



Mass Times

Saturday 21 December
6 pm Gattton

Sunday 22 December
7 am Forest Hill
9 am Laidley

Monday 23 December
10:30 am Gattton
Funeral Service
Lenny Jaenke

Tuesday 24 December
Christmas Eve
6 pm Gattton
8 pm Glenore Gve

Wednesday 25 Dec'ber
Christmas Day
7 am Forest Hill
9 am Laidley

Friday 27 December
No Laidley Mass

Saturday 28 December
6 pm Laidley

Sunday 29 December
7 am Glenore Gve
9 am Gattton

Monday 30 December
10:30am Gattton
Funeral Service
Jim Brimblecombe



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gattton Laidley

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 22 December 2024

"Be it done to me according to Your Word."

The fourth Sunday of Advent gives us three thoughts to ponder. The first one is, **'thy will be done'**. The Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar once likened Advent to a great gate: "For the Christian - the only person who is really waiting for the Coming One - Advent is like a great gate through which he passes to enter some shrine. This gate is flanked by two figures guarding it; if we are Christians, they ask us **why** and with **what intentions** we are seeking admission." The two figures are, Our Lady and John the Baptist, and **how shall we answer them** when they ask *why* and *with what intention* we are seeking admission? We could do no better than to use the words of our Lady herself: **"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."**

The second thought is that **God's favour rests always with the humble**. New Testament scholar Brendan Byrne writes: "The full meaning of the Incarnation is not only that the Son of God became a human being, but that he took human form in a town as **ordinary and insignificant** and out of the way as Nazareth." But here we have a recurring pattern in Israel's history. God by-passes important people and places; so often his **favour rests** on simple unlettered folk, all of them **without** influence, power or prestige.

The third thought is the invitation of prophet Micah, "...**what the Lord wants of you. Only this, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.**" Mary is blessed because, "Blessed rather are those who **hear the word of God and obey it!**" She, opened her heart and responded to God's word with obedience and trust saying, "*Let it be done to me according to your word.*"

*"Then I said, 'Here I am, it is written about Me in the scroll:
I have come to do Your will, O God'" Hebrews 10:7*

Blessings, Fr. Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday December 24	Christmas Vigil 5:30pm Carols 6pm Gatton 8pm Glenore Grove
Wednesday December 25	Christmas Day 7am Forest Hill 9am Laidley



Please note there will not be any **weekday Masses** from 23 December until week commencing 6 January 2025 with the exception of **January 1** - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. There will be a 9am Mass at St Mary's Gatton.

BEQUESTS – OUTREACH TO THE FUTURE

Someone asked recently about leaving a sum of money to our parish in their Will. We all know how significant a Will is. Once you become an adult, begin working, gain assets, start a family, a Will becomes one of the most critical documents in your life. It ensures that family and loved ones are provided for when you are no longer there.

A bequest to our parish and its ministries, also cares for the broader church family. It is a gift that reaches into the future to continue the work of the church in the local community.

Many Catholics feel this is a significant way to thank God for blessings they have received during their lifetime. Not only can we make a change to people around us today, we can also outreach to the future long after we're gone.

What is a bequest? Quite simply, it is a donation left in a Will. It can be a gift of a specific dollar amount or percentage of an estate. It can also be a gift of items like property, possessions, stock or insurance payout.

Catholics have traditionally demonstrated their love of the church and their desire to perpetuate its ministries and mission through bequest giving. It is a wonderful feeling to know that a gift to the parish after a lifetime's work keeps giving and continues the church's work.

The donor may stipulate whether the gift is for the general support of the church, or for specific purposes – such as supporting a special ministry or institution. A bequest may also be made in honour or memory of another individual.

The correct terminology must be used when making a bequest and this wording can be provided by the Parish Office for your lawyer to use when making your Will.

Thank you for all you have done in our parish to be the hands and feet of Jesus, physically, prayerfully and financially.

You have already made a difference!



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office in Laidley will be closed from 4pm on Christmas Eve until Friday 24th January 2025. During this time, you are encouraged to email your non-urgent enquiries to gatton@bne.catholic.net.au and this will be checked regularly.

For **urgent** enquiries only (eg: anointing of someone seriously ill, funeral arrangements) please call 0407 132 700. Please refer to our website for Mass times and weekly newsletters. Thank you for your kindness and support in 2024, and may you have a blessed Christmas and wonderful start to 2025.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we gather together this Christmas, we will rejoice in the happy faces we see around us, the fun and laughter, the sibling antics; but also, we will remember with sadness, those who are no longer here to share our celebrations. May we be mindful of our neighbour who may find this Christmas especially difficult in their grieving.

Our Lady of the Valley Parish is a community of families who strive each day to live and share the Gospel; to live authentic Christian lives, to quickly reach out to those in need, to recognise the lost, the lonely and the unseen. Thank you to everyone for your contribution, however large or small, for making our parish a wonderful place to belong. Have a happy and holy Christmas, filled with **JOY, PEACE** and **LOVE**.

Christmas blessings – Jan, Kaylene, Derek and Chris

"Let us not forget to thank God for the gift of Jesus, the greatest gift of Christmas."

Pope Francis

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated last Sunday, giving thanks and glory to God for all the many blessings of 2024, and to also thank all the dedicated volunteers from across our parish. The volunteers were each presented with a small token of appreciation. Following the "biggest morning tea", the ministry team leaders gave an update on the "wins" of 2024 and also shared their team plans for 2025. It was so inspirational to listen to all that has been achieved as part of our strategic plan, and also exciting to hear what is planned for the future.

Some of these details will be shared in upcoming newsletters. Please take the time to read these, and see the opportunities that may inspire your faith journey in 2025. Lots of fun activities followed ... thank you to Corey for helping everyone make the most amazing paper planes! Thank you to everyone who participated, and congratulations to overall winners, Cheryl and Nelia, and to all the prize winners!



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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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:

Peter Das, Denis Hanrahan, 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, Jodi Thompson, 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:

Jim Brimblecombe, Leonard Jaenke, Athlie O'Sullivan,
Daryl Reynolds, Teena Zabel, Bidy Dwyer



ANNIVERSARIES:

Laurie Nugent, Catherine McManus, Betty Noonan, Judith Ryan, Michael Dever, Bernadette Dwyer, Shirley Dolan, Charlie Ebert, Josephine Hall, Ken Boyd, John McCarthy, Elizabeth Condon, Mary Dolan, Alice Schulz, Margaret Robinson, Stephen Hunter, Alfred Stantz, Tess O'Shea, Patrick White, Jack Bourke

LET US PRAY ... from Psalm 25

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

**Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my Saviour.**

**Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.**

**In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.**

**The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.**

