in 1971. "Mass for You at Home" will be broadcast every Sunday at 6am on the Ten Network and multiple times during the week on Foxtel's Aurora (Channel 173). Visit [massforyou.com.au](http://massforyou.com.au) for further details, watch Mass or donate.

## **LENTEN RESOURCE: BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESE**

Archdiocesan Ministries (formerly Evangelisation Brisbane) has developed a new Lenten reflection resource for the 2025 Jubilee Year called "Start Anew in Christ", and it's now available for pre-order.

Copies of "Start Anew in Christ" are just \$5 each. Bulk discounts apply for purchases over 10 copies. eBook will be available in January. Visit [Lent 2025 - Start Anew in Christ - Archdiocesan Ministries](#) to find out more and pre-order.

## **BRISBANE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Anyone interested in Queensland Catholic Church History may be interested in this link to the Proceedings of The Brisbane Catholic Historical Society.

The Brisbane Catholic Historical Society is pleased to announce that its journal archive from 1988 to 2022 is now entirely available online from

<https://www.brisbanecatholichistoricalsociety.org.au/journals/table-of-contents/>

We hope that this trove of Queensland Catholic historical research will prove of value, especially to you, and would appreciate it if you would promote this resource to folks who may be interested.



## **SUPPORT VANUATU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

Thousands of people have been severely impacted by the earthquake in Vanuatu. Please help provide emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support to those who are experiencing hardship.



**DONATE NOW**

[caritas.org.au/vanuatu](http://caritas.org.au/vanuatu)  
1800 024 413



## **Employment Opportunities**

There are currently two employment opportunities available with the Diocese – Fundraising Development Manager and Diocesan Archivist. Both jobs have been advertised in CathNews as well as Seek. Applications close for both positions on 6/1/25. For more information, click on the following links.

[Catholic Diocese Of Toowoomba Jobs in All Australia - SEEK](#)

[Fundraising Development Manager, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba \(QLD\) - CathNews](#)

[Diocesan Archivist, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba \(QLD\) - CathNews](#)

## **The Church in Burkina Faso is Suffering**

With over two million people forced to flee their villages, this West African nation has become one of the fastest-growing displacement crises in the world. Christians have been particularly targeted, forced to either renounce their faith or face death. With nowhere to go and little to survive on, many are depending on the generosity of host families to survive. To donate to Aid to the Church in Need click [here](#)