



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> 

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: 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, 3rd May 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year A

First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, R. v.22](#)

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
(R.)

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. *(R.)*

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. *(R.)*

Second Reading

[1 Peter 2:4-9](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 14:6](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 14:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Next Week's Readings (9th/10th May 2026) – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Year A

1st Reading: [Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Peter 3:15-18](#) Gospel: [John 14:15-21](#)

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

Jo Johnston, Jeni Bonell, 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

It is for the best...

At the time of this gospel's writing, some 70 years after the events it describes, amazing things have taken place in the early Christian community. Rather than everything falling apart with the death of Jesus, the message of Jesus has spread further than he himself could ever have accomplished. It is the departure of Jesus from their midst and the sending of the Spirit that really prompts the disciples to act on what they had experienced while Jesus lived among them. The gospel writer has Jesus saying that he has to go away so that the disciples can reach their potential.

Sunday Reflection...

Nick Brodie

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that through the paschal mystery Jesus became 'a blessing for all and forever.' In a sense, this is what Jesus calls each of us to do too. We are called to be Christ's blessing for our neighbourhoods and neighbours.

This calling is critical to our parish life. Each Sunday, the Pope says, 'we gather around Jesus', who 'encourages us' to live the great promise and precious treasure of 'living to give life!'

This being so, the Pope encourages us to listen to Jesus. 'He journeys with us, even today, to teach us', the Pope says. And what Jesus teaches is 'the logic of unconditional love.'

'Let us listen to him,' the Pope implores, 'let us enter into his light so as to become the light of the world, starting with the neighbourhood where we live. The whole life of the parish and its groups exists for this reason: it is a service to light, a service to joy.'

Each one of us, then, is called to build up our communities through 'the gaze of faith, which transfigures everything with hope, putting passion, sharing and creativity into circulation as a cure for the many wounds' we see around us.

[Quotes from Pastoral Visit Homily, 1 March 2026: https://www.vatican.va/content/leoxiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/202603_01-visita-pastorale-settore-est.html]

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

The gospel of John

The gospel of John is very different from the other three 'synoptic' gospels. The other three have a very narrative style and can be seen together as different recounts of the same events. Whilst the gospel of John also has some beautifully narrated stories, it is better known as a more theologically reflective piece of writing. It assumes that the readers of this gospel are already familiar with one or more of the others, so it doesn't need to tell the story again. Rather, it presents a sweeping image of God, through Jesus, reaching out, in, through, and with love to the people.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

Thought of the week...

On the third day he rode again..



Please Pray For...

Recent Deaths: Dell Durkin

Anniversaries: (1st – 7th May) Francis Lynch, Joan Ross, Alex Morrison, Mario Frattin, Alan Curr, Irene McDonnell, Pam Daley, William Sims, Matt Stower, Robie Jayawardhana, Kevin McNamara, Eileen Josephine Davis, Frank Bernard Pemble-Smith, Rev Fr William Murphy, Rev Fr Brian Moran

Those Who Are Sick: Kev Roberts, Margaret York, Gerard Nolan, Sr Cecilia Bailey, Peter Reynolds, Peter Hickey, Kathie Ober, Brian Reardon, 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

May Birthdays: Gabe Hoopert, John Trueman, Libby Ferguson, Bernie Dever, Abigail School, Janice Moore, Brian Reardon, Emily Dwan, Mark Whitelegg, Noah Morrow, Charlie School, MK Thomson

Parish News...

Sat 2 nd May	o 6.30pm Mass
Sun 3 rd May	o 9.45am Mass o 10.45am Baptism Preparation Session
Mon 4 th May	o Office closed for Labour Day o 6.30pm Parish Council Meeting
Tues 5 th May	o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group
Wed 6 th May	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED
Thurs 7 th May	o 10am Mother's Day Mass (school hall) o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group
Fri 8 th May	o

Date Claimers:

- 12th May – Glenvale Villas Visitation at 10.30am
- 16th /17th May – The Ascension of the Lord
- 18th May – 10am BUPA Visitation
- 19th May – 6pm Sacrament of Confirmation
- 24th May – 11.30am Sacrament of First Eucharist

2026 SPRED Appeal

SPRED End-of-Financial-Year Appeal

In 2026, SPRED celebrates **40 years** of creating a place of belonging, faith and joy for people with intellectual disabilities. More than a program, SPRED is a welcoming community where friendships grow, and faith is shared. Your donation helps ensure this vital ministry continues.

Donate today: www.twb.catholic.org.au/donate



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.

	February	March
Loose Plate	\$2,000.10	\$3,064.70
Envelopes	\$1,888.00	\$1447.00
Direct Debits	\$6,005.00	\$6,367.00
Total Income	\$9,893.10	\$10,878.70
Less General Expenses	\$14,053.01	\$15,965.87
Surplus/Shortfall	\$4,159.91	\$5,087.17

Parish Planned Giving Program

It's that time of year again where we ask you to complete a Planned Giving form and pledge your annual contribution amount. Your regular support of our Planned Giving Program helps us plan and budget for everyday expenses, repairs and maintenance of our parish facilities and meet our Diocesan and Parish commitments.

Contributions can be made through Direct Debit or Planned Giving envelopes. Click [here](#) to access the Online Form or **paper copies are available at the back of the church.** If you would like additional information, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your generous contributions.

Holy Land & Project Compassion

An amount of \$459 was received from the Holy Land collection on Good Friday and \$2,298 was raised for Project Compassion during Lent. Thank you for your generosity to these very important causes.

Thank You from OLOL School!

