



Mass Times

Saturday 9 September
6 pm Gatton

Sunday 10 September
7 am Forest Hill
9 am Laidley

Tuesday 12 September
4:30 pm Rosary
5 pm Forest Hill

Wed'sday 13 Sept'mber
8:30 am Rosary
9 am Gatton

Friday 15 September
No Laidley Mass

Saturday 16 September
6 pm Laidley

Sunday 17 September
7 am Glenore Gve
9 am Gatton

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available before 6pm Vigil Mass and other times by appointment.



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131 Email: gatton@bne.catholic.net.au

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

10 Sept. 2023

Transformative Power of Love

Today's Gospel focuses on life within a Christian community and offers certain important guidelines. The Second Vatican Council teaches that Christ is present in the person of his minister, Christ is present in the Eucharistic species, Christ is present in his Word, and finally Christ is present in the community that has come together in his name.

John's Gospel illustrates the communitarian life of the church through the image of the vine and the branches. **Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.** (Jn.15:5). As part of the vine, we can bear abundant fruit; cut off from the vine we wither and die. In this image the disciple is part of a whole, part of the *ekklesia* (community).

The contemporary society is nervous about belonging to any institutional form of religion which might limit their autonomy. **People want to believe without belonging.** But, believing the good news means belonging to the *ekklesia*. **Belonging is essential for wholeness and holiness.**

Every Christian community is a gathering of saints and sinners. **Each one of us is a mix of saint and a sinner.** It is a perennial temptation to point the finger at others. So, today's Gospel offers some guidelines to help us achieve reconciliation with a member of a community who has done something wrong or whose life is at odds with the Gospel.

Here we experience a tension between forgiveness on the one hand and calling the sinner to account on the other hand. In this process we need to remind ourselves that there will come a time for judgement, but God will be the judge, and **judgement will come in God's time, not ours.**

St. Pauls teaches us, "**you must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the Commandments**". Such love has a transformative power.

"We destroy our enemies when we befriend them." Abraham Lincoln

Responsorial Psalm: Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday 17 September **Alpha Retreat Day**
Led by David Kruse from Evangelisation Brisbane
Commences 10am
\$ 20 towards catering and materials (pay on day)
- Saturday 30 September **Visit by Bishop Tim Norton SVD**
Sunday 1 October Bishop Tim will be celebrating all the weekend Masses.
He is looking forward to meeting as many people as possible over a cup of tea or coffee after every Mass.
6pm Laidley
7am Glenore Grove
9am Gatton
- Saturday 7 October **Baptism Preparation Session**
10:30am Gatton Community Centre (15 Maitland St)
- Sunday 15 October **"Something Beautiful"** women's retreat
10am Gatton Community Centre (15 Maitland St)
Each year we invite the ladies of our parish to put aside a day from their busy schedule, to allow themselves to focus on their encounter with Christ.
This year's theme is **"Fearless and Free"**.
Drawing on the wisdom of Proverbs 31, together we can draw strength to win the battles that weary us and find true freedom in the loving arms of Jesus.
Bookings now available – \$ 30.00 includes all catering

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Conversations about child protection are generally serious. When we speak of protection we often think of emergencies and perhaps of military or police operations in response to serious and immediate danger. That of course is part of protection. But mostly protection is **less about responding to emergencies than about ensuring they don't happen.** Protection involves careful planning, training, rules of behaviour and vigilance. That is also true of child protection.

Our commitment to protect children must look to the past and to the future. We must remember past failures with shame and look to the future in hope and determination. And both our memories and our hopes must focus with respect on the children who are entrusted to our care.

The Parish of Our Lady of the Valley and the Archdiocese of Brisbane are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for **National Child Protection Week**, 'Every child in every community needs a fair go', may we work to build and support safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:
www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY – CONFIRMATION

Please pray for all families that they will encourage their children to prepare for these sacraments to help them grow in faith and develop their love of God.

Please pray for **Rose, Oliver F, Miki, Brannan, Makayla, Mitchell, Oliver B, Beau, Stella and Sofia.**

*Come Holy Spirit,
surround these children with your love, protect them from evil.
Fill them with the Holy Spirit and help them flourish
within the family of our parish,
that they may walk with us in the way of Christ,
and grow in the knowledge of your love.
Amen*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Amazingly these three people were all born in the same year. We are so grateful that they have always been a blessing to our parish, sharing every life lesson with us to make our lives even more amazing.

