



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 Gialal and Jarowair peoples, Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Sunday, 15th March 2026 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A

First Reading

[1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 22 R. v.1](#)

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads

me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading

[Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel

[John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Next Week's Readings (21st / 22nd Mar 2026) – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year A
1st Reading: [Ezekiel 37:12-14](#) 2nd Reading: [Romans 8:8-11](#) Gospel: [John 11:1-45](#)

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/>

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Light of the World

The events of today's gospel passage occur within an extended passage of the gospel of John in which Jesus attends Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:1 following). A feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple. Pilgrims would cover the Temple with lights and torches so that it shone out over the entire city. It was during this feast that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World and, a few verses later, healed the blind man and brought light into his world.

Sunday Reflection...

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Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Lenten Light

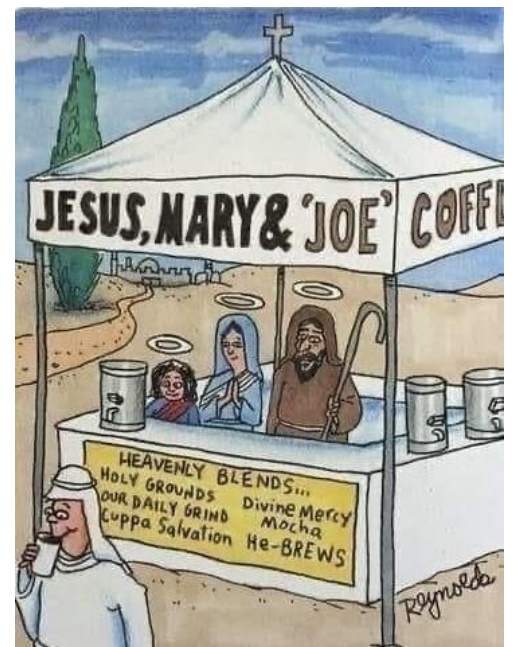
The story of the man born blind is a perfect choice for the Lenten season. During this season we are invited once again to open our eyes to Jesus; to step out of darkness and into the light; to look towards the future with hope and not despair. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter vigil, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World into our lives. This annual call to turn away from darkness and walk in the light is a powerful and poetic call to focus our lives on the way of Jesus.

GOSPEL FOCUS

None so blind

There's a very old saying that has its roots in the Bible but is not a direct quote from the Bible: 'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' It would be a fitting summary of today's passage for there are two movements between darkness and light that are evident in the story. Firstly, there is the blind man who can see. He can see physically but can also see the truth of who Jesus is. Secondly, there are the Jewish authorities who have physical sight but are completely blind to the truth of Jesus.

Thought of the week...



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: (13th – 19th Mar) Esther Condon, Laurie Topp, Bernice Smith, Kerry Kearns, Dorothy Dorries, Kevin Groth, Doreen Barrett, Madeline Rice, Brian McGrath, Violet Doyle, Rev Fr Bernard Kane, Rev Fr Derek Furness, Rev Fr Donald Walton

Those Who Are Sick: Margaret York, Gerard Nolan, 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 14 th March	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 15 th March	o 9.45am Mass including Children's Liturgy
Mon 16 th March	o 10am BUPA Anointing Visitation
Tues 17 th March	o 10am LOW – St Patrick's Solemnity o 10.30am Prayer Group
Wed 18 th March	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED
Thurs 19 th March	o 10am Mass – St Joseph's Solemnity o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 20 th March	

Date Claimers:

14th/15th March – Parish Council nominations
 15/16/17th March – Lenten Retreat 5.45pm
 17th March – Feast of St Patrick
 21st March – Choir Practice 10am
 22nd March – No Children's Liturgy today
 24th March – Communal Rite of Reconciliation 6pm
 30th March – 5.30pm Chrism Mass – St Pat's

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.



Easter Ceremonies – Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the Easter Ceremonies. If you are able to help, would you please put your name on the sheet on the table at the church entrance. We need as much help as possible during this busy season. Please don't leave all the work to just a few.

Wedding Wishes

Congratulations on the holy union of Kayla Marshall & Matthew Steer on 14 March. May the Lord guide you, protect your home, and fill your hearts with patience, kindness and faith.

Easter Ceremony Times

- ❖ 24th Mar – Communal Rite of Reconciliation 6pm (LOL)
- ❖ 28th Mar - Palm Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm (LOL)
- ❖ 29th Mar – Palm Sunday Mass at 9.45am (LOL)
- ❖ 2nd Apr - Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm (LOL)
- ❖ 3rd April – Stations of the Cross at 10am (LOL)
- ❖ 3rd April – Passion of the Lord at 3pm (St Anthony's)
- ❖ 4th Apr - Easter Sunday Vigil Mass Time 7.00pm (LOL)
- ❖ 5th April – Easter Sunday Mass at 9.45am (LOL)

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.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

A Communal Rite of Reconciliation will be held in the church on Tuesday, 24th March at 6pm. Please let the office know on 4634 1453 if you require transport to this ceremony.

