

REGULAR WEEKEND MASS LOCATIONS

St. Mary's Church, Woodend
1B Elizabeth Street, Woodend 4305.
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Leichhardt
22 Old Toowoomba Road, Leichhardt 4305.
St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
42 Pine Mountain Road, North Ipswich 4305.
St. Brigid's Church Hall, Rosewood
Railway Street, Rosewood 4340.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, E/Heights
33A Robertson Road, Eastern Heights 4305.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours
Monday to Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm
1C Elizabeth Street, Woodend 4305 | 07 3362 8765
ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au | ipswichcatholic.au
Parish Priest: Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM
Assistant Priest: Fr. Minje Kim
Operations Manager: Benjamin Leschke

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

5th November 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Are you starting to get that feeling that the year is racing by, there is still so much to accomplish and gentle conversations are emerging about what you and your family are doing for Christmas? During the week when I was at the Friary at Kedron, and each of the friars were sharing about our ministries and what is ahead of us in the coming weeks. There was a high level of energy about our various commitments and a lot of great expectation of the holidays... but as one friar reminded us, we have so much to do before then! I'm sure you can resonate with 'so much to do'!



Today's gospel challenges us to re-evaluate what we have at the centre of our lives. Jesus specifically warns us against having a self-centred focus on status and reputation. Jesus directs us to make God the centre of our lives. When God is the centre of our lives, we tend to turn outwards, connecting us to the world and reminding us that we all need each other. Placing God at the centre of our lives means we not only love God, but we also love our neighbour, and that is the greatest commandment of the law.

In our lives, even within our Parish Community, do we stay honest, and authentic in our relationship with God, and others or do our hidden agendas impact how we live?

Saying yes to God and living with a faith conviction requires vulnerability, being conscious of and addressing the fears that deter one from living that 'yes' honestly and completely. Let us commit to help one another be effective disciples today. As we reach out to those near us at the Sign of Peace in Mass this weekend, may the gesture of 'reaching out' witness our love and faithfulness to God, the Church, and towards others.

The readings challenge us to face the contradictions within ourselves and grow into an expansion and opening of our own Christ consciousness and spirituality. Let's try to live consciously inclusive lives. In our work for the Reign of God, may we testify to the kind of world we are working towards.

May love and peace be at your centre this week,

Stephen ofm

A GATHERING OF FRIARS

This week the friars will be gathering (Mon-Wed) to discern all our commitments and try to set forth goals to adequately live the Franciscan life within the Australian Church. I ask you to pray for the friars as we make some very hard decisions on how we contribute to the Australian Church.

Many of you know Fr. Joe McKay who helps here each month, has been appointed Administrator of the Stafford Parish (effective January 2024). Fr John Nguyen has been appointed to the Brisbane Friary and will help in Ipswich each month.

Stephen ofm



PARISH CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEK		
Fri 03 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 11:00am Funeral (Bill Hayden), St. Mary's Church, Woodend 2:30pm Funeral (Athol Knight), Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary School Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall		Mon 06 7:00am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich		
	Sat 04 4:30pm Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 4:30pm Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church, Woodend 5:30pm Mass, St. Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass, Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights		Tues 07 9:00am Mass, Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt 3:30pm Primary Age Atrium, St. Mary's Primary School 8:30am Rosary, 9:00am Mass, Adoration St Mary's 9:00 Infant & Toddler Atrium, Leichhardt Presbytery 9:30am No Mass at St Brigid's, Rosewood 5:00pm Prayer Group at Parish Office, Woodend 6:00pm RCIA, Parish Office, Woodend 6:30pm Nativity Liturgy Meeting, Parish Office, Woodend	
		Sun 05 7:30am Mass, St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich 8:00am Mass, St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood 9:00am Mass (Children's Liturgy), St. Mary's Church, Woodend 10:30am Baptisms at St Mary's Church, Woodend 2:00pm Prayer Service & Graves Blessing, Warrill Park Cemetery 5:30pm Mass at St. Mary's Church, Woodend		Wed 08 9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church, Woodend 6:00pm Mass at St. Boniface, Marburg 6:30pm Finance Council Meeting, Parish Office, Woodend 9:00am Mass at Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights 6:30pm Primary School Youth, St. Mary's Primary School Hall 6:30pm High School Youth, St. Mary's College Hall



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Help Guide - <https://bit.ly/3N6QtGp>

PARISH PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Bill Hayden, Jillian Drover, Peter Hale, Athol (John) Knight, Carmelo Pisasale.

