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, 1st November 2026
All Saints – Year A

First Reading
Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6

(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading
1 John 3:1-3
A reading from the first letter of St John
We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel Acclamation
Matthew 5:1-12
Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 5:1-12
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Next Week's Readings (7th/8th Nov 2026) – Thirty-Second Sunday – Year A
1st Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

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.

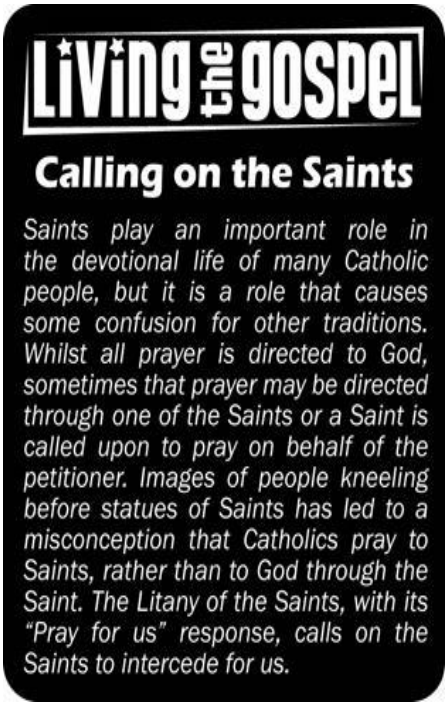
Parish Councillors

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 - Let Nothing Disturb Your Peace

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; all things pass, God does not change. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

This quote is attributed to St Teresa of Avila. Recently I have found myself holding on to this reflection during times of prayer. One of the strong themes arising in my spiritual life these days is being secure in God. As always, when there is a deeper movement towards something, I wonder what I might be desiring to move away from. I noticed that it could be the fear of fragmentation.

There are so many things happening around us that cause us to be self-referential. What we see on social media and in our news feeds, our conversations, church circles, volunteering and social life all have the power to pull us in different directions. As I usually say, what we experience around us can make us self-conscious. We see this pattern in the story of Adam and Eve: self-consciousness leads to self-doubt and distrust, which then lead to fear and shame. These in turn lead to blame and accusation. And the fruit of it all is division and isolation. Yet God responds with a question: "Who told you that you were naked?" Perhaps it is a question worth hearing again today.

Perhaps the scattered pieces of ourselves cannot be gathered simply by trying harder. We need to allow ourselves to be gathered by God. The Holy Spirit moves us in exactly the opposite direction. The Spirit leads us to the awareness of being loved, which creates in us an openness that leads to trust. This trust gives birth in us to acceptance and freedom. It opens a space in us to receive mercy and forgiveness. In that place, we experience communion and belonging.

I wonder if this is the secret of every saint. Every saint, including those who are not canonised, experienced this sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves. Their lives were not self-referential; they were God-referential. After all, the word *holy* comes from the Old English *hālig*, which shares its root with *hāl*, meaning "whole." Every saint, every day of their life, fought within themselves against the temptation of becoming fragmented or scattered. Their secret was to surrender radically to God's love, and to rest secure in it.

As we celebrate All Saints' Day this Sunday, the Church offers us the Beatitudes for our reflection: blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, those who mourn, and those who are persecuted. Maybe we could also say: blessed are they who are not addicted to material possessions, blessed are they who are not addicted to good feelings, blessed are they who are not addicted to power, and blessed are they who are not addicted to people's approval.

St John tells us in Sunday's second reading: *"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are."* They are blessed because they have built their lives on the rock of the belonging God offers them. No storm can shake their inmost calm. The saints were not less engaged with the world because they belonged to God. They were able to love the world more freely because they no longer needed the world to secure their identity. No wonder such people become passionate missionaries, building God's kingdom here on earth. May the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us teach us the power of belonging and communion. **Fr B**

Please Pray For…

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (30th Oct – 5th Nov) Patrick Wright, Brian Savage, Monica Egart, Gerard James Collins, Ellen Boland, Iris Upton, Gretta Watson, Mary Costello, Laurie Allport, Rev Fr William McGovern

