



# Welcome to **OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH**

153 Holberton St, Toowoomba | p: 4634 1453

Email: [ourladyoflourdesparish@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A

### First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41.](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 22:1-6. 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

[1 Peter 2:20-25](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter  
*You had gone astray but now you have come  
back to the shepherd and guardian of your  
souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in  
bearing punishment patiently when  
you are punished after doing your  
duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to  
do, because Christ suffered for you  
and left an example for you to follow  
the way he took. He had not done  
anything wrong, and there had been  
no perjury in his mouth. He was  
insulted and did not retaliate with  
insults; when he was tortured he  
made no threats but he put his trust in  
the righteous judge. He was bearing  
our faults in his own body on the  
cross, so that we might die to our  
faults and live for holiness; through  
his wounds you have been healed.  
You had gone astray like sheep but

### Gospel Acclamation

[John 10:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

[John 10:1-10.](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly,  
anyone who does not enter the  
sheepfold through the gate, but gets in  
some other way is a thief and a brigand.  
The one who enters through the gate is  
the shepherd of the flock; the  
gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear  
his voice, one by one he calls his own  
sheep and leads them out. When he has  
brought out his flock, he goes ahead of  
them, and the sheep follow because  
they know his voice. They never follow a  
stranger but run away from him: they do  
not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they  
failed to understand what he meant by  
telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to  
them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I  
am the gate of the sheepfold. All others  
who have come are thieves and  
brigands; but the sheep took no notice  
of them. I am the gate. Anyone who  
enters through me will be safe: he will go  
freely in and out and be sure of finding  
pasture. The thief comes only to steal  
and kill and destroy. I have come so that  
they may have life and have it to the full.'

Next Week's Readings (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026) – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year A

1st Reading: [Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7](#) 2nd Reading: [1 Peter 2:4-9](#) Gospel: [John 14:1-12](#)

## 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

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

### A line of shepherds

When Jesus used the image of himself as a shepherd, he named himself as belonging to a Jewish ancestry that associated itself with shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses were all shepherds. David, the second King of Israel, was regarded as the greatest king in Jewish history. His humble beginning, captured magnificently in the sculpture by Michelangelo, was as a shepherd boy guarding his flock with a slingshot. The kings of Israel were charged to 'shepherd' their people rather than to lord it over them as the pagan kings did.

## Sunday Reflection...

Nick Brodie

'Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself,' Pope Leo XIV affirms. Rather, it 'is open to everyone and is for everyone.'

The Pope reminds us that 'what really matters in the Church is to be grafted onto Christ, to be children of God by grace. ... We are in the Church in order to receive life from the Father unceasingly and to live as His children and brothers and sisters among ourselves.'

'Consequently,' the Pope continues, 'the law that animates relationships in the Church is love, as we receive and experience it in Jesus.' This being so, we cannot shut the gates to that love. The Church's destination, as the Pope explains, 'is the Kingdom of God, towards which she walks together with all humanity.'

'Even those who have not yet received the Gospel', the Pope adds, 'are therefore, in some way, oriented towards the people of God.' Within the Church 'there is, and there must be, a place for everyone.' Our welcome to every seeker of truth is part of our calling. The Church, as the Pope makes clear, 'is a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.'

[Quotes from General Audience, 11 March 2026:  
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leoxiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260311-udienza-generale.html>]

## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

### Psalm 22

Today's responsorial psalm uses Psalm 22 (sometimes referenced as Psalm 23), 'the Lord is my shepherd'. It is a very popular psalm and is often reproduced on Christian posters and other artworks. It was also a popular psalm and image at the time of Jesus. For Jesus to describe himself as the good shepherd caused great distress among the Jewish officials. They saw Jesus as being blasphemous for the psalm makes clear that the Lord is the shepherd. Jesus quite deliberately makes clear that he and the Father are one: the Lord is the shepherd and Jesus is the good shepherd.

## GOSPEL FOCUS

### Life to the Full

John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage. Having life to the full does not imply life filled with every convenience, comfort and wealth. Rather, it is about living a life filled with purpose and intent. If we fail to live with purpose and meaning then our life is a hollow shell of what it could be. Jesus came that we may have life – a life that is at its fullest when it is lived in such a way as to be an expression of what Jesus taught and lived.

## Thought of the week...



**Please Pray For...**

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:** (24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April) Steve Kruger, Allistair Marc Leahy, Mary Stephen, Leanne Sleba, Kaylene Bauer, Norma Cullen, Shirley Casey, Lucy Jannusch, Mona Boyce, Mavis Gesch, James Rush, Peter Murphy, Jim Ryan, Brian Kruger, Lil Cronin, Bill Collins, Flo Maguire, Michael McKenzie, Rev Fr Leo O'Donohue, Rev Fr John Concannon, Rev Fr Reginald Prior

**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, Noel O'Mara, Mick O'Mara

**April Birthdays:** Christina Dever, Veronica O'Connell, Thomas Kelly, Monica Thompson, Jonah Joseph, Savanna Joseph, Shania Joseph, Joe Kelly, Catherine Dyson, Fr Bony Abraham

**Parish News...**

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 10am Mass for Anzac Day &amp; Morning Tea</li> <li>o 6.30pm Mass</li> </ul>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 9.45am Mass</li> </ul>
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o</li> </ul>
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 10am LOW</li> <li>o 10.30am Prayer Group</li> <li>o 1pm Liturgy Group Meeting</li> </ul>
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery</li> <li>o 3.30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Workshop</li> <li>o 6.30pm SPRED</li> </ul>
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 10am Mass</li> <li>o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group</li> </ul>
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o</li> </ul>

**Date Claimers:**

- 29<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop Confirmation & Communion at 3.30pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> May – Planned Giving Presentation
- 4<sup>th</sup> May – Labour Day Public Holiday – Office Closed
- 7<sup>th</sup> May – 10am Mass Mother's Day Mass in School Hall
- 12<sup>th</sup> May – Glendale Villas Visitation at 10.30am
- 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> May – The Ascension of the Lord
- 18<sup>th</sup> May – 10am BUPA Visitation

**Anzac Day this Saturday 25th April 2026**

Please join us for a cuppa and an Anzac Biscuit following the 10am Mass this Saturday morning. .



