OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 46341453
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: 5:30pm Vigil (2nd, 4th & 5th Weekends) | 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, 11th October 2026
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading
Isaiah 25:6-10
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.
On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 22. R. v.6
(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading
Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.
I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation
See John 15:15
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 22:1-14
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.
Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Next Week's Readings (17th/18th Oct 2026) – Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1,4-6 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

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.

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.

SPRED – meet most Wednesdays during school term at 6.30pm in the Quiet Room

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons in the quiet room at the church at 2pm.

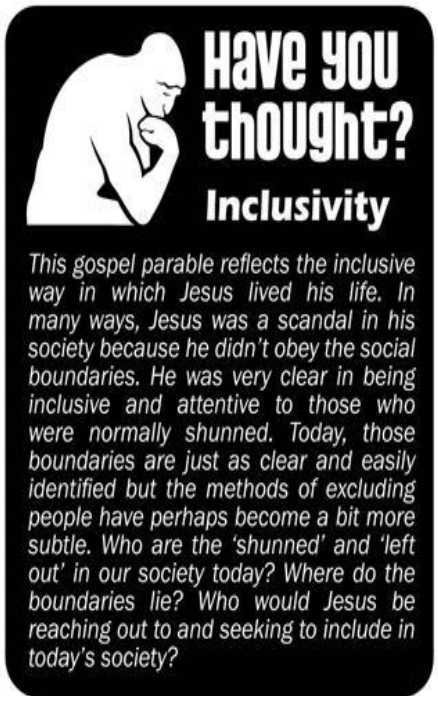
Parish Councillors

Jessica Anderson, Jeni Bonell, Peter Castles, Chris Golightly, Georgina Humphrys, Jo Johnston, Brandon Joseph, Melissa McLean, Clare Watson, Bernadette Witham

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.. **Diocesan Safeguarding Resources** can be found at https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-policy-resources/ Copies of these documents can be found on the noticeboard. If you would like a printed copy please contact the Parish Office. Feedback on Safeguarding policies and procedures is welcomed.



Thought of the day

Reflection by Fr Bony

Children, Not Orphans

On Thursday evening I had the privilege of speaking to the members of our diocesan Synod as they prepare to listen together for what the Holy Spirit is saying to our Church Toowoomba Diocese. My topic was "Knowing and Discerning the Holy Spirit", and I would like to share the core of it with you, because it belongs to every one of us.

I began with a verse that changed my own life: "To all who received him… Jesus gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). That word "power" really means a right, a place at the table. It is not something we earn. It is given.

This is how the Bible begins too. For six days God works. First, he shapes the world: light, sky and sea, dry land. Then he fills it: sun and stars, birds and fish, animals, and finally us, made in his image. Each day ends the same way: "evening came, and morning came."

Then comes the seventh day, and God rests. Early Christian writers noticed that this day has no evening. It stays open, like a door. And since we were made on the sixth day, our first full day was a day of rest. We begin at home with God, with nothing to prove. Then comes the serpent's whisper: you are missing something, and God is holding out on you. Adam and Eve stop trusting and start grasping. Straight away they are afraid, and they hide. That is the story of every restless heart. We stop living as children and start living as orphans: anxious, guarded, always needing to win.

But God comes looking. "Where are you?" is the first question he asks, and he has never stopped asking it. In Jesus he comes all the way to find us. On the Cross, Jesus trusts the Father where Adam did not, and he hands over his Spirit to us.

St Paul tells us what that Spirit does: "All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption" (Romans 8:14–15). The Holy Spirit brings us home and teaches us to say, "Abba, Father".

So how do we recognise his voice? Start here: am I listening as a child or as an orphan? An orphan listens in order to reply and defend. A child, secure in the father's love, is free to really hear another person, and free to be changed. The Church's long wisdom adds some simple habits. Come with open hands. Listen with the ear of the heart. Keep some silence. Never decide when you are agitated. And look for the Spirit's fingerprints: does this look like Jesus, does it bring a deep peace, does it build up the whole family and not just my side?

And when we simply don't know, we are not afraid of the 'not knowing' and are prepared to hold that groaning vulnerably, we are not alone. The Spirit prays within us "with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26).

