



Mass Times

Saturday 16 Sept'mber
6 pm Laidley

Sunday 17 September
7 am Glenore Gve
9 am Gatton

Tuesday 19 September
4:30 pm Rosary
5 pm Forest Hill

Wed'sday 20 Sept'mber
8:30 am Rosary
9 am Gatton

Friday 22 September
8:30 am Rosary
9 am Laidley

Saturday 23 September
6 pm Gatton

Sunday 24 September
7 am Forest Hill
9 am Laidley

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 FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME 17 Sept. 2023

Setting the Prisoner Free

Today's parable story is about a king who decides to settle his accounts with his servants – first servant owes ten thousand talents (\$240 Million) and the second servant had only a debt of 100 denarii (\$18,584). The disparity between the two amounts is staggering and the force of the parable rests on this comparison. Through this parable the Word of God **teaches us about the kind of forgiveness beyond calculation, which is limitless.**

The book 'The Medusa and the Snail', written by Lewis Thomas narrates an apt metaphor for the cost of harbouring the feelings of vengeance. Medusa is a kind of jelly fish found in the bay of Naples. The jelly fish swallows the slug of a snail and draws it into its digestive tract. A pleasant snack! However, the slug slowly begins to eat the jellyfish from the inside out, and by the time the snail is fully grown it has devoured the entire jellyfish. **The lesson here is the desire for vengeance will likewise devour us unless we each forgive our brother or sister from the heart.**

Debbie Morris's book, 'Forgiving the Dead Man Walking' is a powerful story of forgiving an unforgivable. She writes, "*The unforgiveness that I was holding on to, the hate, the anger, was destroying my life. I was continuing to let myself be victimised because I was hanging on to the hate. I was unwilling to forgive. When I was able to forgive, not only did the hate, anger and pain go away, but the shame did too. When I chose to forgive there was a prisoner that was set free, and I realised that, that prisoner was myself.*"

As disciples of Jesus we have received, as a result of Christ's costly generosity, remission of a debt, the debt of sin, a debt that we ourselves could never repay. **How utterly inappropriate, then, is an unwillingness to forgive others** who, on a vastly smaller scale, offended us.

Blessings Fr Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm: Twenty Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

*The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 30 September **Visit by Bishop Tim Norton SVD**
Sunday 1 October Bishop Tim will be celebrating all the weekend Masses.
Please stay and meet him after each 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)
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
- Friday 20 October **Sacrament of Confirmation**
6:30pm St Mary's Church Gatton
- Sat/Sun 25 & 26 Nov **First Holy Communion** – Gatton and Laidley
- Saturday 9 December **"A Night of Thanksgiving"**
An opportunity to celebrate together to recognise the many special occasions of 2023 and to give thanks to God for the seeds He continues to sow in our parish to bear much fruit in the future.
- Friday 15 December **"Carols by Candlelight"**
An ecumenical gathering in the grounds of St Patrick's Church in Laidley to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season. More information to come soon.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Last Thursday evening the Evangelisation Brisbane team visited our parish to offer a leadership development session and an Encounter session. Mel Ledwich, Emma Plant, David and Emma Kruse all encouraged our ministry teams to remain focused and intentional in finding ways to share the Good News of Jesus.

All the teams had the opportunity to share the "wins" of the last few months, and these included:

Children and Families Team – recommencement of Children's Liturgy in Gatton and children enrolled in sacramental journey for Confirmation and Eucharist.

Liturgy Team – special Masses for 60th Anniversary and Jubilee Mass Fr Crowley, training for extraordinary ministers and readers

Adult Faith Team – Men's Retreat, running Alpha program and retreat and upcoming Women's Retreat

Inclusion and Outreach - catering for multicultural Mass, planning and formation for Care and Concern/Pastoral Care Ministry

DO YOU HAVE MOBILITY ISSUES?

From time to time, and sometimes permanently, our bodies don't work quite as well as they used to! We may lose some strength in our legs, we may be recovering from surgery or may be living with permanent incapacity. Whatever the reason for the loss of mobility, it is a joy to see everyone come to Mass and receive strength and hope that comes through participation in the Holy Eucharist.

Where should I sit if I have mobility issues?

There is wheelchair/Zimmer frame access at all the churches in our parish, and once inside the church we suggest that people sit near the front of the church, especially if they would like to receive Holy Communion. Many people who have Zimmer frames find that **sitting in the front pews is easiest** – there is room to park the Zimmer frame nearby, or someone will assist if needed. There are also areas at both Laidley and Gatton churches where specific pews are available for people with wheelchairs – if you are unsure, please ask the welcomer or any parishioner.

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.

Spirit of God, we pray that You will grant

Rose, Oliver F, Miki, Brannan, Makayla, Mitchell, Oliver B, Beau, Stella & Sofia:

The gift of **wisdom** to see the world through your eyes,

The gift of **counsel** to make difficult decisions,

The gifts of **knowledge and understanding** to use their minds
to know you and to love you,

The gift of **fortitude** to have the courage to live in the faith
despite the difficulties and disappointments,

The gift of **piety** to be able to express their special love and commitment to you,

And the right kind of **awesome fear** that makes them pause to wonder
and revere God's Love. Amen.

SAFEGUARDING INCIDENTS

Last weekend was Safeguarding Sunday, and you may have noticed some new signage in the churches. There are also forms now available in all the churches should anyone need to report an incident. These forms are A4 and titled **Safeguarding Incident Report Form**. These forms are suitable for all forms of abuse including physical, neglect, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse. The forms are simple to complete and may be used to report abuse by a priest or religious, teacher, carer, volunteer, employee or parishioner.

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.

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.

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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

ANNIVERSARIES:

Pamela Sammon, Patrick Gould, Colin Edwards, Agnes Edwards, Beatrice Murphy, Jack Cahill, Grace Fitzpatrick, Ernest Hauser, Nora Smith, Jeffrey Falkenhagen, Ernest Bennett, Kathleen McManus, Regina Lane, Patrick Panzram, Johanna Van De Weyer, Shirley Whitcombe, Henry Bauer, Jack Althaus, Leona Pullinger, Martin Luck, Michael Teis, Anna Luck, Bree Horsfall, Martin Burkett, Margaret Jordan, Mary Kearney, Elsie Holcombe, Garth Hanks, Leo White

PASTORAL STATEMENT ON THE REFERENDUM

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

A copy of this two-page statement is available at all churches.

LET US PRAY...

Loving God,

*we praise and thank you for those without fear who speak, advocate, and create for the **peace of our world.***

*May we all be engaged people of positive change, **opening our hearts and minds** to possibilities and growth.*

*May your unconditional love for all inspire our hearts to humbly serve in a **spirit of charity and justice** for most disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable brothers and sisters.*

*May the changes we make be based on the common good and may we be **gracious and patient** in accepting that sometimes change takes time.*

We pray for those who serve in social services, who hear the cry of the abandoned, who dress the wounds of those frayed by life's journey and speak with those who are silenced and exploited.

*As we **seek your face and strive to do your will**, fill our hearts with the peace and hope that only you can give so that we can share that with the those in our care, in our families and in our communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*