



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 | Associate Pastor: Fr BJ Perrett

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, 22nd March 2026 Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

First Reading

[Ezekiel 37:12-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 129. R. v.7](#)

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading

[Romans 8:8-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel

[John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha

said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Next Week's Readings (28th / 29th Mar 2026) – Palm Sunday – Year A

1st Reading: [Isaiah 50:4-7](#) 2nd Reading: [Philippians 2:6-11](#) Gospel: [Matthew 26:14 – 27:66](#)

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/>

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Jesus wept

“Jesus wept” is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. Pope Leo I used this verse to highlight the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. Lazarus and his sisters were close friends of Jesus and Jesus is clearly emotional about the death and its effect on Martha and Mary. That Jesus is about to restore Lazarus to life does not deny the grief and mourning at Lazarus' death.

Sunday Reflection...

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As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Death for Life

The gospel writer paints the picture that Jesus is fully conscious of the implications of his return to Judea. As the events of the Passion unfold through this gospel, the reader has a very clear impression in their mind that if Jesus had not come to Judea; had not raised Lazarus; then he would not have been arrested and crucified. The reader is also drawn into the revelation that the sacrifice of Jesus was not solely for Lazarus but rather for all humanity. This realisation leads the reader to the ultimate humbling conclusion that if the sacrifice of Jesus was for people then the reader themselves is also the recipient of that sacrifice.

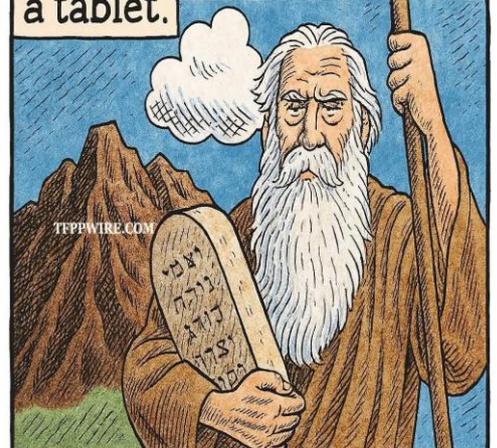
Living the GOSPEL

Unbind him, let him go free

To see a man bound up for burial suddenly come walking from his tomb must have been an unnerving experience to say the least. However, Jesus calmly commands the astonished onlookers to 'unbind him, let him go free'. These words speak to us today as we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach the celebration of Easter. What are the things that 'bind' us? From what do we need to be released so that we may 'go free'? Are they bindings placed by ourselves or others? What will it take to be unbound?

Thought of the week...

So technically Moses is the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (20th – 26th Mar) Margaret Murray, Ted Howard, Noel Meara, Eileen Madden, Kevin Byrne, Arthur Henry Sheriff, Bert Jelley, James Kearney, Harold Kirwin, Rev Fr Patrick Brady

Those Who Are Sick: 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

March Birthdays: Thelma Johnstone, Regina Thompson, Peter Reynolds, Sarah Dias, Harrison Dwan, Kevin Mahoney, Judy Wilson, Ron O'Brien

Parish News...

Sat 21 st March	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 22 nd March	o 9.45am Mass (no Children's Liturgy) Farewell/Welcome Morning Tea
Mon 23 rd March	o
Tues 24 th March	o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group o 6pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation
Wed 25 th March	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED
Thurs 26 th March	o 10am Mass o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 27 th March	o Office closed for show holiday

Date Claimers:

22nd March – Parish Council Nominations Close
24th March – Communal Rite of Reconciliation
27th March – Parish Office closed due to Tmba Show Holiday
30th March – 5.30pm Christ Mass – St Pat's

OLOL Parish Strategic Plan – last chance

If you haven't already done so, please take the time to review the draft Strategic Plan and provide your feedback by 31st March. The document can be found [here](#) or with the bulletin mailout. Printed copies are also available from the parish office. Click [here](#) to provide your feedback online.

Palms needed for Palm Sunday

If you or anyone you know has palms that the Liturgy Group could use on Palm Sunday, please advise the Parish Office as soon as possible.



Communal Rite of Reconciliation

A Communal Rite of Reconciliation will be held in the church on Tuesday, 24th March at 6pm. Fr Bony and Fr Dorfield will be celebrating with us.



Farewell/Welcome Morning Tea

Please join us for morning tea after the 9.45am Mass this Sunday 22nd March for a joint farewell for Fr Jamie and Fr BJ and to welcome Fr Bony into our parish as our new Parish Priest. Please bring a plate to share.

Easter Ceremony Times

- ❖ 24th Mar – Communal Rite of Reconciliation 6pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 28th Mar - Palm Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 29th Mar – Palm Sunday Mass at 9.45am (OLOL)
- ❖ 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)

Choir Practice for Easter Celebrations

Choir Practice for the Easter Celebrations will be held on **Saturday 21st March** at 10am and **Sunday 29th March** at 11am.

Planned Giving Regular Reporting

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of our parish. Please see below the finance update for February 2026 along with a comparison to January's figures for your information.

