



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, 30th March 2025 Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year C

First Reading

[Joshua 5:9-12](#)

A reading from the book of Joshua
The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9](#)

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)

3 Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

Second Reading

[2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel

[Luke 15:1-3. 11-32](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants

who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Next Week's Readings (5th/6th April 2025) – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year C
1st Reading: [Isaiah 43:16-21](#) 2nd Reading: [Philippians 3:8-14](#) Gospel: [John 8:1-11](#)

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

Customs and culture

The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

Sunday Reflection...

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In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God.

The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God.

The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other. Christ was identified with sin so that we might be identified with God's righteousness. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives.



Have you thought? The Prodigal

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word prodigal is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

from the perspective

The Older Brother

We might have a little sympathy for the position of the older brother who has stuck by his father and done all that was required of him. All of a sudden his wayward brother returns and his father pulls out all the stops to welcome him home. The older brother is like the Pharisees and scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love.

Thought of the week...

There's a big party tonight. The master's lost son has returned home, and he specifically requested for the fattest calf to be there.



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths

Anniversaries (28th Mar – 3rd April): Baby Joseph Paul Whittaker, Rita Moore, Kevin Langton, Herbert John Reis, Lorna Dunne, William Sarquis, Tom Burns

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 29/3 | o 6.30pm Mass |
| Sun 30/3 | o 9.45am Mass |
| Mon 31/3 | |
| Tue 1/4 | o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group in the Quiet Room |
| Wed 2/4 | o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED in the Church |
| Thu 3/4 | o 10am Mass – No school children until next term o 10.30am Craft in the Quiet Room |
| Fri 4/4 | |

Date Claimers:

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

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.



Lenten Group Meeting

The Lenten Group meet at 9.30am on Thursday in the Quiet Room in the church. All are welcome to attend.

Easter Ceremony Times

- ❖ 8th April – Communal Rite of Reconciliation 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)

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.



Knights of the Southern Cross, Toowoomba Centenary Celebrations

The Knights invite all members, past members, widows of deceased members and parishioners of Toowoomba parishes to join them in remembering their centenary of service and support in Toowoomba. Bishop Ken will celebrate the 9.00am mass on Sunday 6 April at St Patrick's Cathedral followed by morning tea in the grounds.

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention - April

April: For the use of the new technologies
 Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times. To watch the Pope Video's, please click [here](#).

| | Altar Servers | Welcomers | Commentary | Ministers of the Word | Offertory Procession | Extraordinary Ministers | I pad Operator | Piety Stall |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|
| 5 th Apr at 6.30pm | E Ward L Ward | P & J O'Sullivan | J Johnston | R Johnston M McLean | E & P Castles | H. W Hoopert W. R O'Brien W. M Cushway | Soriano Family | G School |
| 6 th Apr at 9.45am | J Poulton | T Ryan K Langdale | K Langdale | C Anderson M Conrick | P Town A Suhr | H. Cleber Dias W. A Courneane W. P Murphy | A Winder | P Town |

Slavery-Free Easter

As Easter is fast approaching, ACRATH is calling for everyone to consider the ethical dimensions of their purchases; we ask you to **make sure your Easter chocolate is slavery-free.**

Fairtrade Chocolate Brands

- Green & Blacks
- Aldi
- Alter Eco
- Bennetto Natural Foods Co
- Moser-Roth
- Pico
- Wellington Chocolate Factory
- Tony's Chocolate



Fairtrade Retailers

- Aldi
- Woolworths
- Coles
- IGA



woolworths

E NEWS UPDATE

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

MEN SEEKING WISDOM

Date: Thursdays, weekly Time: 7:00pm

Where: Sychar House of Prayer and Spirituality, 69 Margaret St

A group of men in Toowoomba has been meeting weekly since mid-2022 to support each other in their spiritual journey. Open to all men (18+), the gatherings last 90 minutes at most and include prayer, silent reflection on and discussion of the day's Gospel reading, and discussion of a short spiritual text. There's no pressure to speak, and the focus is on listening to each other, never on debate. Meetings take place on Thursday evenings, about 32 weeks a year, with an optional cuppa and social time before or after. Interested? Call Robie on 0437 737 779.

HEALING OF THE HEART, A TALK ON PRAYER

Presented by Brother Massimo Chang of the Community of the Sons and Daughters of God (saintaugustinecfd@gmail.com)

Thursday 3rd April at Sacred Heart Parish Wilsonton

6pm Mass, followed by a talk, Q&A/Discussion, and a light supper

Friday 4th April at Sacred Heart Parish Wilsonton

10.30am Talk, Q&A/Discussion. 12 noon Mass to follow

Contact Marion on 0418 609470 for any queries. All welcome.

A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON ABORTION

Date: 10/4/25 Thursday Time: 7:30-8:30pm

Where: Toowoomba Community Baptist Church, Drayton North

Tickets: [BOOK FREE TICKET](#)

[Cherish Life](#), one of Australia's largest pro-life organisations, will present A Christian Perspective on Abortion. This talk will equip Christians with biblical, ethical, and practical insights to navigate the issue of abortion with both truth and compassion. [Download flyer.](#)

ARS CANTORUM PRESENTS TOWARDS EASTER

Date: 13/4/25 Sunday Time: 2:00pm

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral Tmba

Cost: \$25pp, school-aged children free, tickets call Parish Office 4637 1500

A concert of Eastertide music followed by afternoon tea in the Cathedral rose garden. [See flyer for details.](#)

CATHNEWS

CathNews is a ministry of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, delivering nine curated stories a day, Monday to Friday, via an e-newsletter and available on the web at cathnews.com also on [Facebook](#).

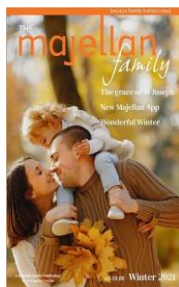
[Parishes and schools are welcome to use this graphic in their newsletters.](#)

JUBILEE YEAR WEBSITE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CHURCH

A website to help Catholics celebrate the Jubilee year has been launched by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. The website pilgrimsofhope.catholic.org.au is now live and contains Australia-centric resources.

Free copies of the Majellan Magazine

Free copies of the Majellan are available at the back of the church.



For over 70 years *the Majellan* has helped families thrive with stories that enrich family relationships, offer comfort when life seems overwhelming and aid in building faith and spiritual lives.

Published 4 times a year, it is packed with stories about family and faith to help families be the best they can be.

Toowoomba Winter Shelter Program

For the past two years, St Theresa's Parish and St Thomas Moore's Parish have been participating in the Toowoomba Winter Shelter program. Last year, they opened the doors every second Monday night to provide up to 10 guests an opportunity for a meal, a hot shower and a warm place to sleep for the night. This year, they have been approached to host guests every Friday night for 13 weeks, alternating between the two locations.

This is an opportunity for the wider Catholic community to participate and support. [In an open letter to parishes within reasonable distance](#) of St Theresa's and St Thomas More's Parishes, people are given practical ways to support.

To find out more contact Matt Boyd on cityboyd03@gmail.com or phone 0427 058 655.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th and 30th 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