Our phones have flight mode and silent mode. For me, the best mode is COG mode: Child of God mode. It isn't something we earn or switch on by effort. It is who we already are, and the Holy Spirit keeps reminding us. In that truth we can arrive, be and act as children of God, with nothing to prove.

Please pray for our diocesan Synod. **Fr B**

Please Pray For…

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (9th-15th Oct) Carlos DeSilva, Jeanette Joseph, Roslyn Kruger, Ellen Williamson, Kath Wynne, Helena McIlwain, Brian Sharpe, Patrick Cleary, Vince Stephens, Fr Michael Mahon

Those Who Are Sick: Vilma Ondrus, Barry Coonan, Gary Andrews, Eileen Reedy, Kev Roberts, Margaret York, Gerard Nolan, Sr Cecilia Bailey, Peter Reynolds, Kathie Ober, Margaret Conrick, Audrey Bentley, Noel Lipp, Michael (Micky) Lynch, Carmel & Ron O'Brien, Lillian Roberts, Brian Thomson, Peggy Thies, John Axtell, Tim & Olivia Zvirblis, Mick O'Mara

October Birthdays: Fr Quinlan, Annette Bishop, Dorothy O'Connor, Sr Pat Quinn, Larry Ryan, Isabella Dwan, Bernadette Smith, Candice Poulton, Anne Suhr, Angus Dwan, Carol Rawlinson

Parish News…

Sat 10th Oct	○ 5.30pm Vigil Mass OLOL
Sun 11th Oct	○ 9.45am Mass
Mon 12th Oct	○
Tues 13th Oct	○ 10am LOW ○ 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church ○ Glenvale Villas Visit
Wed 14th Oct	○ 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery ○ 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 15th Oct	○ 10am Mass ○ 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 16th Oct	

Upcoming Dates:

17th/18th October – Mission Sunday
21st October – Jubilee Celebration of Ordination
22nd October – Diocesan Synod Opening Mass
23rd/24th October – Diocesan Synod

Daily Mass Book & Ordo

If you would like to order a Daily Mass Book or Ordo for 2027, please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the church.

Working Bee this Saturday

The working bee to mulch the gardens is on this Saturday 10th October 8am – 12pm. Please come along and lend a hand, even if it is just for an hour or so. BYO gloves, wheelbarrows etc. Morning tea and lunch provided.

75th Jubilee 8th November

Bookings are essential for catering purposes. To book online, please click here, or phone the Parish Office on 46341453 or email ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Pope Leo XIV's October Prayer Intention

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses. Click here to pray with the Pope.

Alpha Youth – Ages 14+

Young people aged 14 and above are invited to join us for a condensed **Alpha Youth Series** over five Sundays, beginning **11th October at 5.30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes**. Each evening will begin with **dinner**, followed by about an hour of Alpha, a relaxed and welcoming space to connect with other young people, build friendships, explore faith, and ask some of life's bigger questions.
This is also a wonderful opportunity for our young people to begin building a community together and to help shape what youth ministry in our parishes could look like in **2027**.

When: Five Sundays from 11th October, 5.30 pm
Where: OLOL Parish Presbytery Meeting Room
Who: Young people aged 14+

If you would like to know more, please speak with Fr Bony or contact the parish office on 4634 1453 or by email ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Pope Leo XIV calls us to pray the Rosary

Concluding Mass in Lourdes, on the third day of his Apostolic Journey to France, Pope Leo XIV launched an appeal that he said was "particularly close to my heart, here in this place." Just as the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in the Grotto of Lourdes with a Rosary and guided her in prayer, the Pope said he hopes all Christians will pray the Rosary especially during the month of October. He called for them to pray the Rosary "with the particular intention that wars may cease and that peace may be established among peoples in conflict."
"Let us accompany this prayer with concrete acts of penance and mercy, committing ourselves always to fostering dialogue and reconciliation," he said.

