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, 25th October 2026
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

First Reading
Exodus 22:20-26
A reading from the book of Exodus
If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.
The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. "If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2
(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

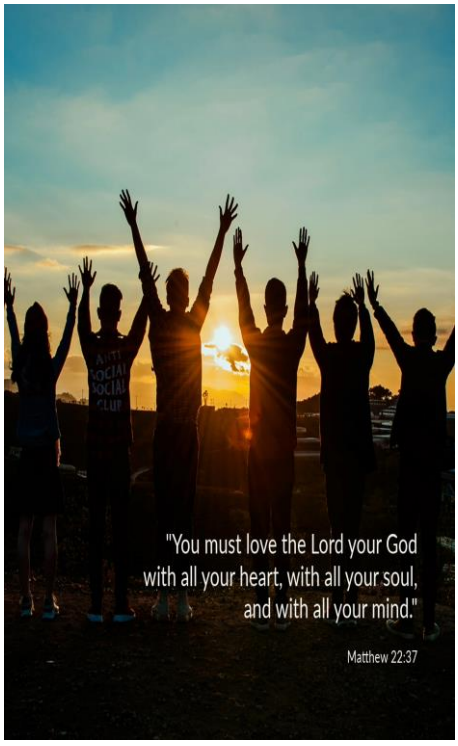
1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.
You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation
John 14:23
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 22:34-40
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.
When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'



Next Week's Readings (31st Oct/1st Nov 2026) – All Saints – Year A
1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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.

gospel focus

Love your neighbour as yourself

There is an implicit, or understood, commandment within the command to love your neighbour as yourself. That is, we must first love ourselves. Whilst to say someone 'loves themself' is used as a criticism of a person who is a bit too vain, that is not what is intended here. If we are to love others as we love ourselves we must first be content and happy with who we are. It is only when we are comfortable with who we are that we are able to reach out to those around us with compassion.

Thought of the day

Reflection by Fr Bony - Rubbish Collection

For almost ten years, every couple of months, I have received a text from a close friend containing just two words: "Rubbish collection" or "Recycling." It is an announcement that something needs to be unpacked. My friend usually adds, "Don't try to say anything wise. Just listen." Probably an attempt to save me from saying something stupid! And so, I listen, as my friend tries to put the pieces of life's puzzle together and make sense of her reality. Yet I have come to realise that listening is never entirely one-sided. In giving someone our undivided attention, we too are moved, affected, and sometimes changed.

Perhaps this is the extraordinary power of attention. The French philosopher Simone Weil described attention as "the rarest and purest form of generosity." Yet attention is precisely what our world increasingly struggles to give. Technology companies make billions competing for it. We worry that artificial intelligence might threaten human relationships, but perhaps distraction has been quietly threatening them for much longer.

Driving to my psychology placement recently, I found myself reflecting on this Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus brings together love of God and love of neighbour. I began wondering: what might love to look like in a world of artificial intelligence? Could we eventually create something called *Artificial Love*?

Imagine feeding a machine every love letter, wedding vow, song, family conversation, and expression of affection humanity has ever produced. It could learn the language of love with extraordinary fluency. Now imagine rewarding it whenever someone feels loved and keeps returning. We might create the perfect companion: endlessly patient, always available, never tired, never offended, always knowing what to say. Love without inconvenience, disappointment, or sacrifice.

But would that really be love? Love that costs nothing changes no one. Artificial intelligence learns from patterns in what has come before. Yet what fascinates me about Gospel love is its extraordinary capacity to break the pattern. When revenge is expected, Jesus speaks of forgiveness. When rejection seems reasonable, a father runs towards his wayward son. When hatred appears justified, Jesus prays for those crucifying him.

These are not the predictable responses of human behaviour. They are interruptions of grace. Love does not merely repeat what has been done to us. It creates the possibility of something new. And here is a rather uncomfortable thought. If artificial love learns from humanity's expressions of love, it will also learn our distortions: possessiveness, selfishness, manipulation, and relationships reduced to transactions.

The data is us. What will it learn from us? Perhaps the deeper challenge of Sunday's Gospel is not whether machines will someday imitate love convincingly, but whether we humans are becoming less willing to practise the costly, unpredictable love of Christ.

It is Thursday afternoon as I write this. After a rather dry beginning to spring, the rain is pouring down. Every now and then, the wind carries it against my window, almost as though it is knocking for my attention. I find myself wondering how the thirsty grass might be welcoming it, how the dry earth might be softening beneath it Perhaps I should stop writing about attention for a moment and simply give some to the rain, and to the One who sends it. After all, love begins not with having something wise to say, but with noticing what is before us. **Fr B**

Please Pray For…

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (23rd – 29th Oct) Mary McWilliam, Doreen Collins, George Keryk, Alexandria Kruger, Robert Watson, Derrick Carrol, Vincente Valencia, Ann Mackinlay, Rev Fr Edmund O'Donnell