Congratulations, Fran Kneen, Teenie Van Ansem and Gerry Luck – may God always love and bless you, and may you count your days by smiles and count your age by friends.

ALPHA

What's Alpha you might ask?

Alpha is a weekly program that creates a fun environment for people to talk about life, faith, and God together. Run over 11 weeks, it can be hosted anywhere—in homes, churches, coffee shops, or schools.

Each session has three basic parts: **food, a short talk, and small group discussion.** Eating food together creates space for people to connect, relax and build friendships. The free Alpha talks are in video format and designed to engage guests and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christian faith, addressing questions like **“Who is Jesus?”**, **“Why and how do I pray?”** and **“How does God guide us?”**

The discussion allows people to share their thoughts and questions about the talks without being corrected or judged. Our hosts and helpers facilitate this discussion time and keep it a positive and comfortable experience for everyone.

There will be an **opportunity in early 2024** for you to join an Alpha in our parish. Keep an eye out for the dates in the newsletter.

RCIA – Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults

Becoming Catholic involves a journey of faith, accompanied by the support of a parish community. This process is called Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. During the RCIA process you meet with others to share, reflect, pray and learn more about the Catholic faith. There are ceremonies or ‘rites’ at each stage to signify the steps along the way.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about becoming Catholic, please have a chat to Father Emmanuel.

OUR PARISH

Parish Priest:

Father Emmanuel
Ayankudy CMI
A/ Hrs: 5462 5374

Parish Manager

Christine Pingel

Parish Office:

37 John Street
South, Laidley

Days of operation
may vary – please
phone in advance.

Postal Address:

P O Box 6
Gatton Q 4343

Phone:

07 5465 3131

Email:

gatton@bne.
catholic.net.au

Facebook:

Our Lady of the
Valley Catholic
Parish

Website:

www.olv.org.au

Safeguarding:

Complaints and
Disclosures

Phone: STOPLINE
1300 304 550

SCHOOLS

OLGC Gatton
5460 2999

OLGC Kindy
5462 4810

OLGC OSHC
0487 001 722

St Mary's Laidley
5465 1240

Sophia College
5411 3400

WE PRAY FOR ...

THE SICK:

Judy Shepherd, Jodi Thompson, Roslyn Furber, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Michael Trail, Edilberta Parcell, Biddy Dwyer, Marilyn Didsman, Mary & Lionel Dusart, Lorraine Sells, Vivian Moore, Clara Hutchinson, Elizabeth Marten, Judy McGlade, Sienna Beutel

If parishioners would like a sick person prayed for, please ask their permission. Names will be included for ONE MONTH.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Anthony Bloom, Glen Goos, John Bachmann, Gavin Reynolds

ANNIVERSARIES:

Edward Cheetham, Patrick McNamara, Bernard Heenan, Kenneth Perkins, Mary Carmel Bennett, Jim Fox, Bruce Brown, Jack Luck, Evan Gowdy, Phyllis O'Connor, Gloria Bates, David Hall, Paul Price, Barry Zahnow, Carl Reimann, Johanna Bugler, Mick Panzram, Mary Nawratzki, Mick Elliott, Ferdinand Schultz, Mary Miller, Johannes Stevens, Kath Heenan, Fr Nick Heidiman, Edward Hauser, Ernest Long, Larry Hockings, Anna Leenderts, Agnes Crowley, Anne Smith, Bill Upton, Jim Balaam, John (Dick) Reynolds.

PASTORAL STATEMENT ON THE REFERENDUM

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has issued a Pastoral Statement on the upcoming referendum.

He writes *"The Referendum on the Voice brings Australia to a threshold moment, since it looks not only to our past but to our future, not only to what we have been but to what we can become... for Christians, it is a summons to see the issues through the lens of the Gospel and ultimately with the eye of Jesus who is not above or apart from the Referendum process."* A copy of this two-page statement will be available at all churches from this weekend.

POPE FRANCIS – SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

'Pope Francis' prayer invites us to see the world as Jesus does and to go out to welcome people at the margins of our world'.

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Pope Francis went on to say **" Please, let's stop making invisible those who are on the margins of society, whether it's due to poverty, addictions, mental illness or disability. Let's focus on accepting them, on welcoming all the people who need it. The "culture of welcoming," of hospitality, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth."**