



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, 27th April 2025 Second Sunday of Easter – Year C – Divine Mercy Sunday

First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. R. v.24](#)

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end. (R.)

2. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

3. O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success. Blessed in the name of

the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading

[Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19](#)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

Gospel

[John 20:19-31](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them,

'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Next Week's Readings (3rd/4th May 2025) – Third Sunday of Easter – Year C

1st Reading: [Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40-41](#) 2nd Reading: [Revelation 5:11-14](#) Gospel: [John 21:1-19](#)

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/>

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

My Lord and my God

By the time the Gospel of John was written – in the last decade of the 1st Century – there were already diverse beliefs about Jesus. As is recorded in the gospels, there were those who regarded Jesus as one of the prophets of Israel; others recognised him as the promised Messiah; others still had come to believe in Jesus the Christ as the incarnation of God. That is certainly the theology expressed in the Gospel of John. Perhaps as a means to further his community's theology and correct other ideas, the gospel writer has Thomas declare, "My Lord and my God!"

Sunday Reflection...

© Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the Sundays after Easter all provide mystagogical catechesis for the entire church, with a special emphasis for the newly baptised. This instruction is meant to help us recognise the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst. The overarching theme for the Second Sunday of Easter is the celebration of this presence in several manifestations.

While we might seek some obvious, tangible manifestation, each reading speaks of the presence of Christ in a way that we would not expect Christ to be present. He is there in the very throes of sickness, in fear and doubt, in the celebration of the liturgy. These presences challenge us to go beneath appearances, beneath the mundane and banal of life, and there discover the risen Lord in personal mystical experience, in the ministry of the believing community, and in the transformative possibilities of the liturgy.

Experiences of the Risen Lord are not reserved for extraordinarily holy people. Any one of us can be invited into a deep personal encounter when we least expect it, in the most unlikely places, with effects that overwhelm us. In fact, the Risen Christ is always just around the next corner, eager to enter our lives with the transforming power of the resurrection. Being part of a community of believers in prayer can be one of the most profound religious experiences. It not only transforms the present, but it also entrusts us with a vision of what is yet to be, an eschatological hope for a glorious future.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Holy Spirit

In the Gospel of John, during the Last Supper discourse, Jesus repeatedly assures his disciples that the Father will provide them with another Advocate to guide them. This advocate (or paraclete) is to be the Holy Spirit. Although 'advocate' carries a certain legal meaning, the gospel writer uses it to mean one who represents the continued presence of Jesus, just as Jesus was the advocate or paraclete of God. In the Holy Spirit that Jesus breathes on the disciples we see the final element of the Trinitarian experience of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

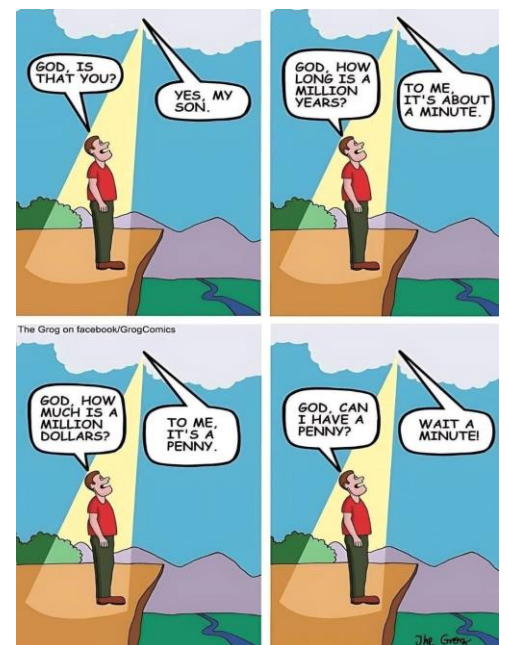


Have you thought?

Does he mean us?

When Thomas made his declaration of faith, Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy (or Blessed) are those who have not seen and yet believe.' (v29) Because this gospel was written 60 years or so after the time of Jesus, there were indeed many who believed but had not ever seen him. The blessing is on all those who believe without the benefit of a physical encounter of Jesus. Whilst the gospel was written as an acknowledgement of those at the end of the 1st Century, it is also a blessing and encouragement for believers of today!

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths Pope Francis, Lex Hudson, Colin Stephens

Anniversaries (25th Apr – 1st May): Kaylene Bauer, Norma Cullen, Shirley Casey, Lucy Jannusch, Mona Boyce, Mavis Gesch, James Rush, Peter Murphy, Jim Ryan, Brian Kruger, Lil Cronin, Bill Collins, Flo McGuire, Michael McKenzie, Francis Lynch, Joan Ross, Alex Morrison, Mario Frattin, Alan Curr, Rev Fr Leo O'Donohue, Rev Fr John Concannon, Rev Fr Reginald Prior

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 26/4	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 27/4	o 9.45am Mass (Divine Mercy Sunday)
Mon 28/4	
Tue 29/4	o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room
Wed 30/4	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o Workshop 4 (Conf/1 st Eucharist) 3.30pm o 6.30pm SPRED in the Church
Thu 01/5	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft & Friendship in the Quiet Room
Fri 02/5	

Date Claimers:

- 27th April – Divine Mercy Sunday
- 29th April – Liturgy Group Meeting 10.30am
- 30th April – 4th Workshop for Sacraments of Confirmation & Communion 3.30pm

Prayer for Anzac Day

Gracious and loving God, the cross of Christ is the sign of your desire for justice and peace for all. Open our minds to your vision as we remember all who suffered through Australia and New Zealand's involvement in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Grant all service personnel who sacrificed health and life for the good of all, the gift of your deep peace. May we, who inherit the freedom for which they fought, become instruments of your peace in our homes, workplaces and world. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Gardening/Maintenance Working Bee

Saturday 10th May, 8.30am – 10.30am followed by M/Tea.

