



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> 

Parish Priest: Fr Bony Abraham

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 Liturgy of The Word/Mass – Tuesday and 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 Giabal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 5th April 2026 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - Year A

Easter Vigil

First Reading [Gn 1:1 - 2:2](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

God saw all he had made, and indeed it was good.

Responsorial Psalm [103:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35.](#)

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading [Ex 14:15 - 15:1](#)

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground.

Responsorial Psalm [Ex 15:1-6, 17-18](#)

(R.) Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

Third Reading [Ezek 36:16-28](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall pour water over you and I shall give you a new heart.

Responsorial Psalm [Isaiah 12:2-6](#)

(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Epistle [Rom 6:3-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

Responsorial Psalm [117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23](#)

Gospel Reading [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

Easter Sunday

First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead

Peter addressed Cornelius and his households: 'You must have heard

about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for His love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading

[Colossians 3:1-4](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel

[John 20:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Next Week's Readings (11th/12th April 2026) – 2nd Sunday of Easter – Year A
1st Reading: [Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Peter 1:3-9](#) Gospel: [John 20:19-31](#)

Parish Activities

ANAM CARA – Wednesday 9.00am in the Presbytery

BAPTISM information mornings are held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10.45am. 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 in the Quiet Room at the Church every Thursday after the 10am Mass.

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 1pm in the Presbytery.

LOURDES PRAYER GROUP - meet in the Quiet Room every Tuesday after the 10am Liturgy of The Word.

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 at 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, Jeni Bonell, Jessica Ramos, 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

Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

Sunday Reflection...

Nick Brodie

'Jesus reveals God to us', says Pope Leo XIV, 'with his own true and integral humanity.' This mystery underpins our Christian calling and makes the Resurrection an invitation.

'In order to know God in Christ,' the Pope suggests, 'we must welcome his integral humanity.' This means recognising Christ's humanness as well as his divinity. Hard as it might be to understand, this is the ancient mystery we profess.

The implications of this are profound. 'It is not only the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us and calls us together,' the Pope explains, 'but his very person: the Lord who becomes incarnate, is born, heals, teaches, suffers, dies, rises again and remains among us.'

'Therefore,' the Pope continues, 'to honour the greatness of the Incarnation, it is not enough to consider Jesus as the channel of transmission of intellectual truths.' Certainly, Jesus is our truest teacher, but he is so much more than a teacher from the past.

As the Pope points out, 'Jesus himself invites us to share his perception of reality.' Seeing the world through human eyes, Our Risen Lord invites us to see it through his.

[Quotes from General Audience, 21 January 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260121-udienza-generale.html>]

GOSPEL FOCUS

The disciple Jesus loved

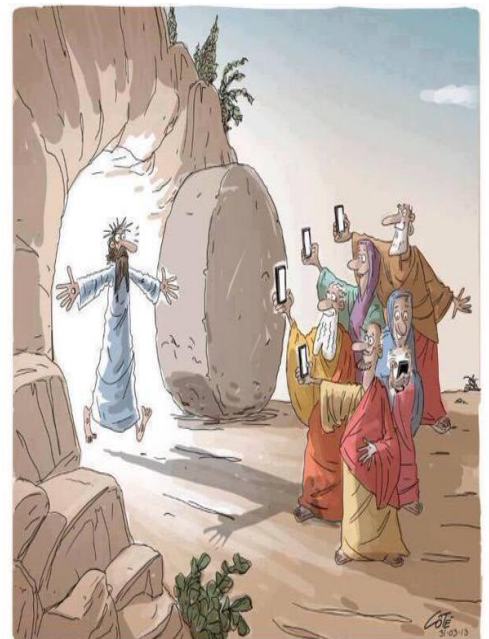
In this week's gospel we see reference to a disciple as 'the one Jesus loved'. It is generally agreed that this disciple is John. There is some suggestion that the disciple, John, is in fact the John ascribed as the author of this gospel. If this is so, to describe himself as the disciple Jesus loved is merely a means of avoiding using a personal pronoun – I or me. Just as Jesus described himself as 'the Son of God' or 'the Son of Man' rather than say 'I', John uses the same convention to avoid naming himself. It is not to suggest that Jesus didn't love his other disciples.

DIFFERENT VIEW

An empty tomb?

There are some writers who have questioned the historical accuracy of the empty tomb account of the resurrection. Some theologians and biblical scholars (e.g. members of the 'Jesus Seminar') argue that historically, it is far more likely that the victim of Roman crucifixion would be left to rot on the cross or buried in a shallow criminal's grave – not laid to rest in an expensive private tomb. However, they do not argue against resurrection. They maintain that Jesus' body was not 'resuscitated' or 'reanimated'. What happened to his corpse, they argue, is irrelevant to Christ's resurrection.

