



Mass Times

Saturday 22 February
6 pm Gatton

Sunday 23 February
7 am Forest Hill
9 am Laidley

Tuesday 25 February
4:30 pm Rosary
5 pm Forest Hill

Wednesday 26 February
8:30 am Rosary
9 am Gatton

Friday 28 February
8:30 am Rosary
9 am Laidley

Saturday 1 March
6 pm Laidley

Sunday 2 March
7 am Glenore Gve
9 am Gatton



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available from 5:30pm
each Saturday
afternoon.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C) 23 Feb 2025

Forgiveness – Setting the Prisoner Free

Last Sunday we reflected on the theme of the Great Reversal continued in Luke's Sermon on the Plain. Jesus is making it very clear **that the new life of God's kingdom is a complete reversal of the world's values.** This upside-down code, the Great Reversal, continues in today's Gospel. **Love, not hate, your enemies.**

How can we love our enemies? How can we love those who insult, abuse and hate us?

When Jesus tells us that we must love our enemies, the word used in original Greek language is '**agape**' and it occurs 116 times. The same word appears in its different forms in the New Testament, a total of 320 times.

The heart of this teaching is, as Jesus tells his disciples,

"Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate."

The same theme is found in today's Responsorial Psalm:

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy."

This teaching is not asking to forget or condone what has been done to us. It involves trying to understand the perpetrators and so have empathy, to try to stand in their shoes and appreciate the sorts of pressures and influences that might have conditioned them. Forgiveness is not sentimental. **Forgiveness means abandoning your right to pay back the perpetrator in his own coin, but it is a loss that liberates the victim.**

In today's gospel Jesus is calling for a **change of heart**, a new way of thinking, a new way of looking at life.

Think of the best thing you can do for the worst person, and go ahead and do it. Think of what you'd really like someone to do for you, and do it for them.

Think of the people to whom you are tempted to be nasty, and lavish generosity on them instead.

"When I chose to forgive, there was a prisoner that was set free, and I realised that, that prisoner was myself."

Debbie Morris

Responsorial Psalm: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Lord is kind and merciful.

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 – a holy day of prayer and fasting**
Laidley
11:00am Esk
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
- 10:00am **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – LAIDLEY SERVICE**
Hosted by Lutheran Church and held in the Lutheran
Church Hall, Patrick Street, Laidley.
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**
Community Centre Gatton
Will you become more Christ centred this Lent?
Morning tea and lunch provided.
Donations appreciated towards catering.
- Friday
4 April 9:30am **LAIDLEY CATHOLIC LADIES CLUB**
Annual General Meeting
Parish Hall, Laidley.
*Please note there will not be a meeting on 7th March due
to timing of the World Day of Prayer service.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE BIRTHDAY BOYS!!

Happy birthday to a few parish legends who have contributed so much to the life of our parish. Their trust in God and His providence shines through every aspect of their lives. Congratulations to **Pat Heenan, Tony Fitzgerald, Ray MacNamara** and anyone else who may be celebrating a birthday this week.

May God's boundless love continue to guide you every day.
May the love of friends, family and our parish community
bring joy and happiness to all your days.

Happy Birthday Pat, Tony and Ray! May you enjoy many more!



COMMUNITY NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT IS ALPHA? *You don't know what you don't know!*

Alpha is for people who go to church every weekend, as well as for those who have never been to 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 24th 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.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES and MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS IN 2025

If you or someone you know in our parish is celebrating a special anniversary or milestone birthday 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.

POPE FRANCIS – February Prayer Intention

This month, let us unite with Pope Francis in **prayer for vocations** to the priesthood and religious life. May God inspire and guide those who feel the call to serve, and may their hearts be filled with courage and devotion as they discern their path.

Vocation is about **responding to God's call**, a **call to bear witness to Christ** and to **serve His mission** in the world. It is a call, that requires the support of the entire Church community to welcome, nurture, and encourage our young people.

Now more than ever, we are in need of authentic vocations whose lives reflect the way, the standard of Christ to the world.

So, **let us pray** that the church community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life, helping them to discern and live out their vocation with faith and courage.

PREPARING FOR LENT WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. **Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!**

For 40 days, you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful.

This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

Go to www.BruceDownes.org for more information.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS FOR THOSE BECOMING CATHOLIC

This weekend, some of the adults who are preparing to be baptised, will participate in a special preparation called the **Rite of Acceptance**, also known as the Rite of Welcome. The candidates will declare their desire to be a Christian, to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and to join our community. Please pray for **Corey, Sami, Casey and Dallas**. Your prayers, support and encouragement are such a blessing to them.

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 ...

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eva Marsh, Agnes Dolley, Jack Reimann, Barry Ketter, Fr Jim Cahill, Francis Reuter, Patty Brennan, Michael Ryan, Kevin Bowe (Snr), Ursula O'Connor, Kathleen Roache, Frank Hobbs, Bridget Dwyer, William Redmond, Kevin Thomas, Curtis Sutton, Cecily Ward, Charles Francis, Fred Gowdy, Greg Elliott



TAKE THE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Come to your place of prayer and take the time to settle, relax and become aware of being in God's presence. When it seems appropriate, take up today's Gospel text and read it slowly. Imagine yourself sitting with the large crowd, hearing Jesus's words for the first time. Perhaps this demanding teaching is new to you, and you can hear mutterings around you. **What do you find most startling?**

Consider your life, and what particularly challenges you – at home, at work, in your relationships with others? Ponder this and speak to the Lord. **In what ways do you see his words offering freedom rather than being a burden?** How can you respond?

Maybe you find yourself in what seems an impossible situation. Turn to the Father, asking him to **be merciful to you**, and to give you the **grace to be forgiving** and compassionate

End your prayer **thanking the Father** for all the goodness you have received, and praying that his love will permeate your heart and the whole world.



“Metanoia” - LENT REFLECTION BOOK

This Lent, embark on a journey of **metanoia** - a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. Discover spiritual renewal through daily reflections, Sunday readings and reflections, 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**.

Limited copies available - \$ 9 each