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 24th Oct	○ 5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sun 25th Oct	○ 9.45am Mass ○ 5.30pm Alpha Youth Meeting in Church
Mon 26th Oct	○
Tues 27th Oct	○ 10am LOW ○ 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church ○ 1pm Liturgy Group Meeting
Wed 28th Oct	○ 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery ○ 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 29th Oct	○ 10am Mass ○ 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 30th Oct	

Upcoming Dates:

1st Nov – All Saints Day
2nd Nov – All Souls Day – Mass 9.30am
8th Nov – 75th Jubilee Celebrations
14th Nov – 20th Anniversary of Little Miracles Kindergarten

Mass for All Souls Day

Mass for All Souls Day will be celebrated at **9.30am** on Monday 2nd November, here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

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 **Anne Suhr** as she turns 83 on the 27th October and to **Carol Rawlinson** who turns 80 on the 29th October. May God continue to guide your steps ladies and fill your years ahead with peace, joy and love.

Just two Sundays until our 75th Jubilee Mass and celebration

Bishop Howell will join us to preside at our 75th Jubilee Mass at 9:45am on Sunday 8th of November.

Following Mass, we will celebrate this significant milestone in the school hall. Fun activities for the kids, a light lunch and refreshments will be available. All are invited. Catch up with friends - old and new.

Musical ensembles from St Mary's College and St Ursula's College as well as our Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School choir will entertain us on the day.

Festivities will conclude around 2:00pm so make sure you register your intention to attend our celebration **by 5pm Sunday 1st November** to assist with organisation and catering. Volunteers can help you with bookings before and after both Masses this weekend.

Merchandise is available for collection from the office from Monday 26th October.

"With grateful hearts, we acknowledge the dedication of all those men and women upon whose efforts we continue to build."

How you can support our Youth Ministry

The youth gatherings are off to a wonderful start with up to 20 young people attending the Sunday evening sessions. If you would like to support the youth ministry, donations of chips, lollies and drinks would be greatly appreciated and will help keep our youth nights fuelled and welcoming! Donations can be dropped into the parish office or left in the Children's Liturgy Room.

	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
31st Oct at 5.30pm	*Mass at St Anthony's*						
1st Nov at 9.45am	J Burke K Langdale	T Ryan	C Rawlinson K Kruger	Dias Family	(H) S Rosentreter (W) C Anderson (W) C Watson	M Conrick	R Fallon

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.

eNews continued

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, GUEST SPEAKER FR FRANK BRENNAN

Date: *10/12/26 Thursday*
Time: *TBA*
Where: *St Patrick's Cathedral Centre, Neil St Tmba*

On the 78th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, hear Fr Frank Brennan draw on a lifetime of experience in social justice and human rights to explore two fundamental questions: Why are human rights important? And why does Australia need a Human Rights Act?

Save the Date Flyer

ENEWS UPDATE

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

ST PATRICK'S PARISH FETE

Date: *7/11/26 Saturday*
Time: *Starting 3:00pm*
Where: *St Patrick's School Oval, St George*

Join us for an afternoon and evening of family fun! Enjoy student class dances, games and activities, jumping castles, tug of war, yabby races, market stalls and delicious food from the community BBQ and sweets stall. The fun continues into the evening with a major raffle draw, featuring a premium Weber smoker, followed by the mega draw. Entry is free, and everyone is welcome!

See flyer/newsletter note for details.

ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER SERVICE FOR RECONCILIATION

Date: *10/11/26 Tuesday*
Time: *11:00am*
Where: *St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba*

All are warmly invited to the annual Covenant Prayer Service, celebrating the 2009 commitment to closer collaboration shared by our three Church communities: the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, and the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Bishop Ken Howell will preside, and Anglican Bishop Cameron Venables, Western Region of the Diocese of Brisbane, will preach. Detailed newsletter blurb.

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: *21/11/26 Saturday*
Time*: 6:00pm*
Where: *Mary MacKillop Catholic College Hall, Highfields Road, Highfields*
Cost: *$20pp, children under 12 free*

Bring your friends and family for a fun night of trivia and games. Register teams of 6 to 8. Tickets and nomination forms are available at Highfields after Sunday 8:00am Mass or email Patti at alan.mcnaught@bigpond.com Newsletter Ad

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST POPE JOHN PAUL II VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

This November marks the 40th anniversary of the historic visit to Australia by St Pope John Paul II. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) and the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples encourage parishes and schools across the country to focus on the Pope's landmark address to people at Blatherskite Park in Alice Springs on November 29, 1986.

NATSICC resources can be found here.

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

catholic mission

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

Thank you for your generous support of the Church in Malawi and the communities it serves.

Because of your kindness, children like Yamikani* will have greater access to education, nourishment, and the opportunity to build a hopeful future.

And if you chose to become a Mission Partner with a monthly gift - thank you so much for your ongoing commitment.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission in Malawi and around the world, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work.

Thank you again for your compassion, and please keep this impactful work in your prayers.

**Name changed for privacy*