All welcome to come lend a hand:
Prune/tidy gardens, Spray/pull weeds
BYO Wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves, Secateurs etc



Rest in Peace Pope Francis

Rest in Peace Pope Francis, our brother, our leader, our shepherd, our inspiration. Thank you for the gift and grace of your life and teachings; for your inclusion of all; for your love for your people, especially the poor, the refugee, the marginalised; for your love and care for our Mother Earth; and for your boundless compassion and endless work for peace. May the angels lead you to paradise where you will be raised up with Christ in Easter glory. Alleluia, alleluia! (Taken from Jamberoo Abby)

Project Compassion

Please return all Project Compassion envelopes as soon as possible. Many thanks for your generosity.

	Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	I pad Operator	Piety Stall
3rd May at 6.30pm	T Kelly J Whittaker	P & J O'Sullivan	J Soriano	M Whitelegg J Johnston	D & N Clark	H. J Kelly W. E Castles W. M McLean	M Cushway	D Clark
4th May at 9.45am	J Dias E Young	A Cournane R Fallon	T O'Mara	J Anderson P Murphy	Poulton Family	H. S Rosentreter W. A Cournane W. R Fallon	K Langdale	V Barker

Message from Bishop Ken Howell upon the death of Pope Francis

Together with the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba I join my prayers upon learning the sad news of the death of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. His Holiness dedicated his life to serving God and the Church with unwavering faith, compassion, and humility. As we mourn this great loss, let us also celebrate his remarkable legacy not just as the head of the Catholic Church, but as a world leader. May we find comfort in our shared faith and the hope of eternal life. I find myself this morning remembering my two meetings with Pope Francis. The first was as a newly ordained bishop in 2017 attending a program of formation in Rome following my ordination. The Pope spoke briefly with us all and met us with warmth and great interest. The second was the occasion of the Australian Bishops visit to Rome in 2019. The Pope spoke with us for almost two hours where we discussed many matters with him in a very casual and relaxed meeting. This is a great example of his style as Pope. He welcomed every person he met with warmth and with a deep respect of the dignity of every human person. It was here that his light shone out, especially in his respect and care for the marginalised. He preached that Christ came for all people, especially those on the peripheries of society, and it was here that he showed particular care and deep interest in their lives. Pope Francis was obviously deeply moved by some of the terrible conflicts happening in our world. He regularly called for peace, and we could tell that his heart was broken by the senseless killing of the innocent, and the destruction of their homes and family lives. So much can be said about this humble and sincere servant of Christ. Pope Francis showed us how to be "holy" in the very best sense of that word. He was deeply in love with Jesus whom he served with great devotion, and he showed this in the way he loved the Church and worked tirelessly to share the fullness of the Gospel message.

May he rest in the peace of the Christ whom he both loved and served with energy and devotion.

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.

E NEWS UPDATE



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

FEAST FOR FREEDOM FUNDRAISER

Date: 26/4/25 Saturday **Time:** Following 5pm Mass

Where: St Anthony's Parish Community Centre, Memory St Tmbaa

All are welcome to a pot-luck dinner hosted by The Dignity Project. Please bring a plate to share, BYO cold drinks. Funds raised go to support the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, [donate online](#) or with cash on the night. RSVP 20 April to the Parish Office 4636 1737.

[See flyer for details.](#)

THEATRE NIGHT FUNDRAISER: PASTORAL CARE AND SRS OF ST PETER CLAVER

Where: Toowoomba Repertory Theatre, Margaret Street Tmba

Enjoy a night out at the theatre and support Pastoral Care or the Sister of St Peter Claver.

On the Wallaby: Nick Enright's ebullient musical play traces the misfortunes of the O'Brien family, waterside workers in Port Adelaide. It is inspired by the stories of homeless men 'on the wallaby' who roamed Australian roads during the Great Depression. 29/4/25 (Tuesday) @ 7:10pm supporting Pastoral Care. Call 07 46166415 to book tickets and find out more.

7/5/25 (Wednesday) @ 7:10pm supporting Sisters of St Peter Claver. Call 0416 055 976 to book tickets and find out more.

MEN ALIVE: GROWING GOOD MEN

Date: 27-29/6/25 Friday-Sunday

Where: Emu Gully, Helidon Spa

Cost: \$490.00 Father & Son Pair

A weekend experience for fathers and their teenage sons. Growing Good Men is an experientially-based program which encourages and enables fathers and sons to strengthen their relationship and to explore important issues of growing into manhood. It is designed for fathers and their adolescent sons aged 12 to 16 years (school years between 7 and 10). [Book tickets and find out more here.](#)

[See flyer for details.](#)

ANIMATED MOVIE: KING OF KINGS

Rated PG

This film sets out to inspire and uplift our communities and families, especially our children.

This beautifully animated film, featuring an esteemed cast including Kenneth Branagh, Uma Thurman, Mark Hamill, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley, Forest Whitaker and Oscar Isaac, presents the life of Jesus Christ through the imaginative lens of Charles Dickens narrating to his son, Walter. [Watch the trailer here](#)

Currently showing at [Toowoomba Grand Central cinema.](#)

For more information or to collaborate on hosting an event, please feel free to contact Bruno at Rialto Distribution at bruno@rialtodistribution.com



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Thank You

Caritas Australia would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent. If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you for standing with us!

It's not too late to donate.

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

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