Jubilee Celebration of Ordination

On the 21st October, Fr Quinlan, Fr Doohan and Fr Noonan will celebration the Jubilee of their Ordinations with Mass at the Cathedral at 11am followed by refreshments at the Cathedral Centre. RSVP by 16th October to the Cathedral Office at stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or on 4637 1500. If you would like transport, please phone the Parish Office. The Parish Office will be closed on this day from 10.30am to 2pm.

	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
17th Oct at 5.30pm	Mass at	St Anthony's	this weekend				
18th Oct at 9.45am	R Fallon A Suhr	J Anderson	J Bonell A Cournane	Ryan Family	(H) D Young (W) R Fallon (W) C Anderson	J Cash	C &S Dias

Synod themes emerge

Across the Diocese of Toowoomba, people shared openly about their experience of faith and Church — what they value, the challenges they encounter, and their hopes for the future. Their responses reveal a deep love for our faith and communities, gratitude for those who serve, and a desire to see our Diocese continue to grow and flourish. From this listening, seven interconnected themes emerged. The summary of those themes can be found here. Together, they reflect what is already giving life across our Diocese, where people see opportunities for growth, and what they hope we might carry forward together. These voices invite us to listen carefully as we discern how we can deepen our life as disciples, accompany others in mission, and strengthen our shared life as Church. Please keep our Synod members in your prayers as they prepare to gather, listen and discern together.

Ignite Conference feedback

Nine of our parishioners had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Ignite Conference this year. It was an uplifting experience, filled with beautiful music from Emmanuel Worship, prayer, inspiring talks and workshops from a range of speakers, and the celebration of Mass and Adoration. We also enjoyed delicious food, browsing the marketplace stalls, and sharing fellowship and friendship with others. Most importantly, the conference provided us with a wonderful opportunity to come together in faith and to praise God. One of the special highlights was being able to share the experience with people from our own parish community. There was a real sense of joy and connection as we worshipped, learned, prayed and celebrated together.

The conference left us all feeling encouraged and renewed in our faith, with a deeper appreciation for what being a Catholic really means. We are grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a faith-filled experience!

Jeni Bonell

New Parish Database System

Our parish is transitioning to a new parish database system called PACEM. To ensure our records are as accurate as possible, all parishioners will be invited to complete a registration form at Mass in the coming weeks. An online form will also be available for those who are not able to complete the paper form at Mass. We thank you for your cooperation and patience as we make this transition to better serve our parish community.

ENEWS UPDATE

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

PARLIAMENT HOUSE ART PROJECT

Do you know a Year 5 or 6 student with a passion for art? We're looking for creative kids whose artwork could feature together with many others as part of a large-scale projection on the Parliament House façade. We are asking students to show us what makes their corner of Australia special. This can include people, plants, animals, landscapes or special locations that shape everyday life for young people across Australia. Artworks will form part of an animated projection that will be on display in early 2027. This projection celebrates 100 years of Parliament in Canberra by showcasing children's artworks from all around Australia. Head to our website to find more information and resources, including a toolkit for children and a factsheet for parents: aph.gov.au/StudentArtwork

Submissions close at 5pm Thursday 29 October 2026.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING LTD (ACSL) WEBINARS

Your support of our (ACSL's) monthly webinar program has been fantastic. It's always nice to see familiar faces, and equally lovely to see new people joining to learn more about aspects of safeguarding in the Church. Three interesting safeguarding webinars are available to watch online:

Reverend Jake Mudge's presentation on Spiritual Abuse for ACSL.

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis presentation on Spiritual Abuse which focused on Coercing Consciences, Spiritual Abuse in the Catholic Church - Passcode 04HYs8u&

Garratt Publishing's webinar, Creating an LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Faith Community Webinar. This webinar focused on inclusion, an important facet of safeguarding.

Webinar planning for 2027 has started, and we would love to hear your suggestions for presenters and topics. Please send any comments through to learning@acsltd.org.au.

Mass of the Holy Spirit – All welcome!

You are invited to participate in the Opening Mass for our Diocesan Synod on **Thursday 22 October at 6pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral. We specially encourage people within the Toowoomba area to be present and share in the prayer that commences the Synod. This Mass will also be live streamed via the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba website. Please keep all Synod members in your prayers. The Diocesan Synod prayers can be found here.