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, 12th July 2026
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)

2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)

3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)

4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Next Week's Readings (18th/19th July 2026) – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13. 16-19 2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27 Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

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.

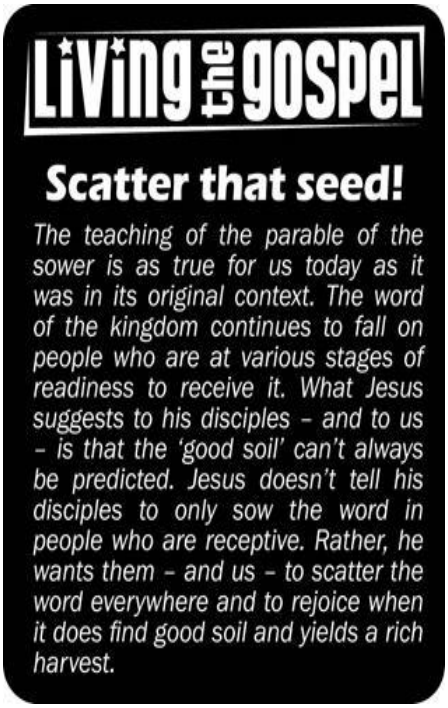
Parish Councillors

Jo Johnston, Jeni Bonell, Emma Dever, Melissa McLean, Julie Whittaker, Peter Castles, Georgina Humphrys, Brandon Joseph, Clare Watson, Jessica Anderson, Chris Golightly, 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. 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/



Thought of the week...

Reflection by Father Bony

Christ ploughs with the wood of the cross

A number of years ago, a close friend of mine, someone I've known since arriving in Australia, was injured on the factory floor where he worked, on a biscuit production line. What followed was one of the hardest seasons of his life: a bitter dispute with his employer, the loss of his job, and a long fight through workers' compensation. Underneath the financial strain was something heavier, shame, self-doubt, the fear of being judged as a man who couldn't provide.

I remember sitting with him as he poured out his heart. It resonated with my own season of upheaval; one I had come through transformed. So, I told him what my spiritual director once told me in my own ordeal: "This could be a blessing in disguise." Not because the pain wasn't real, but because it didn't have to be wasted.

I told him the question wasn't what had happened to him, but what he would do with it. He could look for the safest way back, a different factory floor, years passing quietly toward retirement. Or he could take the harder road: accept what had happened and let it become, with Christ's grace, an opening to the life he actually wanted.

He didn't know how things would turn out. Neither did I. In that uncertainty, he chose to go back and study engineering as a mature-age student, while raising four children and carrying a fractured sense of himself. It wasn't quick or easy, but he pushed through, finished, and years later completed his master's too. The man I sat with in that season is not who he was. A few months back, we sat together again, not in crisis, but in gratitude.

This Sunday's Gospel gives us the parable of the Sower, seed scattered generously, without condition, on every kind of ground (Matthew 13:1-23). In first-century Palestine, the seed was sown before the ploughing, not after. The plough came second, pressing the seed deep enough to take root.

Maybe that's closer to how grace works in us. God doesn't wait for us to have our lives in order before giving us the seed of his life. He gives it first, unconditionally, into whatever ground we are. And then, often through the very things we would never have chosen, loss, illness, failure, disappointment, that seed gets turned under, into places that would otherwise have stayed hard or shallow.

That is not the same as saying the suffering itself was good. My friend's pain was real and would have stayed real whether or not anything good came of it. But he chose to face that ploughing with God rather than against him, or alone. That choice made the difference between ground torn up and ground cultivated. My part in it was smaller than his, to be a Simon of Cyrene, helping carry what could be carried; a Veronica, wiping his face so he could breathe again and see the next step; present enough to walk beside him, but never able to take the journey from him, as Christ ploughed him deep with the wood of the cross.

The seed has already been sown in us, freely, before we were ready. Perhaps the invitation now is to let Christ take up the wood of the cross in whatever ground we are, hardened as a path, shallow as rock, crowded with thorns, and till it deep enough for that seed to finally take root. Let that be our groaning: not a cry against the ploughing, but a groaning for the Spirit to keep doing this work in us, until it bears fruit. **Fr B**

Please Pray For…

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (10th – 16th July) Michael Hanna, Patrick MacGinley, Ray Clark, James Murphy, Percy Thompson, August Curin, Estelle & George Turnbull, Max Moran, Alex Walsh, Sid Hayden, James Cronin, Cecil Hogan, Noleen Dann, Rev Fr Patrick Campbell

Those Who Are Sick: Ray Johnston, Gary Andrews, Elijah, 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

July Birthdays: Teresa Lee, Cleber Dias, Margaret Naismith, Mary Ondrus, Eloise & Jemima Khoo, Elin Thomson, Lachlan See, Julie See, Glyn Ferguson, Sr Cecilia Bailey, Anne Mullins, Barry Coonan, Carmel O'Brien

Parish News…

Sat 11th July	○ **6.30pm Mass** (Sea Sunday)
Sun 12th July	○ **9.45am Mass** (Sea Sunday) ○
Mon 13th July	○ PPC Meeting 6.30pm Pres Meeting Room
Tues 14th July	○ **10am LOW** ○ 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church ○ 10.30am Glenvale Villas Visitation
Wed 15th July	○ 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery ○ 6.30pm SPRED
Thurs 16th July	○ **10am Mass** ○ 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 17th July	

Date Claimers:

19th July – First Reconciliation Workshop at 10.45am
25th/26th July – World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly
2nd August – Catholic Education Week Thank You Mass and Morning Tea 9.45am

Upgrade of Parish Toilets

Your support during the upgrade of the parish toilets is very much appreciated. All work should be complete by early next week. The Presbytery toilets are available during office hours.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly Sunday 26th July 2026

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on 25th/26th July. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our grandparents and all the Elderly that we come across.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2026

Sea Sunday 12th July 2026

This weekend we reflect on the lives and the work of seafarers throughout world. Their work is lonely and isolated, most of it spent beyond the reach of the land and dangerous. You can help support the work of Stella Maris, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic church by donating here or to 'The Apostleship of the Sea', BSB 062 784 and Acct No 100 012 583. Cheques can be sent to Stella Maris Australia, c/o 600 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Vic 3000.

