



# Welcome to **OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH**

153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453

Email: [ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au) | <https://www.ololparish.org.au> 

Priest Director: Fr Jamie Collins | Retired Priest - Fr John Quinlan

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

Pastoral Coordinator: Jenny Ferguson - [olol.pastoralcoordinator@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:olol.pastoralcoordinator@twb.catholic.org.au)

Mass times: Saturday: 6:30pm Vigil | Sunday: 9.45am

Weekday Mass - 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 Gialal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

## Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year C

### First Reading

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 125. R. v.3](#)

*(R.)* The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.  
*(R.)*

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them! What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. *(R.)*

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. *(R.)*

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. *(R.)*

### Second Reading

[Philippians 3:8-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Acclamation

[Joel 2:12-13](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

[John 8:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

Next Week's Readings (12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> April 2025) – Palm Sunday – Year C

1st Reading: [Isaiah 50:4-7](#) 2nd Reading: [Philippians 2:6-11](#) Gospel: [Luke 22:14 – 23:56](#)

## 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** - 9.45am 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 9:45am 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 at 10am every Tuesday in the Quiet Room.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** – meet the 1st Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Presbytery Meeting Room.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE** - meet 1st Sunday of the month at 10:45am 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 Joseph, 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/>

## GOSPEL FOCUS

### Restoring honour

*When the accused woman is brought before Jesus for judgment he neither looks at the woman nor at the accusers. He bends down and writes in the dirt. When the accusers melt away, Jesus (still kneeling on the ground) looks up at the woman to speak to her. She has probably never been treated with this level of respect in all her life. With this action, as much as anything else, Jesus restores dignity and honour to the woman. No longer looked down upon, she can begin a new life.*

## Sunday Reflection...

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Lent ends on a note of wonder. In the face of all the mighty works that God has already performed for the people, God promises something even more magnificent. Throughout this season we have reflected on the marvels that God accomplished in the lives of the people, cutting a covenant with Abraham, leading the people out of bondage, revealing God's own personal name, bring them into a land that is bursting with life. Now God says: You haven't seen anything yet.

The first reading proclaims that something new is about to appear. In the gospel, this new thing unfolds before our eyes. Here we see Jesus neither rejecting the law nor changing it. Instead, he shows that the law, as good as it might be, serves something higher. He shows that the mercy and compassion of God exceed the authority of the law. Once again we see that the readings of Lent are less concerned with mortification and penance than they are with divine graciousness and our response of joy and thanksgiving.

Paul is not satisfied with the blessings of the past. In fact, he considers them rubbish when compared with knowing and being united with Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught in sin to women and men who have been forgiven. Life in Christ is the new thing that God has fashioned for us. God is the one who creates something new; we are the ones who are re-created.

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Forgiven, not forgotten

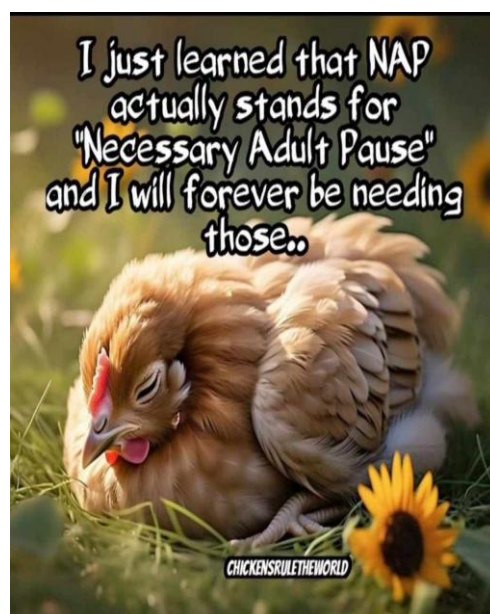
*The words Jesus speaks to the accused woman could as easily be addressed to each of us. We all feel at times that we've done the wrong thing – something we don't deserve to be forgiven for. However, Jesus says to us, I know you've done the wrong thing, and you are already forgiven, but you need to make a commitment to change and not repeat the error. It is Jesus' promise not to give up on us - not to forget about us - that we can draw strength from as we try to respond to his challenge to change.*

## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### Jerusalem

*This gospel passage begins with Jesus going to the Mount of Olives. We know the Mount of Olives best from the passion narratives in the synoptic gospels. But today's passage is not part of the last week of Jesus' life. The three synoptic gospels generally portray the ministry of Jesus as something of a journey towards Jerusalem and have him arriving just in time for the Passover and his arrest. However, the gospel of John places most of Jesus' ministry in and around Jerusalem to better focus the tension between the teachings of Jesus and the Jewish hierarchy.*

## Thought of the week...





## Please Pray For...

### Recent Deaths

**Anniversaries (4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April):** Ted Edge, Colin Quinn, Cliff Bauer, Elizabeth Ann Duff, Graham Smith, James McConachy, Kevin Stower, Gwen Nissen, Elizabeth Sims

**Those Who Are Sick:** Peter Hickey, Kathie Ober, Brian Reardon, Van Vu, 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, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara, Patrick Wright

**April Birthdays:** Christina Dever, Veronica O'Connell, Thomas Kelly, Monica Thompson, Jonah Joseph, Savanna Joseph, Shania Joseph, Catherine Dyson, Joe Kelly

### Parish News...

Sat 5/4	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 6/4	o 9.45am Mass o 10.30am Baptism Prep in the Presbytery
Mon 7/4	
Tue 8/4	o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room o Glenvale Villas Visitation o 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
Wed 9/4	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED in the Church
Thu 10/4	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft in the Quiet Room o 2pm SVDP Meeting
Fri 11/4	

### Date Claimers:

8<sup>th</sup> April – Glenvale Villas Visitation  
 8<sup>th</sup> April - 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation  
 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday  
 14<sup>th</sup> April – 5.30pm Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral  
 25<sup>th</sup> April – Anzac Day

### Palms needed for Palm Sunday

If you or anyone you know has palms that the Liturgy Group could use on Palm Sunday, please advise the Parish Office as soon as possible.



### Easter Ceremony Times

- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> April – Communal Rite of Reconciliation 6pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> April- Palm Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday Mass at 9.45am (OLOL)
- ❖ 14<sup>th</sup> April – Chrism Mass at 5.30pm (St Pat's)
- ❖ 17<sup>th</sup> April - Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm (St Anthony's)
- ❖ 18<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 10am (OLOL)
- ❖ 18<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday Passion of the Lord at 3pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday Vigil Mass Time 6.30pm (St Anthony's)
- ❖ 20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday Mass at 9.45am (OLOL)

### Communal Rite of Reconciliation

A Communal Rite of Reconciliation will be held in the church on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm. Please let the office know on 4634 1453 if you require transport to this ceremony.



### Choir Practice

Choir Practice for the Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of The Lord will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April following the 9.45am Mass.

### Chrism Mass Choir Invitation

St Patrick's Choir would like to extend an invitation to all parish choir members to join with them Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30pm to celebrate the Chrism Mass.

There will be a practice, please see details below –

Date – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Time – Commencing 6pm

Venue – St Patrick's Cathedral

RSVP – Vicky Coccozza – 0428 781 209 or vickvcoccozza@hotmail.com

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
12 <sup>th</sup> Apr at 6.30pm	T Kelly J Whittaker	G Schoorl M Cushway	G Ferguson	B Smith R O'Brien	Ward Family	H. P Hoopert W. R Campbell W. D Clark	M McLean	W Hoopert
13 <sup>th</sup> Apr at 9.45am	S Dias J Dias	Poulton Family	J Coman	J Bonell A Cournane	K Langdale R Fallon	H. G Birch W. S Rosentreter W. R Fallon	K Kruger	R Coonan

Rite of Reconciliation	Welcomers	Commentator	Reader	Examination of Conscience	Ipad Operator	Musician
8 <sup>th</sup> Apr at 6pm	J, D & D Salty	R O'Brien	J Axtel	L Walsh	M Cushway	M McNab