Those Who Are Sick: Anne Suhr, 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

November Birthdays: Helen Stein, Cristianne Dias, Joshua Newman, Ivy Ryan, Grace Ryan, Cathy Morris, Marg Roessler, Kev Roberts, Margaret McNab, Jenny McDonald, Frank Jones, Audrey Bentley, Fr Costigan

Parish News…

Sat 31st Oct	○ **5.30pm Vigil Mass (All Saints)** – St Anthony's
Sun 1st Nov	○ **9.45am Mass (All Saints)** ○ 5.30pm Alpha Youth Meeting in Church
Mon 2nd Nov	○ **9.30am Mass for All Souls**
Tues 3rd Nov	○ **10am LOW** ○ 10.30am Prayer Group in the Church
Wed 4th Nov	○ 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery ○ 6.30pm SPRED
Thu 5th Nov	○ **10am Mass** ○ 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 6th Nov	

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!

Jubilee Bookings Close Sunday 1st November

Please make sure you RSVP to attend our celebration **by 5pm Sunday 1st November** to assist with organisation and catering. Click here to register online or email the Parish Office at ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au.

Merchandise is now available for collection from the office.

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

New Mass Rosters

Thank you to everyone who completed the Flick and Tick Form. The new Mass Rosters are currently being prepared and will be sent out to the volunteers in the coming weeks.

Month of the Holy Souls

The first week of November is an important week in the religious calendar. It is traditionally the month in which the Church remembers Her dead and in a special way we are invited to remember our family and friends who have died, especially those who have passed in the previous year. The Month of Remembrance commences on November 1st with All Saints Day, followed on November 2nd by All Souls Day, where we remember and pray for the dead. This year, let us remember all our loved ones who have passed away.

We invite you to record in the Remembrance book at the back of the church the names of your family and friends who have died so that as a community we might remember them in our prayers.

Prayer for the Month of the Holy Souls

Into your hands, Father of mercies,
we commend our loved ones
in the sure and certain hope that,
together with all who have died in Christ,
they will rise with him on the last day.
Merciful Lord, turn toward us
and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servants
and help us who remain to comfort one another
with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you
and with our brothers and sisters for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Remembrance Mass

St Anthony's Parish will be holding a Remembrance Mass to remember those we have loved and lost on Monday 9th November at 6pm. Whether your loss is recent or from many years ago, you are welcome. Afterwards, you're invited to stay for a little something to eat. It is a chance to share a memory, swap a story, or simply sit with others who understand. For catering purposes, please email St Anthony's Parish at stanthonysparish@twb.catholic.org.au or phone 4636 1737 if you will be attending.

	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
7th Nov at 5.30pm	J & P O'Sullivan	J Johnston	P Hoopert R Johnston	Ward Family	(H) R O'Brien (W) J Kelly (W) K Walsh	J Ferguson	
8th Nov at 9.45am	Anderson Family	K Langdale	M Cash P Murphy	R Fallon	(H) Cristianne Dias (W) Cleber Dias (W) A Cournane	T Ryan	M Webb

Synod Update

Following the recent Diocesan Synod Assembly, we are pleased to share the Synod Working Document. This document brings together the themes and recommendations that emerged through the Synod's listening and discernment process and formed the basis of the Assembly's discussions.

What happens next?

The feedback received during the Synod Assembly will now be provided to the Writing Teams for consideration and any necessary adjustments to the recommendations. This work will inform the preparation of a final document, which will be presented to Bishop Ken for his discernment.

The outcomes of this process will also provide the basis for the Evaluation Assembly, planned for the first half of 2027.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Synod journey, whether through listening sessions, prayer, preparation or participation in the Assembly. The generosity, faith and commitment shown throughout this process have been greatly appreciated.

As we continue this journey together, we ask that you keep our Diocese in your prayers, that we may remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern the way forward. Please click here to access the document.

ENEWS UPDATE

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

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

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has added liturgical resources to its website.
NATSICC liturgy resource can be found here.
Other NATSICC resources, including a video of the address, are available here.