A Sea Sunday message from Cardinal Michael Czerny, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, can be found here

https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bring-hope-to-the-invisible-on-sea-sunday/

SPRED Toowoomba Fundraiser

SPRED's annual evening at the Repertory Theatre *"Educating Rita"* will be held on Wednesday 5th August at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are $25.00 each and include wine on arrival, light supper at interval and 5 X tickets in the multi-draw raffle. Call the SPRED office for bookings and ticket collection arrangements. Bank details for direct deposit available. SPRED Toowoomba is on cnr Hume & Jellico Sts. Office hours 9am – 3.30pm Mon – Thurs. Ph: 4632 8427 or email spred@twb.catholic.org.au

	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
18th July at 6.30pm	Hoopert Family	J Soriano	S Kelly L Borger	M & M Quinn	H. G Ferguson W. R O'Brien W. J Kelly	K & G Regan	M Cushway
19th July at 9.45am	J Burke K Langdale	P Murphy	M Ondrus A Cournane	Watson Family	H. J Bonell W. C Anderson W. R Fallon	J Cash	M Webb

Weekly Spotlight on our Parish Groups and Mass Ministries

Family Engagement Part 1

Casserole Club

Members of the Casserole Club cook meals and bake goods to be delivered to families or individuals who are recently bereaved or ill or in other times of need. Volunteers are always welcome.

Catering & Hospitality Committee

The role of this group is to provide hospitality at parish events and liturgies throughout the year such as morning teas and sausage sizzles. Tasks may include purchasing, setting up tables and chairs, serving, cleaning up. On these occasions "Many hands make light work". This is a great opportunity to meet Parishioners you may not already know.

Communion to the Sick and Housebound

This group provides visitation and Holy Communion for those within our community who are sick or lonely and for the frail and elderly who are no longer able to attend Mass, helping to maintain contact with the church community and promoting a strong sense of belonging.

Friendship and Craft Group

This group meets every Thursday morning in the Quiet Room making rugs, beanies and scarves for Eva's place, premmie babies and the homeless. They also make Baptism bibs and stoles and support the Hospice, St Vincent de Paul, Retired Priests, Caritas and Qld Cancer. All sorts of craft are welcome and there is always someone to help if you'd like to learn. You don't even have to be doing craft, just come along for the friendship, a cuppa and a biscuit.

Gardening Group

The gardens in the church are maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers. Members of the group "adopt" a garden bed to care for and then come together on occasions for a working bee. There is always work to be done keeping the gardens looking their best so more green thumbs are always welcome.

Catholic Education Week Teacher & Staff Thank You Mass 2nd August 2026

You are invited to help recognise and celebrate the dedication of all those involved in Education in the diocese, especially those in our parish and school communities. A Thank You Mass for all involved in education will be held on Sunday 2nd August at 9.45am. All school aged children are invited to submit a photograph to be displayed as part of the celebration. Please email to the parish office or drop it in the mailbox. **Please bring a plate for a shared morning tea following Mass.**

ENEWS UPDATE

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

INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD

What has been your experience of faith in our Diocese? What gives you hope? What challenges do you see? Where do you believe the Holy Spirit is leading us? As part of the Diocesan Synod, we invite every person to share their thoughts through an individual submission.

Whether you've been part of a parish for decades, are new to the Church, work in one of our ministries or schools, or simply have a heart for the future of our Diocese—your voice matters. This is an opportunity to be heard. Your insights, experiences and hopes will help shape the discernment of our Synod as we seek God's direction for the years ahead. Please take a few moments to prayerfully reflect and share what is on your heart. Together, let us continue to listen to one another, listen to the Hol y Spirit, and walk forward in hope. Follow the link to share your voice

WARWICK PARISH - JUMPERS AND JAZZ IN JULY

Date: *16-26/7/26* ***Where:*** *St Mary's Church, Warwick*

Come warm yourself at St Mary's during the Jumpers and Jazz in July Festival at Warwick. Check out the yarnbombed trees and pillars, with daily church tours from 9:30am to 4:40pm and Devonshire Tea at Assisi Place daily 9:30am to 12:00pm ($6pp). Join the community for Jazz Mass on Saturday 18th July at 5:00pm and Sunday 26th July at 8:30am.

Social media/newsletter notice.

PERFORMING WITH THE STARS CONCERT AND AFTERNOON TEA

Crows Nest Catholic Church Fundraiser
When: Sat 22nd August **Time:** 2pm
Where: Crows Nest RSL Hall
Acts include ballroom dancing demonstration, bush poet, drama acts, choir, country Western duo, soloist
Contact Tracey Brennan for more details and tickets. (0418152073)

Planned Giving Envelopes

The new Planned Giving envelopes are ready for collection at the main entrance to the church. Your generous support of the parish is very much appreciated.

Caritas Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Caritas Australia is urging the Australian community not to look away as the war in Ukraine continues for a fifth straight year. As violence escalates in other parts of the world, Ukraine is slipping from headlines, but for millions of people the suffering has not stopped. In 2026, an estimated 10.8 million people in Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance. Caritas Australia's local partners in Ukraine are providing emergency shelter, water, food assistance, psychosocial support and cash assistance to displaced families. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine

Ukraine's humanitarian needs continue as support remains vital.