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Paul Stibbard

Anniversaries: (3rd – 9th April) William Sarquis, Tom Burns, Ted Edge, Cliff Bauer, Elizabeth Ann Duff, Graham Smith, James McConachy, Dulcie Long, Kevin Stower, Gwen Nissen

Those Who Are Sick: Kev Roberts, Sue Zvirblis, Margaret York, Garry Birch, Sr Cecilia Bailey, Peter Reynolds, Peter Hickey, Kathie Ober, Brian Reardon, Van Vu, Eileen Reedy, 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

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

Parish News...

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sat 4 th April | o 7.00pm Mass (Easter Vigil) |
| Sun 5 th April | o 9.45am Mass (Easter Sunday) |
| Mon 6 th April | o Office Closed today o 6.30pm Parish Council Meeting |
| Tues 7 th April | o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group |
| Wed 8 th April | o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery |
| Thurs 9 th April | o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group o 2pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting |
| Fri 10 th April | |

Date Claimers:

6th April – 6.30pm Parish Council Meeting

11th/12th April – Divine Mercy Sunday

14th April – Glenvale Villas Visitation

20th April – BUPA Visitation

Good Friday Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, 3rd April. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 Churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

There will be a special collection taken during the 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Envelopes are available on the pews and the tables at the entrances to the church this weekend.



Holy Land Commissariat

Franciscan Provincial Office
47 Victoria Street | Waverley NSW 2024 | Australia

Easter Ceremony Times & Locations

- ❖ 2nd Apr - Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 3rd April - Stations of the Cross at 10am (OLOL)
- ❖ 3rd April - Passion of the Lord at 3pm (St Anthony's)
- ❖ 4th Apr - Easter Sunday Vigil Mass Time 7.00pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 5th April - Easter Sunday Mass at 9.45am (OLOL)

Reminder - Carpark Closed

The Liturgy Group reminds parishioners that for the safety of all, the Church entry on Goodwood Street will be closed from 6.45pm for the 7.00pm Easter Vigil (4th Apr). If you need to park in the church carpark, please make sure you arrive before this time.



| | Welcomers | Commentary | Ministers of the Word | Offertory Procession | Extraordinary Ministers | Ipad Operator | Piety Stall |
|--|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|---------------|-------------|
| 11 th April at 6.30pm | G Schoorl M Cushway | M Kelly | J Joseph L Walsh | Hoopert Family | H. K Walsh W. G Ferguson W. S Kelly | K & G Regan | J Sullivan |
| 12 th April at 9.45am | Dias Family | K Langdale | D Young T Ryan | A Cournane A Suhr | H. R Fallon W. S Rosentreter W. Cleber Dias | J Cash | R Coonan |

Farewell and Welcome

We warmly give thanks for the faithful ministry of Fr Jamie Collins and Fr BJ Perrett, whose time with our parish has been a true blessing. Their dedication, guidance and care have touched many lives and they will be greatly missed as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

At the same time, we joyfully welcome Fr Bony Abraham to our parish community. We look forward to the gifts and leadership he will bring as he begins his ministry among us. We recently gathered for a wonderful mass, followed by a shared morning tea, celebrating both “farewell and welcome” in a spirit of gratitude and hope. May God continue to bless Fr Jamie, Fr BJ and Fr Bony.”



73rd Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations and best wishes to Gerald and Lesley Herden on the occasion of their 73rd wedding anniversary on Monday 6th April 2026. Gerald and Lesley were married Easter Monday, 1953, at Gunnedah, NSW.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Easter Sunday

4 – 5 April 2026

Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!



**UNITE  AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Pope Leo's Monthly Intention for April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Synod for the Diocese of Toowoomba

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba has set the date for the Synod for the Diocese of Toowoomba. It will take place this October 23 and 24th, generously hosted at the Edmund Rice Cultural Centre at St Mary's College Toowoomba. The Synod process is well underway, being steered by Bishop Ken and the Synod Advisory Committee. The team are looking forward to engaging with parishes next month as we move into Phase 2 on this pathway. If you have questions about the Synod, or want to get involved please reach out to us at synod@twb.catholic.org.au

Ignite Launch 2026



Prayer for Peace and Justice

O Lord, God of life,
who cares for all creation, give us your peace.
May our security not come from arms, but from respect,
May our force not be of violence, but of love.
May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.
May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.
May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness.

Open and confident, we want to defend the dignity of all creation,
sharing, today and forever, the bread of solidarity and peace.

In the name of Jesus, your holy son, our brother,
who, as victim of our violence, even from the heights of the cross gave us all forgiveness.

Amen.

A prayer from an ecumenical conference in Brazil, calling for an end to poverty as the first step on the path to peace through justice.