Welcome to 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, 18th October 2026
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading
Isaiah 45:1.4-6
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.
Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7
(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)

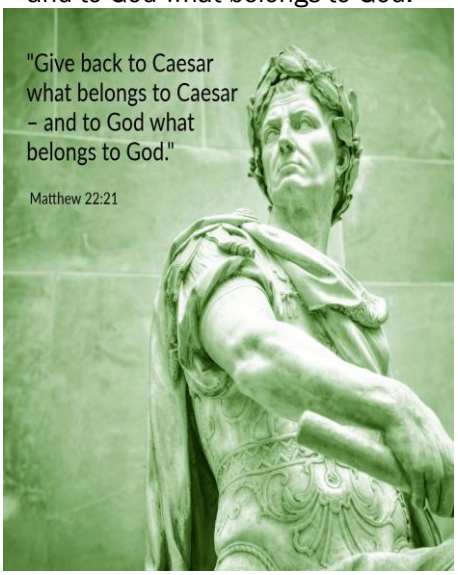
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.
From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation
Philippians 2:15.16
Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 22:15-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.
The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



Next Week's Readings (24th/25th Oct 2026) – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

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.

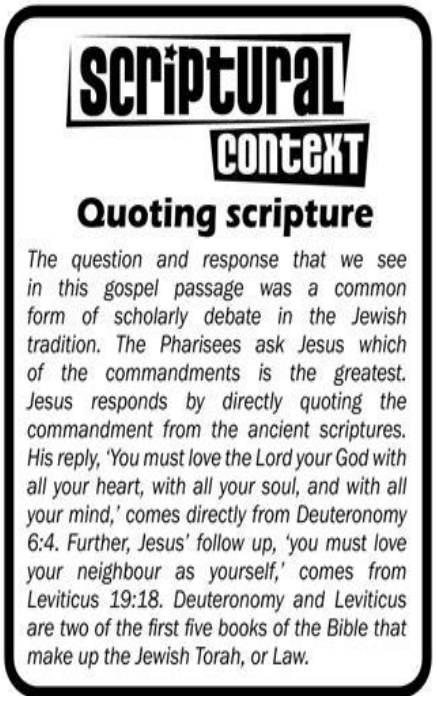
Parish Councillors

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 - Inscriptions

Recently, Gen Z movements have emerged around the world, especially in France and India. In India, young people have given it an interesting name: the Cockroach Janata (People's) Party. The name came from a remark by India's Chief Justice, widely heard as comparing unemployed young people to cockroaches. The movement's founder then posted, "What if all cockroaches come together?" That question became the seed of the movement. The name was, first of all, a way of reclaiming an insult and turning it into a badge of protest rather than shame.

I love this technique of the young generation. Instead of answering an insult with solemn outrage, they took the insult and made it into a movement and transformed it into a symbol of identity, solidarity and collective strength. They knew they were worth more than the label imposed upon them. Their coming together was not an attempt to create their worth, but an expression of the worth they already recognised in themselves. In a rather creative way, they challenged the power of others to define who they are. On the other hand, I have the privilege of walking alongside young people whose experiences tell a very different story. Some have withdrawn into their own worlds, spending much of their time on their phones, awake through the night and asleep through the day, struggling to find the motivation or confidence to engage with life. Beneath these struggles, there can be something deeper: an inscription carried in the heart. Words spoken by people close to them, sometimes years ago, have left their mark: "You are not good enough." "You will never make it." "You are worthless." Over time, these words become more than painful memories. They become the lens through which a young person sees themselves. Unlike the young protesters who challenged the label imposed upon them, some of these young people have come to believe the labels they have received. The words of others have slowly become their own inner voice. No amount of positive thinking erases these inscriptions that are within them, though it may bring them temporary relief.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks powerfully about the image and inscription on a coin, showing that they determine to whom it belongs. In doing so, he poses a deeper question: whose image is imprinted on us, and what is inscribed upon our hearts? For God writes in our innermost being. St Paul tells us, "You are a letter of Christ, ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh" (2 Corinthians 3:3). And through the prophet Jeremiah, God says, "I will write my law on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33). The writing we carry shapes how we see ourselves and to whom we believe we belong. And such an inscription is hard to erase. Young people have told me, "I know in my head that I'm not worthless, but I don't feel it." What is written on the heart is felt in the body long before it is ever put into words. In time, it can even become a kind of protection: if I expect nothing of myself, no one can disappoint me. When Jesus asks whose image is on us, he invites us into a healing that comes through relationship. Because most of the negative inscriptions we carry are rewritten by experience in relationship, and they cannot be healed by repetitions of positive affirmations but only by love. Then when I think of God becoming a person in Jesus to love us, I truly feel the power of that embodiment. God did not simply send us a message about our worth. He came in the flesh to love us face to face, to touch, heal and restore. That is also our calling. We are invited to embody God's love, so that through us, new words can be written on one another's hearts: words of love, of welcome, and of healing. **Fr B**

Please Pray For…

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (16th-22nd Oct) Walter Williams, Marg Coorey, Colleen Lynch, Kathleen (Nell) Reynolds, Mavis Myles, Irene Oakes, Kathleen Elliott, George Streidl, Rev Fr Roger Burke

