



Welcome to **OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH**

153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453

Email: 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

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

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

Sunday, 16th March 2025 Second Sunday of Lent – Year C

First Reading

[Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis
God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14, R. v.1](#)

(R). The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the

stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' (R.)

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. (R.)

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading

[Philippians 3:17 - 4:1](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear

friends, do not give away but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Gospel

[Luke 9:28-36](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

Next Week's Readings (22nd/23rd March 2025) – Third Sunday of Lent – Year C
1st Reading: [Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12](#) Gospel: [Luke 13:1-9](#)

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/>

Scriptural Context

Gospel Parallels

The account of the Transfiguration appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The word, synoptic, means 'seen together' and these three gospels can be seen together because they have so much material in common. It is now accepted that the gospel of Mark was the first written as so much of it appears in the other two, while the gospels of Matthew and Luke both seem to have also drawn on another source of Jesus material (known as the 'Q' source). Despite the parallels, each writer uses the same story to convey the particular message of that gospel.

Sunday Reflection...

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The Second Sunday of Lent celebrates the epiphanies of God, the ways in which God's divine presence is revealed. The first divine epiphany is the manifestation of God as one who initiates a covenant, an intimate relationship with human beings. Not only does God initiate this agreement, but God also seals it with blood, making it official. Although we ritualise our relationship with God in a religious setting, the call to enter into the covenant can come in the ordinary events of life. The important thing to remember about this covenant is that God enters into our lives and initiates the relationship. No life is too simple; no life is too busy. Human history in all of its contours is the setting for the encounter with God. The glory of God is revealed in the transfigured Jesus, the one who discussed his suffering and death with Moses and Elijah. Lent is a time for us to enter into this suffering, not merely through reflection, prayer and penance, but concretely, by sharing in the suffering of the body of Christ. We see this suffering all around us.

God is revealed through women and men who live lives of Christian commitment. In those whose integrity strengthens us, in those whose religious sentiments inspire us, in those whose endurance gives us confidence. God is revealed in those who get involved in bettering the lives of others. God is revealed in very ordinary ways, if we but open our eyes to see..

Gospel Focus

Asleep again?

It seems that at crucial points in the gospel where Jesus' true identity and mission are revealed, the disciples are falling asleep! The gospel of Luke is unique in suggesting that the disciples were sleepy at the Transfiguration. They managed to fight off sleep in this instance, but were fast asleep at the Mount of Olives as Jesus prayed in agony. The sleepiness of the disciples at these crucial times is indicative of limited grasp of what Jesus is on about. They are wearied by all that he asks of them, rather than energised by it, and consequently they're not ready to witness great events when they come along.

Living the Gospel

'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Paul Nolan

Anniversaries (14th – 20th March): Esther Condon, Laurie Topp, Bernice Smith, Kerry Kearns, Doreen Barrett, Madeline Rice, Brian McGrath, Violet Doyle, Margaret Murray, Ted Howard, Noel Meara, Rev Fr Ronald Walton

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

March Birthdays: Thelma Johnstone, Pat McGovern, Regina Thompson, Ron O'Brien, Judy Wilson, Peter Reynolds, Sarah Dias, Harrison Dwan, Kevin Mahoney

Parish News...

Sat 15/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 6.30pm Mass o PC Nominations
Sun 16/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.45am Mass o PC Nominations
Mon 17/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10.30am Funeral Mass for Alan Smith o Feast of St Patrick o BUPA Visitation
Tue 18/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room
Wed 19/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o Feast of St Joseph o 6.30pm SPRED in the Church
Thu 20/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10am Anointing Mass o 10.30am Craft in the Quiet Room
Fri 21/3	

Date Claimers:

- 25th March – Annunciation of the Lord

Funeral Details for Paul Nolan

The family of Paul Nolan would like to advise that his funeral will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday 26th March at 11am.

Transport to Mass

If you are unable to drive or the new Mass times or a change in your mobility makes getting to Mass more difficult, please let the Parish Office staff know. We are very blessed to have generous volunteers who can provide transport for you. If you would like to be included on the list of transport providers, please contact the Parish Office on 4634 1453.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

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

Parish Pastoral Council –

Recommendations for Membership

On-line recommendations for Membership to the Parish Pastoral Council are now open and may be lodged by clicking [here](#). Alternatively, use the paper forms available from this weekend at the church entrances and place in the boxes provided. Recommendations close after the 5.30pm Mass next weekend, 24th March.



