



# 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> 

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](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, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Palm Sunday - Year A

### First Reading

[Isaiah 50:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

### Second Reading

[Philippians 2:6-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Gospel Acclamation

[Philippians 2:8-9](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

[Matthew 26:14 - 27:66](#)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Please be seated for reading of the long Gospel.**

Jesus knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine'. *Luke 22:41-42*



Next Week's Readings (5<sup>th</sup> April 2026) – Easter Sunday – Year A

1st Reading: [Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43](#) 2nd Reading: [Colossians 3:1-4](#) Gospel: [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

## 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/>

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## Scriptural Context

### Passion narratives

Towards the end of the 19th Century, the German scholar, Martin Kähler, described the gospels as 'passion narratives with lengthy introductions'. Over time, this description was more commonly applied to the gospel of Mark, but it is quite true of all four gospels. The passion elements are the climax of each gospel narrative and were probably written first to establish the unique interpretation of each of the gospel communities. The remainder of the gospel was written to 'set the scene' for the culmination of the message in the passion. Reading the four accounts of the passion reveal the unique styles and themes of the different gospel writers.

## Sunday Reflection...

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As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must to be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

## Living the Gospel

### The Blame Game

This Passion narrative has been used in the past as justification for persecution of Jews. The text has the people of Jerusalem calling out, 'his blood be on us and on our children!' This has been interpreted (poorly) as reason to condemn all subsequent generations of Jews for the death of Jesus. However, this gospel was written in the aftermath of the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. The gospel writer sought some explanation for this disaster in the story of Jesus' life and death: it is the children of the crowd at Jesus' death who suffered in the fall of Jerusalem.

## Gospel Focus

### Uniquely Matthew

The passion narrative in the gospel of Matthew follows the gospel of Mark very closely. However, unlike in other sections of the gospel the Matthew writer has not just inserted sections from the Mark account. Rather, the material is reworked and given a unique Matthean 'flavour'. In addition, the Matthew account includes five events that are not found in the Mark account: Judas hanging himself (27:3-10); Pilate's wife's dream (27:19); Pilate's washing his hands (27:24-25); extraordinary events at the time of Jesus' death (27:51b-53); sealing and guarding the tomb (28:62-66).

## Thought of the week...



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## Please Pray For...

### Recent Deaths:

**Anniversaries:** (27<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April) Dolly Walsh, Baby Joseph Paul Whittaker, Rita Moore, Kevin Langton, Herbert John Reis, Lorna Dunne

**Those Who Are Sick:** Sue Zvirblis, Margaret York, 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 28 <sup>th</sup> March	o 6.30pm Mass (Palm Sunday)
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> March	o 9.45am Mass (Palm Sunday)
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> March	o Chrism Mass 5.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> March	o 10am LOW o 10.30am Prayer Group
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	o 9am Anam Cara in the Presbytery o 6.30pm SPRED
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	o 10.30am Craft and Friendship Group o 7pm Mass Holy Thursday
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	o 10am Stations of the Cross - Good Friday o 3pm Passion of the Lord – St Anthony's

### OLOL Parish Strategic Plan – last chance

The Parish Pastoral Council values your input. Please provide your feedback for the Draft Strategic Plan by 31<sup>st</sup> March. The document can be found [here](#) or with the bulletin mailout.

## Easter Ceremony Times

- ❖ 28<sup>th</sup> Mar - Palm Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> Mar – Palm Sunday Mass at 9.45am (OLOL)
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr - Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Stations of the Cross at 10am (OLOL)
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Passion of the Lord at 3pm (St Anthony's)
- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> Apr - Easter Sunday Vigil Mass Time 7.00pm (OLOL)
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday Mass at 9.45am (OLOL)

## Choir Practice for Easter Celebrations

Choir Practice for the Easter Celebrations will be held on this **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** at 11am.

## Reminder - Carpark Closed

The Liturgy Group reminds parishioners that for the safety of all, the Church entry on Goodwood Street will be closed from 6.15pm for the 6.30pm Palm Sunday Vigil (29<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter Vigil 4<sup>th</sup> Apr). If you need to park in the church carpark, please make sure you arrive before this time.

## Date Claimers:

27<sup>th</sup> March – Parish Office closed - Tmba Show Holiday  
30<sup>th</sup> March – 5.30pm Chrism Mass – St Pat's

## Holy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7pm (OLOL)

Welcomers	Altar Servers	Commentator	Oil Bearers	Minister of The Word	Footwashing		Offertory	Extraordinary Ministers	iPad
G Ferguson St Anthony's	OLOL ? St Anthony's	B Witham	R O'Brien L Bentley St Anthony's	M Ondrus St Anthony's	J Bonell St Anthony's	C Watson St Anthony's	L Walsh St Anthony's	H. K Walsh W. St Anthony's W. St Anthony's	M Cushway

## Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10am – Stations of the Cross (OLOL)

Musician	Welcomers	Commentary	Reader 1	Reader 2	lpad
J Wilson	K Roberts	J Axtel	J Anderson	M Ondrus	M Connell & M Cushway

## Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 3pm – Celebration of the Passion (St Anthony's)

Altar Servers	Welcomers	Solemn Intercessions	Readers	Gospel	Collectors	AV
OLOL ? St Anthony's	St Anthony's	St Anthony's	1. St Anthony's 2. L Walsh	N. St Anthony's O. R O'Brien J. Fr Bony	St Anthony's	St Anthony's

## Easter Vigil 4<sup>th</sup> April 7pm (OLOL)

Altar Servers	Welcomers	Commentator	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	Collectors	iPad
OLOL St Anthony's	J & P O'Sullivan St Anthony's	B Witham	1. L Bentley 2. St Anthony's 3. R O'Brien E. St Anthony's	OLOL St Anthony's	H. L Walsh W. St Anthony's W. St Anthony's	K Roberts	J Ferguson

## Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 9.45am (OLOL)

Welcomers	Altar Servers	Commentator	Ministers of the Word	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Ministers	iPad	Piety Stall
K Langdale ?	?	T Ryan	J Bonell A Cournane	Coonan Family	H. J Axtell W. P Murphy W. C Watson	M Conrick	C Redinger

## Parish Pastoral Council Update

March has been a month filled with gratitude, with many voices and prayers in our parish being heard through our Lenten Project Compassion and pastor discernment prayers. We welcomed our twenty-two candidates from Our Lady of Lourdes and St Anthony's Schools to our parish family as they prepare for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. The calendar continues to be full as we continue to journey through to Easter, farewelling Fr Jamie, Fr BJ and welcoming Fr Bony. Please continue to share your ideas with the parish office in the build-up to our 75th anniversary, and we look forward to seeing the candidates who will be nominated by you to continue the efforts of all the councils before us that makes Our Lady of Lourdes the best-kept secret in Toowoomba.

## Give Away

Frank and Mary Ondrus have 40 yellow Iris plants to give away. Please phone them on 4639 2135 if you are interested.

## Synod for the Diocese of Toowoomba

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba has set the date for the Synod for the Diocese of Toowoomba. It will take place this October 23 and 24th, generously hosted at the Edmund Rice Cultural Centre at St Mary's College Toowoomba.

The Synod process is well underway, being steered by Bishop Ken and the Synod Advisory Committee. The team are looking forward to engaging with parishes next month as we move into Phase 2 on this pathway. If you have questions about the Synod, or want to get involved please reach out to us at [synod@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:synod@twb.catholic.org.au)

## Chrism Mass

**Date:** 30/3/26 Monday

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Where:** St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba

Parishioners of the Toowoomba Diocese are welcome to the Chrism Mass. This special Mass is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a diocese. During the Mass, Bishop Ken Howell, joined by the clergy of the diocese, blesses the oils that will be used in the sacraments in the year ahead. The Chrism Mass will also be [livestreamed](#). [Newsletter/Social Media Insert](#)



## Children's Liturgy

This weekend will be the last Children's Liturgy before breaking for the school holidays. Children's Liturgy will recommence on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

## Good Friday Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 Churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

**There will be a special collection taken during the 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion. To help you prepare, envelopes are available on the pews and the tables at the entrances to the church this weekend.**

# E NEWS UPDATE

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

## **DIocese of TOOWOOMBA: FINANCE ASSISTANT**

The Diocese of Toowoomba is currently seeking to employ a Finance Assistant on a part-time basis for 30 hours per week. The responsibility of the Finance Assistant is to provide high-quality finance support to the operation of the Diocese and its entities. Applications close Friday 27/3/26 at 5:00pm. [To find out more about the position and apply visit Seek.](#)

## **WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Date:** 3/4/26 Friday **Time:** 7:30am

**Where:** Starting at the steps of St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba

Participants will visit several stations around the Toowoomba CBD to reflect on the Passion of Christ and link it to the current injustices in the world. All are invited to participate. Please wear good walking shoes, suitable clothes for the weather and bring a water bottle. Any queries, please contact David Tutty on 0428130895 [dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au)

## **MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA**

**Date:** 6/5/26 Wednesday **Time:** 10:00am-12:30pm

**Where:** Gip's Restaurant, Toowoomba

**Cost/RSVP:** \$65pp, RSVP 27/4/26 tickets limited

Celebrate Mother's Day this year with a gorgeous High Tea and support the outstanding work of the Toowoomba Hospice. Featuring special guest Kim Stokes. All proceeds will go towards supporting the outstanding work of the Toowoomba Hospice in providing free palliative care for our community. [Buy tickets here.](#) [See flyer for information](#)

## **THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWNING**

**Date:** 8/5/26 Friday **Time:** 9:30am for 10:00am start - 3:00pm

**Where:** Sychar House of Prayer & Spirituality, 69 Margaret St.

**Cost/RSVP:** \$35, Register with Sychar 0458 223 603 or [mtokmak@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:mtokmak@twb.catholic.org.au)

Enjoy a moment for deep rest for body, soul and spirit, with opportunities for quiet reflection and creative expression for those who wish. This is a time to nourish ourselves so we can more deeply and authentically support and serve others on their journeys. Facilitated by Sr Denise Brosnan rsj. [See flyer for details.](#)

## **ST MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL INGLEWOOD CELEBRATES 75 YEARS**

**Date:** 10 & 11/10/26 Saturday & Sunday

**Where:** St Maria Goretti School Inglewood

All are welcome to join the school community in celebrating 70 years since opening in 1951. Details to follow. [Newsletter notice.](#)

## **Reflection for Palm Sunday**

Today's liturgy is marked by a stark contrast: from cries of joy to the stark shout, "Crucify him!" Amidst this clamour, Jesus chooses a surprising path: silence. He does not respond to the provocations, he does not defend himself, he does not use words to hurt. This is where Lent leads us: to the most difficult fast, that of the tongue and of judgement. Following Jesus means learning the 'almsgiving of listening': remaining close to suffering without justifications, without condemnation. True love does not shout; it remains present and steadfast.

## **Prayer for Palm Sunday**

Lord Jesus, meek and humble King, come and dwell in our home during this Holy Week. Draw us close to You and remove all that distances us from You, so that, following in Your footsteps on the way of the cross, we may reach the joy of the Resurrection in the garden of daily life.



*Diastery for promoting Integral Human Development Pastoral Kit Lent '26*