Anniversaries: Kerri Smith, Carolyn Burt, Nolan family, Bradley family, Ronald McNelly, Mavis Lean, Stewart Lean, Atkin family, Frank Noonan, Ann-Marie Hinnes, Maureen Smith, Noonan family, Heffernan family, John James, Murphy family, Frank Doolan, Kathy Boyce, and those in our Book of Life.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The recent dry weather has taken its toll on gardens and lawns at all our church properties. Let's pray for rain! Our work getting rid of the lawn grubs in front of St. Mary's is well underway, however will still take several weeks for our grass to green up again. We have finally installed the two planter boxes we planned to do 2 years ago, and they brighten up the façade of the church. We now have some colour back. A big thanks to Dan and Sarah (our gardening team) and Adam and his family from BEDurVEG who made the planter boxes and were kind enough to travel up this week from northern New South Wales to install them.

With Friday's funeral, we had to make several modifications to 'tech' so the ABC could broadcast, and we have put things back the way they were. If computer operators, or livestream operators notice any issues please let the Parish Office know.

Thank you to all parishioners, school families, and visitors for considering the challenges we had this week with access to St. Mary's. Everyone's understanding is a great testimony to who we are as a Parish Community!

St. Joseph's Church have just had their external toilet door replaced. It will be / has been painted in the coming weeks (I wasn't sure if this was completed at the time of writing this!)

Benjamin Leschke

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

The BOOK OF LIFE

During the month of November we hold in prayer all who have passed away in our parish in the last year. We also pray for all those who have died; family and friends.

Located in each church is the book, which parishioners may add lists of names of deceased friends and loved ones.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



MASS READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

1st Reading	Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm	62:2-8. R. v.2
2nd Reading	1 Thessalonian 4:13-18
Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13

SACRAMENTS | FORMATION | LITURGY

This year Christmas falls on a Monday, so to ensure parishioners and visitors can plan, we have listed all our Mass times for the regular weekend of 23rd & 24th December, and Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th December) and Christmas Day (Monday 25th December). We have also listed our 2 important Parish Advent Liturgies.

23RD & 24TH DECEMBER WEEKEND MASSES

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:30pm - Immaculate Heart Church, Leichhardt
4:30pm Reconciliation - St. Mary's Church, Woodend
5:30pm - St. Mary's Church, Woodend
6:00pm - Miraculous Medal Church, Eastern Heights

Sunday Mass

7:30am - St. Joseph's Church, North Ipswich
8:00am - St. Brigid's Parish Hall, Rosewood
9:00am - St. Mary's Church, Woodend

THE ADVENT THEME FOR THIS YEAR
GOD IS NEAR

CHRISTMAS MASSES & LITURGIES

SAVE THE DATE

Advent Liturgies (all of Parish)

Friday 8th December 7pm – Parish Evening Prayer
Monday 18th December 7pm – Second Rite of Reconciliation

Christmas Vigil (Eve) – Sunday 24th December

4:30pm – Immaculate Heart, Leichhardt
4:30pm – St. Joseph's, North Ipswich
6:00pm – St. Mary's, Woodend
6:00pm – St. Brigid's, Rosewood
Midnight Mass – St. Mary's, Woodend



Christmas Day – Monday 25th December

7:30am – Miraculous Medal, Eastern Heights
9:00am – St. Mary's, Woodend
No evening Mass Christmas Day

FINANCE COUNCIL

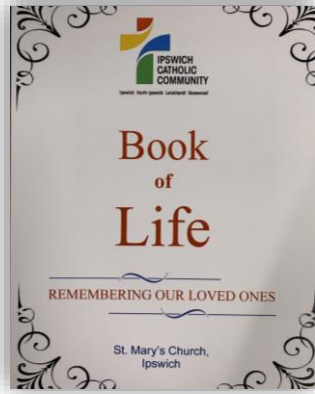
The Finance Advisory Council will be meeting on Thursday 9th November in the St. Francis Room, Parish Office at 7pm. Each month the Council meet to discuss finances, ongoing projects, and to help develop the financial strategy for the Parish.

NOVEMBER MASSES

During November, Mass will be offered each day for those whose names have been written in the Book of Life in each church.

The BOOK OF LIFE in each church is on display for those wishing to enter the names of your deceased loved ones.

We also have special “November Mass Envelopes” for parishioners and visitors to use. Please print the names of your deceased family members and friends clearly and place them in the collection plate. Envelopes available in churches.