Cyclone Alfred Appeal

In challenging times, St Vincent de Paul is there to provide a hand up to Queenslanders in need. The Cyclone Alfred Appeal will raise funds and help deliver financial assistance to families who will need help with disaster recovery. You can make a difference by donating [here](#).



Wanted – Second hand car.

Manual. Up to date service log book. Contact Joe or Sarah on 0412 836 169.

Easter Ceremonies – Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the Easter Ceremonies. If you are able to help, would you please put your name on the sheet on the table at the back of the church. We need as much help as possible during this busy season. Please don't leave all the work to just a few.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
22 nd Mar at 6.30pm	T Kelly J Whittaker	Hoopert Family	L Borger	J Wilson R Jayawardhana	Kelly Family	H. L Walsh W. J Johnston W. M McLean	M Cushway	J Wells
23 rd Mar at 9.45am	J Poulton S Dias	A Cournane R Fallon	P Murphy	M Ondrus C Watson	A Cournane R Fallon	H. C Dias W. S Rosentreter W. J Axtell	T Ryan	V Barker

Prayer for the healing of Pope Francis

Loving and merciful God, we implore You to look kindly upon Your servant, Pope Francis. Touch him with your compassion and consolation. Restore his health and renew his strength in mind, body and spirit. Surround him with your peace and the support of the prayers of your holy people. We place Pope Francis in your healing love through the doctors, nurses and medical professionals who take care of him. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Mary, Health of the Sick, prayer for us.

Pavi's Story – Can you support her?

Pavi was born in Sri Lanka, a country that had undergone a long and bloody civil war. In 2012 Pavi and her father were forced to flee to Australia in a fishing boat, the only way they could see to be safe. 13 years later, Pavi is being told she must uproot herself and return to a country from which she fled and which holds traumatic memories. Please read Pavi's Story [here](#). If you feel you can support Pavi, please sign the petition on the tables at the entrances to the church. A copy of Pavi's story is on the noticeboard.

World Day of Prayer 2025

Cook Islands
'I made you wonderful'



Friday April 4th

10am South Toowoomba Baptist Church
279 Geddes St, Centenary Heights

6.30pm Lifeworks Uniting Church
615 Boundary St, Glenvale

Contact for South Toowoomba Baptist Church: Faye Wilson - 0439384430
Contact for Lifeworks: Mary Tibben - amtibben@bigpond.com

E NEWS UPDATE

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

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Date: 18/4/25 Friday **Time:** 7:30am-9:00am

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral front steps

Organised by the Social Justice Commission. Join us for a walk around the CBD stopping at various stations. Each stop is a 'station' and we will pause, read a reflection and pray. The reflections will help us be in solidarity with some of the many injustices in our world. Please wear walking shoes, and if the weather is inclement, suitable clothing and umbrellas. You may also wish to bring a water bottle for your own comfort.

[See Facebook Event for details and updates.](#)

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS AND STAFF UPDATES

Fr John Fowles has commenced as Parish Administrator of St Mary's Goondiwindi. **Fr Bony Abraham** has moved to Warwick as Associate Pastor to assist Fr Periya Savarimuthu during the absence of Fr Franco Filipetto (sabbatical leave).

Fr Francis Kraitsada is at St Patrick's Cathedral. Fr Francis is here for 12 months to improve his English language skills, and he will assist in various ministries throughout the Toowoomba area.

The diocese welcomes **Ms Erin Kehoe-O'Shea** as Fundraising Development Manager and **Ms Madeline Wallace** as Diocesan Archivist. Erin is located at Bishop's House and Madeline is located at the Marian Centre.

E SAFETY RESOURCES

eSafety is Australia's independent regulator for online safety, helping to educate Australians about online safety risks and help to remove harmful content.

Supporting young men to have safe, positive online experiences

eSafety has published the latest in a two-part research project investigating online experiences of young men and boys. eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant unpacks the findings in our [latest blog](#), charting a path forward to disrupt harmful online narratives. [Read more about the project and download findings.](#)

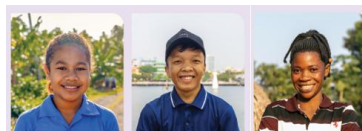
Behind the screen: social media use among Australian children

Most 8 to 12-year-olds have used social media or messaging services despite being under the age limit of 13+, according to eSafety's recent national survey. This is backed up by information provided directly to eSafety by social media platforms about how they enforce their own age restrictions. The results show that Australian children easily circumvent inadequate and poorly enforced minimum age rules employed by social media services. eSafety remains committed to working with teachers, parents and young people to provide meaningful, co-designed educational content and resources that build digital literacy and resilience. [Find out more.](#)



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