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 17th Oct	○ **5.30pm Vigil Mass (St Anthony's)**
Sun 18th Oct	○ **9.45am Mass** ○ 5.30pm Alpha Youth Meeting in Church
Mon 19th Oct	○ 10am BUPA Visitation
Tues 20th Oct	○ **10am LOW** ○ 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church
Wed 21st Oct	○ 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery ○ 11am Jubilee Celebration (St Pat's) ○ **Parish Office Closed 10.30am – 2pm** ○ 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 22nd Oct	○ **10am Mass (Anointing Mass)** ○ 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group ○ 2pm SVDP Meeting ○ **6pm Synod Opening Mass**
Fri 23rd Oct	

Upcoming Dates:

22nd October – Diocesan Synod Opening Mass
23rd/24th October – Diocesan Synod

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

Columban Calendars

The 2027 Columban Art Calendars are now available for sale for $10 each from the piety stall. They make a great Christmas gift idea!

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.

Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to Bernadette Smith as she turned 82 on 14 October. May God continue to guide your steps and fill your year ahead with peace, joy and love.

Anam Cara Gathering

At our weekly hour-long Anam Cara sessions, we read a scripture passage from the next Sunday's readings; dwell upon it for a little while and then, share our thoughts with the group. On Wednesday, 7 October, we had a different Anam Cara session - this one was an enrichment day for each of us, guided by Sr Pat Quinn. Pat presented 3 sequential steps on 'the development of my relationship with God" (a) from childhood (b)through adolescence (c) to adulthood, onwards to now.

Through facts and feelings, we each reflected on these areas, prompted by questions that Pat had formulated for us. The sharing of our stages of development gave us a broader picture of the different paths those in the group have come along…to where we are, now.

A day of reflection and discovery. A day of sharing our stories. A day of blessings. *Mary Ondrus*

2026 Catholic Mission Church Appeal

This week, you are invited to support the Catholic Mission annual appeal. As we celebration 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are "One in Christ, United in Mission". Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the appeal envelopes provided or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.

	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
24th Oct at 5.30pm	Hoopert Family	L Borger	R Johnston J Johnston	Joseph Family	(H) K Ward (W) K Walsh (W) L Walsh	G Schoorl	D Clark
25th Oct at 9.45am	A Cournane C Poulton	C Hudson	D Young T Ryan	A Cournane J Burke	(H) M Hohn (W) G Birch (W) C Watson	J Anderson	V Barker

Alpha Youth – Young people aged 14+

The **Alpha Youth Series** continues this Sunday and includes about an hour of Alpha in a relaxed and welcoming space to connect with other young people, build friendships, explore faith, and ask some of life's bigger questions. Dinner will follow. This is 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 Church Quiet Room

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

Synod Opening Mass

Bishop Ken Howell warmly invites the Diocese to come together in celebration for the

SYNOD OPENING MASS

Thursday, 22nd October 2026

6.00pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba

Mass will be livestreamed at www.twb.catholic.org.au

Hike for the Homeless Saturday 31st Oct

Hike for Homeless is an annual community event that aims to raise both awareness and vital funds to support people experiencing homelessness in Toowoomba. Funds raised through the Hike directly support the ongoing work of the Basement Soup Kitchen, enabling it to continue providing nutritious lunchtime meals, warm blankets, clothing, and practical support to those in need. These services play a critical role for people who are homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless, offering not only physical nourishment but also dignity, connection, and hope. Every step taken and every dollar raised makes a tangible difference—helping ensure that Toowoomba's most vulnerable community members are met with compassion, care, and practical support when they need it most. To register or donate click here

Melbourne Cup Fundraiser

Dignity Project Melbourne Cup Fundraiser

All money raised will go to support Refugees and Asylum Seekers living in the Toowoomba area.

Come for a fun afternoon of horsin' around

Music | Trivia | Phantom Call | Raffles | Bar to buy drinks | Afternoon tea provided | Entry by donation

St Anthony's Parish Centre, 3 Memory Street, Harristown

1 November 2026 | 2.00 – 4.30pm

Please bring cash as we have no online banking facilities.

Book your free tickets here: https://www.trybooking.com/DQFYL

Or scan the QR code:

Or contact the Social Justice Commission 07 4613 0895 *or* justice@twb.catholic.org.au

Or St Anthony's Parish Office on 0407 758 988 or 07 4636 1737 **RSVP by 27 October 2026**

Please tell us of any dietary requirements.

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Heavenly Father, we entrust Pope Leo XIV into Your loving hands. Guide the surgeons and medical staff who will care for him. Grant them wisdom, steady hands, and sound judgment. May his surgery be successful, his recovery be swift, and his heart remain peaceful and full of hope. Through the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, surround him with Your protection and healing grace. May he continue to lead Your Church with faith, courage, and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for him!
Salesians of Don Bosco – Philippines South

ONE IN CHRIST
UNITED IN
Mission
100 YEARS OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

catholic MISSION

Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united

This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

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Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.