Chrism Mass Choir Invitation

St Patrick's Choir would like to extend an invitation to all parish choir members to join with them Monday 30th March at 5.30pm to celebrate the Chrism Mass.

There will be a practice, please see details below –

Date – Tuesday evenings at 6pm

Venue – St Patrick's Cathedral

RSVP – Pam Duane – 0428 195 255 or

cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au

Please contact Pam if you require a music score.

Farewell/Welcome Morning Tea

Please join us for morning tea after the 9.45am Mass on 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.

Working Bee

All are welcome to come along and lend a hand on 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
21 st March at 6.30pm	M Cushway J Michel	L Borger	B Witham J Soriano	P & E Castles	H. J Johnston W. C Golightly W. R O'Brien	G Schoolr	W Hoopert
22 nd March at 9.45am	R Fallon A Suhr	C Hudson	M Conrick C Watson	Dias Family	H. T Ryan W. P Murphy W. C Anderson	J Anderson	V Barker

Planned Giving Regular Reporting

Regular Planned Giving is essential to the ongoing financial health of our parish. Reviewing your current gift and pledge amounts is very important in helping us manage our financial position for the year and to ensure that we can continue to be able to meet our increasing ongoing financial expenses. Regular financial updates will help in quickly identifying any financial gaps or shortfalls which may be happening and allow us to react in a timely manner to ensure our parish remains healthy. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of our parish.

January	
Loose Plate	\$1,867.30
Envelopes	\$1,400.00
Direct Debits	\$7,189.00
Total Income	\$10,456.30
Less General Parish Expenses for month	\$12,648.90
Surplus/Shortfall	\$2,192.60

The Way of the Cross - Good Friday

3 April 2026 at 7.30am

We gather on the steps of St Patrick's Cathedral to carry the cross around a variety of key locations in the CBD. Each stop is a 'station' and we will pause, read a reflection and pray. The reflections will help us be in solidarity with some of the many injustices in our world. We will return to the Cathedral for our final 'station' around 9am. Please join us as we walk with Jesus. Any queries ring David on 0428 130 895 | dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au

(Note: please wear good walking shoes, suitable clothes for the weather and bring a water bottle for your own comfort.)



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fourth Sunday of Lent 14-15 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



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.

A MORNING'S PRAYER

Date: 18/4/26 Sunday **Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm

Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston

Cost: \$25pp

Liam Desic from the Brisbane Archdiocese Adult Formation team will lead this session on the theme, Out of the Desert, Into New Life. Easter is a time to celebrate the joy of the resurrection, and to recognise just how far we've been carried to get here. [Book and find out more here.](#)

SCHOOL RESOURCES: JESUIT MISSION AUSTRALIA

Coinciding with Jesuit Mission Australia's 75th anniversary year, we are excited to launch a suite of School Resources for students from Foundation to Year 10, inviting young Australians to explore faith in action and engage with issues of justice, dignity and global solidarity. The resources are being released as Jesuit Mission marks 75 years of walking alongside communities on the margins. Designed for classrooms across Australia, the resources introduce students to the global work of Jesuit Mission and the teachings of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. [Find the resources here.](#)

REMINDER UPCOMING EVENTS

SYCHAR HOUSE OF PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY: Please view the website for current happenings.

ST MARY'S WARWICK CENTENARY: 15/3/26, Starting with Mass at 8:30am See promo for details

ST PATRICK'S IRISH NIGHT: 21/3/26 @ 6:00pm, St John's School, 29 Duke Street Roma. Book through Eventbrite

SPRED 40TH ANNIVERSARY: 22/3/26 @ 11:00am. St Theresa's Parish, Cnr Curzon & Campbell Sts Tmba.

FR MICK MCCLURE FAREWELL FROM HELIDON CELEBRATION: 22/3/26 @ 2:30PM, St Joseph's Church Helidon. Please RSVP to Helidon Parish by 15/3/26 for catering helidon@twb.catholic.org.au

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel presents us with a paradox: a man who has never before seen begins to see, while many who consider themselves enlightened remain prisoners of their blindness. The blind man does not see everything immediately. He is on a journey. He responds with simplicity, remains faithful to his experience, and grows in truth. Those who are convinced they can see, on the other hand, close themselves off more and more. This is precisely where Christian joy is born: when we stop explaining the darkness of others and allow God to illuminate it with his presence. Today, let us ask for the grace of new eyes, capable of recognising God's work even where everything seems fragile. Because truly seeing does not mean having all the answers, but allowing ourselves to be transformed by the light that comes from Christ.

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the world, draw near to our lives as they are. When weariness weighs heavily upon us and meaning seems to fade, remind us that we are not alone and that your new life continues to be reborn. Enter into our blindness and teach us to look with hope beyond every obstacle.



Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development Pastoral Kit Lent '26