



## Mass Times

**Saturday 15 February**  
6 pm Laidley

**Sunday 16 February**  
7 am Glenore Gve  
9 am Gattton

**Tuesday 18 February**  
4:30 pm Rosary  
5 pm Forest Hill

**Wednesday 19 February**  
8:30 am Rosary  
9 am Gattton

**Friday 21 February**  
No Laidley Mass

**Saturday 22 February**  
6 pm Gattton

**Sunday 23 February**  
7 am Forest Hill  
9 am Laidley



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available from 5:30pm  
each Saturday  
afternoon.

# Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gattton Laidley

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

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C) 16 February 2025

### Reordering of Priorities

Today's first reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the Responsorial Psalm, and the Gospel all contrast two ways of living; **one way of living is blessed, the other is woeful**. Prophet chooses imagery two trees, one in the desert, in salty soil; the other planted by flowing water, bringing growth, green leaves, and constant fruit.

Psalm says, **blessed indeed** the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the path with sinners, nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose **delight is the law of the Lord**, and who ponders his law, day and night.

The word **blessed** is a translation of the Hebrew word, 'Esher', which means a state of 'blessedness'. It is used to describe the condition of those who are in a **right relationship with God**, experiencing God's favour and guidance.

'Makarios' is the Greek word used almost exclusively in the New Testament for religious Joy. *Makarios* describes that joy which has its secret within itself, joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, **that joy which is completely independent of all the chances and the changes of life**.

A change in fortune, a collapse in health, the failure of a plan, the disappointment of an ambition, even a change in the weather can take away the fickle of joy the world can give.

But the **Christian has the serene and untouchable joy which comes from walking for ever in the company and in the presence of Jesus Christ**.

Theologian R. Alan Culpepper says, "today's Gospel challenges us to reorder our priorities." "Because we are not poor, this beatitude either mystifies us or leaves us feeling guilt rather than joy. Like the rich young ruler, we hear the Lord's word and go away sorrowful, because our possessions are many. Our pride and ability to provide for ourselves have blocked the channels of blessing. Our first response, therefore, needs to be **repentance and a reordering of our priorities** we have set for our lives."

### Responsorial Psalm: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday  
**24 February** 6:00pm **ALPHA "Come and See"**  
Community Centre Gatton, next to St Mary's Church  
You are invited to come and see what it is all about!  
Share a meal (free), watch a short film, have a chat.  
Hosted by our Adult Faith team, **please register your interest** by either contacting the Parish office,  
or using the **Sign Up** form at Mass.
- Wednesday  
**5 March** 9:00am **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Laidley  
6:00pm Gatton
- Friday  
**7 March** 10:00am **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – GATTON SERVICE**  
Hosted this year by the Salvation Army and held at  
Gatton Church of Christ, 3 Allan Street  
This year the Cook Islands are the focus of our prayer,  
support and thanksgiving. The theme is from Psalm 139  
"I made you wonderful!"
- Sunday  
**16 March** 10:30am **LENTEN ENCOUNTER**  
*How will being intentional change your heart this Lent?  
What does it mean to trust in God's strength in your daily life?  
How can you rely less on human strength and more on God?*

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES and MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS IN 2025

Each year our parish celebrates with parishioners in our community who are celebrating a milestone birthday or a special anniversary. Every **birthday** is a gift from God, and it is a joy to celebrate on this special occasion as people reach the age of 18, 21, then 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 and every year thereafter.

All marriages need to be supported and celebrated, especially those special **anniversaries** of 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and above. If you or someone you know in our parish is celebrating one of these occasions this year, please advise Chris at the Parish Office. We will have a special event later in the year, and invitations will be sent closer to the time.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WENDY CROSBY

This week we send our birthday congratulations and blessings to the beautiful Wendy Crosby.  
Wendy has shared her gifts and talents with our parish over many years, and we thank her for her generous heart.  
Wendy, your presence in our lives is a gift from God.  
May His love and abundant blessings surround you on your birthday, and always! Happy Birthday!