## Retirement of Fr Kerry Costigan

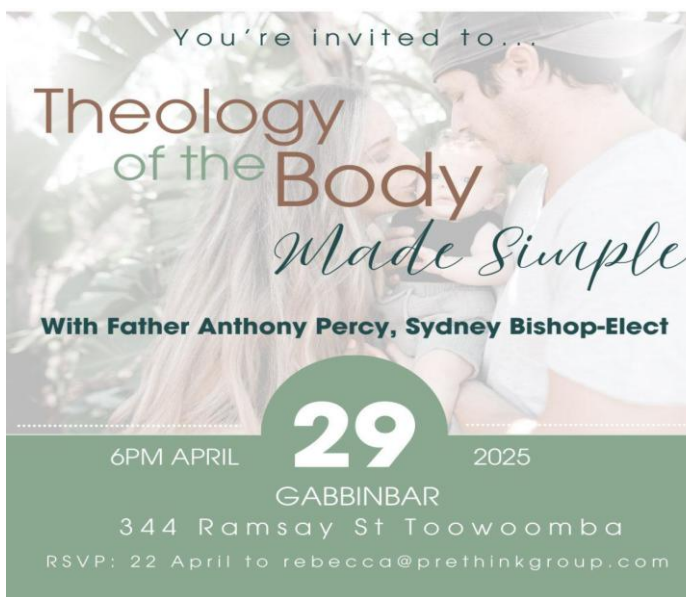
Many of us know Fr Kerry Costigan, who has been a relief priest for Our Lady of Lourdes for many years. Fr Costigan has sadly advised that due to ill health, he will no longer be able to continue in this ministry and has written a letter to the parishioners which he has asked to be shared with you all. A copy of this letter is on the noticeboard in the church, or you can click [here](#) to read it. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish would like to thank Fr Costigan for his ongoing support of our parish and we wish him all the very best for his retirement.

## Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Election Statement 2025

With Australian's heading to the polls on May 3, the following Election Statement has been issued by the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement. Click [here](#) to read the Election Statement or there is a copy on the notice board.

### Prayer for the election:

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies, so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new, and by saving grace, transform our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



# ENEWS UPDATE

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

## BISHOP VINCENT PRESENTS: A CONVERSATION WITH CARDINAL STEPHEN CHOW SJ

Date: 16/4/25 Friday Time: 5:30pm-8:00pm

Where: Parramatta - Online Cost: Free

Cardinal Chow SJ is the Bishop of Hong Kong and one of the most senior Catholic Church leaders in Asia. Moderated by Fr Frank Brennan SJ, you won't want to miss this conversation on "Bridge-building". [Visit the website to find out more and how to watch the livestream.](#)

## THE AUSTRALIAN HOLY SHROUD CONFERENCE 2025

Date: 27-28/6/25

Where: Liverpool Catholic Club, Prestons NSW

Tickets: [Book through TryBooking](#)

Located in Turin is the most scientifically scrutinised artefact in the world; the linen cloth known as the Holy Shroud. This cloth is believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ. The two-day Australian Holy Shroud Conference 2025, which includes a Shroud Artefact Exhibition, intends to make available to the Australian public the most up-to-date findings on the Shroud. [Find out more at the Holy Shroud Australia website.](#)

[Conference Poster](#)

[Conference Flyer](#)

## SAVE THE DATE: 110-YEAR REUNION CUNNAMULLA SCHOOL

22-24 August 2025

Planning is underway for the 110-year reunion of St Catherine's/Sacred Heart School Cunnamulla. Details to come.

## CATHEVENTS

The Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP) has launched a new website that aims to be a central hub for Catholic events in Australia and New Zealand. The site aims to support Catholic leaders, organisations, and communities by providing an easy way to find and share events that enrich faith and service. CathEvents is now live and can be accessed at: [www.cathevents.org.au](http://www.cathevents.org.au)

(CathEvents is not associated with CathNews Australia or CathNews New Zealand, which are ministries of their respective bishops conferences.)

## HEADSTONE HEALING PROJECT

In August 2024 143 memorials and monuments at the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery were damaged by vandals. Many sections within the site were damaged, including graves in the Catholic section. [See the Toowoomba Regional Council website for a full list of damage.](#)

The Headstone Healing Project was created in response to this act of vandalism and is engaging the community to help restore the damage. You can find out more about the project on their [Facebook Page](#) or contact the Toowoomba Regional Council about volunteer opportunities at the Cemetery.



## Fifth Sunday of Lent 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025



Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, Envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