	January	February
Loose Plate	\$1,867.30	\$2,000.10
Envelopes	\$1,400.00	\$1,888.00
Direct Debits	\$7,189.00	\$6,005.00
Total Income	\$10,456.30	\$9,893.10
Less General Expenses	\$12,648.90	\$14,053.01
Surplus/Shortfall	\$2,192.60	\$4,159.91

Working Bee This Saturday

All are welcome to come along and lend a hand this Saturday 21st March, 1.30–3.30pm to tidy up the gardens. BYO wheelbarrows and gardening tools.



Date	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
28 th Mar at 6.30pm	D & N Clark	P Kelly	J Wilson J Johnston	Ward Family	H. J Kelly W. M Cushway W. R Campbell	M Connell	G Schoorl
29 th Mar at 9.45am	A Cournane C Poulton	J Anderson	B Trenerry M Ondrus	Poulton Family	H. M Hohn W. R Fallon W. G Birch	Dias Family	M Webb

About Fr Bony

Growing up in my home parish, one of the most memorable moments was the transition of priests. It was always a mixture of sadness and excitement; we would say goodbye to a priest we had grown fond of while being curious about the one who was coming. As young people, we would ask questions like: Can he preach well? Is he friendly? What will he be like? Looking back now, I realise that these transitions brought many blessings. Each priest offered new gifts and perspectives, but what remained constant was the strength of the community itself. Priests came and went, but the people continued to pray, worship, and support one another. That memory gives me great consolation as I come to serve Our Lady of Lourdes and St Anthony's. I am not coming into a vacuum, but into communities with strong faith, history, and identity, it is a privilege for me to join you and serve among you. A little about myself: I am Fr Bony (pronounced "Bonnie") Abraham, originally from Kerala, India. I come from a close and loving family and am the middle of three siblings. I came to Australia in 2003 as an international student, joined the Missionaries of God's Love in 2005, and was ordained in Melbourne in 2011. I served as Assistant Priest at St Benedict's Parish, Narrabundah (Canberra) for two years, and then as Director of St Benedict's Mission for five years. I later served as Assistant Priest in Warwick for four years and as Administrator in Goondiwindi for one year. Alongside ministry, I completed a master's in counselling and psychotherapy (Sydney University), and I am currently undertaking a Master of Professional Psychology (Latrobe University) after completing Honours in Psychology (James Cook University). I am also registered with AHPRA as a provisional psychologist. This background has enriched my pastoral work. It is a privilege to join the communities of St Anthony's and Our Lady of Lourdes, and I look forward to walking with you in faith and serving you as your priest.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.



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*.

E NEWS UPDATE

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

CHRISM MASS

Date: 30/3/26 Monday **Time:** 5:30pm

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba

Parishioners of the Toowoomba Diocese are welcome to the Chrism Mass. This special Mass is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a diocese. During the Mass, Bishop Ken Howell, joined by the clergy of the diocese, blesses the oils that will be used in the sacraments in the year ahead. The Chrism Mass will also be [livestreamed](#). [Newsletter/Social Media Insert](#)

WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Date: 3/4/26 Friday **Time:** 7:30am

Where: Starting at the steps of St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba

Participants will visit several stations around the Toowoomba CBD to reflect on the Passion of Christ and link it to the current injustices in the world. All are invited to participate. Please wear good walking shoes, suitable clothes for the weather and bring a water bottle. Any queries, please contact David Tutty on 0428130895 dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au

SAVE THE DATE: ST MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL INGLEWOOD CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

Date: 10 & 11/11/26 Saturday & Sunday

Where: St Maria Goretti School Inglewood

All are welcome to join the school community in celebrating 70 years since opening in 1951. Details to follow. [Newsletter notice](#).

DIocese OF TOowoomba: Finance Assistant

The Diocese of Toowoomba is currently seeking to employ a Finance Assistant on a part-time basis for 30 hours per week. The responsibility of the Finance Assistant is to provide high-quality finance support to the operation of the Diocese and its entities. Applications close Friday 27/3/26 at 5:00pm. [To find out more about the position and apply visit Seek](#).

REMINDER UPCOMING EVENTS

SYCHAR HOUSE OF PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY: [Please view the website](#) for current happenings.

BIG BAND ON THE GREEN: 17/5/26 @ 2:00pm - 4:00pm, TCSO lawn, overlooking St Patrick's Cathedral entry 29 Lawrence St, South Toowoomba. Cost: \$25pp [Book tickets through TryBooking](#)

JUBILEE OF MIGRANTS CROSS: Save the date - 22/6-5/7/26

HEART ON COUNTRY: 12-14/8/26, Toowoomba [Register and find out more here](#).

Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel presents us with a God who does not shy away from sorrow. Jesus weeps, moved with compassion, and enters his friend's tomb. He does not come to deny death, but to tell us that death does not have the last word. There are times when we too feel trapped, with no way out. Jesus does not shout at us from outside: he enters in and calls us by name. Lent reaches its high point here: in allowing ourselves to be called by name and to live anew.

Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, Your tears embrace our sorrow and Your voice calls us to life. Give us all that leads us to You and take away from us all that distances us from You, so that we may emerge from our darkness and bear witness with joy that You are the Resurrection and the Life, today and always.

Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development Pastoral Kit Lent '26