On Thursday, our Year 4 students celebrated weekday Mass with our parish community. It's moments like these that remind us that real change happens not in dramatic moments, but in the quiet, ordinary presence of faith lived week by week. Thank you to everyone who helps each week. Your faithful presence is making a difference to our students in ways both seen and unseen.

	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
9th May at 6.30pm	J Michel G School	C Ferguson	R O'Brien B Witham		H. P Hoopert W. C Golightly W. M Cushway	Soriano Family	D Clark
10th May at 9.45am	J Burke K Langdale	C Hudson	J Anderson C Anderson	Poulton Family	H. P Murphy W. S Rosentreter W. Cleber Dias	K Kruger	R Fallon

Toowoomba Synod Listening Sessions

The Synod Listening Sessions enable us to gather as a diocese, share our joys and sorrows, pray together, and discern where the Holy Spirit is encouraging us to take action for our future. This is an opportunity for each person in the diocese to contribute to our Synod, with the information gathered at these sessions being directly fed back to the Bishop for his discernment and deliberation for the Synod assembly which will be held 23-24 October 2026. Registrations for these sessions are essential. If you have not registered, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to join the Listening Session, due to venue capacities. These Listening Sessions are only the beginning; we hope that Parishes and communities will host their own Listening Sessions. We encourage you to do so! Please liaise with your Priest or contact us at Synod@twb.catholic.org.au if you need support doing so.

Listening Sessions Toowoomba

Sat 16 May, 9.30-11.30am at Edmund Rice Cultural Centre, St Mary's College Toowoomba

Tues 16 June, 6-8pm at Micah Centre, Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, Toowoomba

Online: Tues 26 May, 10-11.30am via Teams

Click [here](#) to register or go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/toowoombasynodlisteningessions>

Prayer for our Diocesan Synod

Draw near to your people, gracious Father,
as together we walk the path of our Diocesan Synod.

You have blessed our Diocese with
your mercy, guidance, and strength
through many seasons of joy and challenge.

Now we seek your wisdom
as we discern how best to serve your mission in our world.

Send forth your Holy Spirit
into these days of seeking, listening, and yearning, that we
may recognise your voice, discover your paths,
and make Christ known to all.

Illuminate our minds with your light,
shape our vision according to your will.
With your Spirit leading us, may there be no limit
to our faith, our hope, and our endurance.

Through Christ our hope,
and our companion on the road. Amen.
Our Lady of the Southern Cross, pray for us.

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Madonna Magazine gift subscription - Annual Subscription: \$70 (Four Issues – Spring, Summer, Autumn And Winter) Madonna is a magazine of spiritual reading for lay people. Through personal stories and reflections, it demonstrates the presence of God in our everyday lives. It develops knowledge and appreciation of the Christian faith through informative articles on Christian beliefs, history, spirituality and practice.

https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/uploads/subscription/MA_sub_form.pdf

Majellan Magazine gift subscription - A \$24 gift subscription to the Majellan provides a long-term reminder of what it means to be family. Published 4 times a year, it is packed with stories about family and faith to help families be the best they can be. It is a perfect gift for mums. Go to: <https://majellan.media/product/the-majellan-magazine-gift-subscription/>

E NEWS UPDATE

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

LAUDATO SI' WEEK Date: 17-24/5/26

One week. One concrete action. One global response.

Laudato Si' Week is a global Catholic celebration. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, it joins Catholics around the world in renewing our commitment to care for creation. This year the theme is Hope to Action and encourages each of us to take one action during Laudato Si' Week to care for our common home. Catholic Earthcare, in partnership with the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, are pleased to share resources to support your parish to participate.

Download resource: [Laudato Si' Week - Parish](#)

WORLD WIDE MARIAN PROCESSION

Date: 13/6/26 Saturday (Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)

Every parish around the world is invited to participate in this event by celebrating a Eucharistic Procession, Adoration, or Mass. To find out more and [register interest in participating, visit the website.](#)

CARITAS AUSTRALIA LEBANON EMERGENCY APPEAL

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon continues to deteriorate rapidly, with mass displacement, mounting civilian casualties and severe pressure on essential services nationwide. The situation remains extremely fragile, and civilians urgently need humanitarian support. More than 2,000 people have been killed, and over 1 million people have been displaced nationwide, including more than 390,000 children. Our partner, Caritas Lebanon, continues to deliver emergency food, water, shelter, and health support across the country, maintaining humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas in Lebanon. A Parish Bulletin with a QR Code (Word doc) and a PowerPoint slide can be downloaded from the Caritas Australia website: [Parish Bulletin - May 2026](#) Thank you for your continued support of Caritas Australia.

WEBINAR: COPYRIGHT AND FIRST NATIONS ART

Date: 2/6/26 Tuesday Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

As part of National Reconciliation Week, the Australian Copyright Council is delighted to present its annual Copyright & First Nations Art webinar. Facilitated by Australian Copyright Council CEO, Eileen Camilleri and presented by Australian Copyright Council Senior Lawyer, Eleny Tzioumis, this one-hour session explores copyright law as it relates to First Nations Art. [To find out more and register, visit the website.](#)

Your postage stamps can transform lives!

Mary MacKillop Today collects thousands of stamps each year, trims and sorts them and sends them to an auction house where they are sold to collectors. The funds are used to support the work of Mary MacKillop Today in providing access to learning opportunities for the poorest communities in Australia and internationally. All you need to do is cut the stamps from the envelope leaving a generous margin around the edge, drop them into the parish office and we'll arrange to send them to Mary MacKillop Today a couple of times a year.