CEMETERY LITURGIES

5th Nov Sunday – Prayer Service

2:00pm at Warrill Park Cemetery

11th Nov Saturday – Prayer Service

10:00am at Ipswich General Cemetery

11th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves

10:30am at St. Patrick's Church, Rosevale

18th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves

10:00am at Glamorgan Vale Cemetery

25th Nov Saturday – Mass & Blessing of Graves

9:00am at St. Michael's Cemetery, Pine Mountain

CONNECT YOUTH

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

ALL YOUTH LEADERS are participating in Safeguarding Training at 10:30am in the Parish Office on Sunday 12th November.

**Every Friday Night During School Term
Dinner Provided**

Primary School Youth

St. Mary's Primary School Hall

6:30pm – 8:30pm

High School Youth

St. Mary's College Hall

6:30pm – 8:30pm



As we come to the final 3 weeks of youth for the year I have been reflecting on our progression and growth over the course of 2023. We have over exceeded our expectations and hopes for youth this year, and I am already starting to prepare on how we can further improve and grow in 2024. This year I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet so many new young people, build deep and close relationships with them and even lead some of them closer to Jesus. In these final weeks of youth,

all our youth leaders are continuing to commit ourselves to connecting with our young people so we can meet them where they are at. By doing this our youth group isn't just a program or social club, but rather a community filled with formation, trust, honesty, respect and care. **Stewart England**

SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH

We are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community.

The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services.

The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.



FEEL SAFE

Sharing info about what our parish does to foster a safe & welcoming environment helps make everyone feel safe.



ARE SAFE

Informing parishioners about who they can talk to about problems and how can ensure that all persons here are safe.



POSITIVE CULTURE

Including messages in our newsletter, website or social media about local efforts in safeguarding fosters a positive culture.

No Mass at St Brigid's, Rosewood this Wednesday 8th November

2024 Franciscan Calendars Have Arrived - The recommended sale price is \$6.00 each or you can buy 2 for \$10. All funds raised through the sale of these calendars supports the work of the Franciscans – so if you wish to donate when purchasing your calendar/s, be assured it will assist someone, somewhere in the world.

INVITATION FOR MUSICIANS - Our wonderful Ipswich Catholic Community musicians are invited to a gathering on Wednesday the 22nd November commencing at 4:30pm to celebrate St. Cecilia's day (the patron saint of music) and thank you for sharing your gifts with our congregations each week. Please put this date in your diaries and we hope to see you.

A big thank you - Thank you to the 50 plus people who responded to the invitation to the public rosary last Saturday – 28th October. This was the fifth time our parish community has gathered in October (the month of the Rosary) to pray together.
Moira Crowson

Knitting/Crocheting group - had their last meeting for the year. A Huge Thank You to the Ladies in our group for clicking out some beautiful warm rugs along with scarves, shawls and beanies which went out with "Rosies Friends on the Street." I would also like to say Thank You to those people who dropped off knitted/crocheted rugs and 8 ply yarn to the Parish Office during the year. We resume our monthly meetings at the Vinnies Room St. Joseph's Church North Ipswich on the 23rd of February 2024. Jude Glasby

NEW PARISH PHONE NUMBER – 07 3362 8765

LIVESTREAMED MASS – 9AM EVERY SUNDAY
<https://www.youtube.com/@IpswichCatholicLive>

Advent Reflections - \$6 each

This year's Advent resource invites us to explore more deeply what it means to allow God to come to birth in us. The Archdiocese has developed "With Expectant Hearts" to help us enter a new liturgical year, the journey of faith that stretches before us. The spiritual nourishment God seeks to give us now will come to birth in us through the entire year if we can open our hearts in response to it. Jesus Christ wants to be reborn in our lives and to walk with us through all the ups and downs of 2024. Learning what it means to conceive, carry, give birth to, and reveal Jesus Christ to the world is a challenge to us all year round. Advent is the God-given time to revisit the challenge and to deepen our understanding of what it means for us both communally and individually.



A Word from Pope Francis

"That expression - "We have always done it that way" - is poison for the life of the Church or your Parish. Those who think this way, perhaps without even realising it, make the mistake of not taking seriously the times in which we are living. The danger, in the end, is to apply old solutions to new problems."

ADDRESS OPENING THE SYNOD, ROME, OCTOBER 9, 2023



Mass at St Boniface Marburg
This Thursday,
9th November at
6pm

Please continue to pray for our RCIA group who are still on their journey of faith within the Ipswich Catholic Community