### WHY ALPHA? WHY NOT?

Our journey of faith is 24/7, 365 days a year, for as long as we live. We are strongly encouraged in Psalm 90:12 to **“teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”** Our parish offers many wonderful opportunities throughout the year to grow in faith, to mature in holiness, to have not only enough faith for yourself but to have the courage to share your faith with others. Alpha can help you grow in faith, and also grow in capacity to share your faith with others. **Come and see!**

Alpha is for people who go to church every weekend, as well as for those who have never been to church. We asked a few people why they have decided to attend Alpha ....

- *I am interested in exploring Christianity*
- *I want to strengthen my Christian faith so I can share with others*
- *I am interested to connect back with Church*

In Alpha we come together as a community to share a meal, watch a short film, followed by a short group chat.

Please **Come and See** on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February** commencing at **6pm** at the Community Centre next to St Mary's Church in Gatton.

For any questions, please phone Rach 0403 837 450.

Everyone, the young, busy people and those mature... you are very welcome.

To assist with **catering**, it would be appreciated if you could indicate your interest in attending this first session.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PILGRIM OF HOPE?

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year for our Church, themed “Pilgrims of Hope”, **a year of hope** for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

As Pope Francis states *“the Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.”*

#### What is a Jubilee year?

Held every 25 years, a Jubilee Year is a sacred time of prayer, pilgrimage, and conversion. It is a call to **experience God's mercy** through **sacramental repentance and spiritual renewal**.

The Jubilee of 2025 commenced on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and runs to 6 January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Door.

#### What are some simple ways to be a pilgrim of hope?

- **Live Out** the Gospel at Home, in your words, thoughts and action
- Be a **Witness** to **Joy** and **Hospitality** – **JOY ... Jesus Others You**
- **Serve** Together as a Family, build strength and hope into your family
- Offer **Encouragement** and Support to Other Families ...
- **Trust** in God's Providence and Radiate **Hope** – our words will either lift people up in Hope or cause them to diminish in despair.

As a pilgrim of hope, what is **one thing** you can do this week that will make a difference?

## 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 ...

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen Bishop, Peter Das, Nikki McLay, Peter Heenan, Paddy Boyd, Toshikatsu Konishi, Shirley Myles, Neville Heenan, Joan Linnan, Sienna Beutel, Brian Wells, McGregor-Shaw Family, Michael Trail, Therese Thompson, James Earley, Theresa Jones, Theresa Knight, Roslyn Furber, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Edilberta Parcell, Mary & Lionel Dusart, Vivian Moore, Clara Hutchinson, Elizabeth Marten, Judy McGlade

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Des Seng, Maria Nga Thi, Corazon Pinpin Fermin



### ANNIVERSARIES:

Patrick McNamara, Vincent Mallon, Eileen Ryan, John Caldwell, Josephine Avington, Catherine Kavanagh, Eunice Kachel, James Lewis, Edward Schipp, Frank Bourke, Colin Robeck, Olivia Raisin, Genevieve Birney, Jacoba Stevens, Bill Dwyer, Gerard McDonald, Leo Reynolds, Gerard Cronin, Arthur McIvor, Josephine Hockings, Catherine Murphy

## A TIME TO REFLECT

Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual and moral life and first consider whether you are blessed to be living a life that more imitates the saints, or whether you more often reflect the serious struggles of the sinner. From there, try to choose which form of teaching you need the most.

### **Do you need to ponder the rewards of seeking even greater beatitude in life so as to grow deeper in holiness?**

Or do you need Jesus' clear condemnations to help you **break free from the cycle of sin with which you are struggling?**

Humbly identify that which is most helpful to you right now in your spiritual life and allow this weekend's full sermon of Jesus to help you on your journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.

## “Metanoia” - LENT REFLECTION BOOK

This Lent, embark on a journey of **metanoia** - a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. Let this beautifully designed, 76-page, full-colour companion guide your spiritual renewal through daily reflections, Sunday readings and reflections, spiritual direction, prayers, and group discussion questions.

May this beautiful program lead you to a change of heart and a deeper walk with Christ. Metanoia is more than a book - it's an **encounter with God's transformative love**. Available now - \$ 9 per copy.

