



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, 23rd March 2025 Third Sunday of Lent – Year C

First Reading

[Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15](#)

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am.

This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v.8](#)

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12](#)

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

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the

same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel

[Luke 13:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Next Week's Readings (29th/30th March 2025) – Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year C
1st Reading: [Joshua 5:9-12](#) 2nd Reading: [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#) Gospel: [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32](#)

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

Parables

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

One major theme emerges from today's readings: incomprehensibility of God. We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives. Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.

In the midst of this ambiguity we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.

These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.

Gospel Focus

Repent

Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

Living the Gospel

Bad Things/Good People

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Dorothy Dorries

Anniversaries (21st – 27th March): Eileen (Peta) Madden, Kevin Byrne, Arthur Henry Sheriff, Bert Jelley, James Kearney, Harold Kirwin, Dolly Walsh, Rev Fr Patrick Brady

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 22/3 | o 6.30pm Mass |
| Sun 23/3 | o 9.45am Mass o 10.45am Workshop 3 Conf/First Eucharist o Parish Council Nominations Close |
| Mon 24/3 | o 11am Funeral Mass for Dorothy Dorries |
| Tue 25/3 | o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room o Liturgy Group Meeting 1.30pm in the Presbytery (note: change of time) |
| Wed 26/3 | o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED in the Church |
| Thu 27/3 | o 10am Mass – No school children until next term o 10.30am Craft in the Quiet Room o 2pm SVPD Meeting |
| Fri 28/3 | o Office Closed for Toowoomba Show Holiday |

Date Claimers:

8th April – 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
13th April – Palm Sunday
14th April – 5.30pm Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

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.



Last Chance to Nominate for Parish Pastoral Council

On-line recommendations for Membership to the Parish Pastoral Council are still open and may be lodged by clicking [here](#). Alternatively, use the paper forms available in the pews or at the church entrances and place in the boxes provided. Recommendations close this Sunday evening, 24th March.



Easter Ceremony Times

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

Children's Liturgy

Next Sunday, the 30th March, will be the last Children's Liturgy before breaking for the school holidays. Children's Liturgy will recommence on the 27th April.

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.

| | Altar Servers | Welcomers | Commentary | Ministers of the Word | Offertory Procession | Extraordinary Ministers | I pad Operator | Piety Stall |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------|-------------|
| 29 th Mar at 6.30pm | G Hoopert A Mendoza | D & N Clark | P Kelly | L Borger C Ferguson | M & J Wells | H. J Johnston W. J Sullivan W. M McLean | C Juillerat | J Sullivan |
| 30 th Mar at 9.45am | J Dias E Young | A Suhr P Town | J Anderson | J Axtell B Trenery | Ryan Family | H. C Watson W. R Fallon W. B Denny | Dias Family | M Webb |

Prayer for the health of Pope Francis

Loving and Merciful God,

We come before You in prayer, lifting up Your servant, Pope Francis, in his time of need. You are the Source of all healing, and we ask You to surround him with Your loving presence, granting him strength and recovery. May Your divine grace rest upon him, restoring his health and filling him with renewed vigour to continue leading Your Church with compassion and wisdom.

We place Pope Francis into Your hands, trusting in Your eternal care. May he be comforted by the love of the Church and the prayers of all the faithful. We ask, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that his recovery be swift, and his spirit be strengthened in Your peace. May Your will be done in his life, O Lord, and may Your healing power be with him always.

We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Credit: Caritas Jerusalem

ENEWS UPDATE

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

ST THERESA'S PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: 23/5/25

Time: From 5:30pm

Where: St Theresa's Parish Centre Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts Tmba

Cost: \$10pp Primary school students free

All are welcome to come for a night of fun, laughs and test your knowledge.

Sausage sizzle and bar available. Book a table of 8, and individuals are welcome to attend and join to make a table.

[See flyer for details.](#)

NATSICC AND CARITAS AUSTRALIA RENEW "ONE JOURNEY, TOGETHER"

After a period of healing, reflection and discernment following the outcome of The Voice referendum, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) and Caritas Australia are calling on Catholic organisations across the country to rejoin the 'One Journey, Together' initiative.

The initiative exists to unify Catholic organisations in Australia around a shared commitment to justice, reconciliation, and the amplification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices. 'One Journey, Together' was a response to the calling of The Voice Referendum and sought to provide Catholics with information and resources grounded in Catholic Social Teachings to aid them on their journey of discernment.

Those wanting further information, a Terms of Reference for the 'One Journey, Together' initiative, or to express their interest, can email Dean Price on dean.price@caritas.org.au

MEN SEEKING WISDOM

Date: Thursdays

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

Where: Sychar House of Spirituality, 69 Margaret St Tmba

Cost: Free

Since the middle of 2022, a group of men has gathered weekly in Toowoomba to encourage each other in their Christian journey. The size and membership of the group have varied. All men (18+) are very welcome to take part. The members know they often stumble in following Christ but they find this time together assists them on that road.

Interested? Contact Robie: 0437 737 779

Ars Cantorum

presents

Towards Easter

a concert of Eastertide music

featuring **Worthy is the Lamb** by Lloyd Larson

with supporting music by Victor Johnson Kenneth Leighton

Tchaikovsky David Rasbach Claudio Casciolini and more

Sunday 13 April 2025 @ 2pm

St Patrick's Cathedral

Cnr James & Neil Streets Toowoomba

Conductor - Pam Duane

Accompanist - Andrew Doecke

Tickets \$25 school aged children - no charge

Tickets available from choir members

& St Pat's Parish Office (4637 1500)

or at the Cathedral door prior to the concert

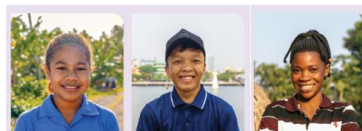
Enquiries - 0439 355 089

Afternoon Tea will be served
in the Cathedral Rose Garden
after the concert -
come and join us!



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd 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