**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.

**Mothers' Day Mass**

The OLOL School Mothers' Day Mass and Morning tea will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10 am in the school hall. All are welcome. For catering for the morning tea this form must be completed by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. [2026 Our Lady of Lourdes Mothers Day Morning Tea - Fill in form](#)

**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.



	Welcomers	Commentary	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Ipad Operator	Piety Stall
2 <sup>nd</sup> May at 6.30pm	J & P O'Sullivan	J Soriano	M Whitelegg P Hoopert	D & N Clark	H. W Hoopert W. R O'Brien W. G Ferguson	M Cushway	K Ward
3 <sup>rd</sup> May at 9.45am	A Cournane C Poulton	J Anderson	P Murphy C Anderson	Ryan Family	H. R Fallon W. G Birch W. C Watson	M Conrick	C Redinger

## 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](mailto: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>



## Two IMPACTFUL Sessions!

### Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering for two special sessions where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. In April meet past Palms volunteers and discover how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities, or join our May session for a live crossing to Timor Leste and see how lives are changing today. Scan below or see [palms.org.au/eve](http://palms.org.au/eve)

#### April Session: Discover Palms Online!

**Date:** Thursday 30 April 2026

**Time:** 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEST



#### May Session: Live from Timor Leste!

**Date:** Thursday 21 May 2026

**Time:** 4 pm – 5:30 pm AEST

**02 9560 5333** [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



## World Mission May Rosary Prayers

Join Catholic Mission online to honour Mother Mary during the month of May through praying the World Mission rosary. This beautiful tradition—created in 1951 by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen in the United States—was born from his desire to pray for the whole world, especially for those living in poverty. Today, it continues the mission and spirit of our foundress, Blessed Pauline Jaricot. We are thrilled to invite you to our special Rosary prayer sessions dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### Event Details

**Dates:** Monday to Friday, 1 May – 31 May

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Online via Teams – [Join here](#)

RSVP by 24<sup>th</sup> April if you can attend online via [Brisbane.admin@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:Brisbane.admin@catholicmission.org.au)

# E NEWS UPDATE

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

## SYCHAR HOUSE OF PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY EVENTS THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWNING

**Date:** 8/5/26 Friday **Time:** 9:30am for 10am start - 3pm

**Where:** Sychar, 69 Margaret Street Tmba

**Cost:** \$35 pp - see flyer for payment details

Join us for a day of stillness and quiet reflection. Morning session facilitated by Sr Denise Brosnan rsj. Afternoon session facilitated by Jo-anne Brown. Register: Moyalia Tokmak 0458 223 603 or [mtokmak@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:mtokmak@twb.catholic.org.au)

[See flyer for further information](#)

## THE MYSTERY OF GOD IN LIFE

**Date:** 20/6/26 Saturday **Time:** 8:45am for 9am start - 2:30pm

**Where:** Sychar, 69 Margaret Street Tmba

**Cost:** \$35 pp - see flyer for payment details

This will be a journal workshop that includes quiet reflection, sharing and writing. We will explore our spiritual journey thus far. This may surface memories of God's loving action in our life. Or it may bring to sharper awareness experiences where we have felt divinely guided. Presented by Sr Pat Quinn.

[Register at TryBooking](#)

[See flyer for further information](#)

## ABRAHAMIC FAITHS GATHERING

**Date:** 5/5/26 Tuesday **Time:** 5:45pm, followed by light dinner

**Where:** St Anthony's Community Centre, Memory St Tmba

The evening will begin with a short presentation by each faith group on "Forgiveness". Organised by the Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together.

[See flyer for further information](#)

## THREE SAINTS CELEBRATION

**Date:** 3/5/26 Sunday **Time:** From 10.30am

**Where:** St Joseph's Parish Stanthorpe

The annual Celebration is back. Join us for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Three Saints Celebration. 10.30am Food & drink stalls, 12.30pm Rosary/ 1pm Mass with Bishop Ken Howell, 2.30pm Procession, Live Entertainment from 3pm, 6.30pm Laser Light Show. All are welcome to this celebration. No registration of booking required.

## **Empower the Future of Priesthood**

The Holy Spirit Seminary is dedicated to the spiritual and academic formation of men called to serve as priests. The formation of men for the priesthood is an essential work of the Church. This formation does not occur in isolation and requires the support of the entire Church community. There are three ways to offer support to the continuing formation of priests.

- Pray for the seminarians as they discern their vocation and prepare for a life of service. Pick up a prayer calendar at the church entrance.

- Encourage young men in the community to consider the priesthood. Your support and encouragement can make a significant difference in their journey.

- Your financial contributions are essential for the Seminary's operations. Consider making a donation or including Holy Spirit Seminary in your will to ensure the continuation of its mission. You can donate [here](#) or at <https://holyspiritseminary.au/support-future-priests/>