



## Mass Times

**Saturday 22 March**  
6 pm Gattton

**Sunday 23 March**  
7 am Forest Hill  
9 am Laidley  
**Caritas**  
**Morning Tea**

**Tuesday 25 March**  
4:30 pm Rosary  
5 pm Forest Hill

**Wednesday 26 March**  
8:30 am Rosary  
9 am Gattton

**Friday 28 March**  
8:30 am Rosary  
9 am Laidley

**Stations of the Cross**  
4 pm Laidley  
5 pm Gattton

**Saturday 29 March**  
5:30 pm Stations Cross  
6 pm Laidley

**Sunday 30 March**  
7 am Glenore Gve  
8:30 am Stations Cross  
9 am Gattton



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available from 5:30pm  
each Saturday  
afternoon  
or by appointment

# Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gattton Laidley

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)**

**23 March 2025**

## Am I the Fig Tree?

Lent is a forty-day period of **prayer, penance, and spiritual** endeavour in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Lent didn't always last for as long as forty days. In the first three centuries, the period of fasting in preparation for Easter didn't exceed a week at the most. It was in the fourth century that the Council of Nicaea fixed the period of Lent to forty days.

This year on the first Sunday of Lent, we joined Jesus in the desert reflecting on the message of **keeping God's Word in the heart to overcome challenges in life.**

On the second Sunday of Lent, we accompanied Jesus, together with Peter, James and John, as they ascended a mountain, pondering on, '**ascending the mountain of prayer**'.

On this third Sunday of Lent, we have a lesson from the barren fig tree, which challenges us to **repentance, a conversion of heart, and return to God.**

Today's Lenten symbol from the Gospel: **the barren fig tree** warns us that we can't resist **repentance and conversion of heart** indefinitely.

One of the key documents of the second Vatican Council, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, has this to say about the spirit of Lent: "*The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent - **the recalling of baptism** or the preparation for it, and **penance** - should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the **Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter**, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer.*"

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the heart of Lent is '**a radical reorientation of our whole life.**' It means a return to God with all our heart, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace.

The Gospel message is an invitation and challenge to overcome the perennial temptation: Leave it until later.

## Responsorial Psalm: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The Lord is kind and merciful.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday  
**28 March** 10:00am **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Laidley**  
Previously postponed due to the flooding, please come together at the Laidley Lutheran hall (21 Patrick Street) for this ecumenical service.
- Sunday  
**30 March** 7am – 4pm **BUNNINGS BBQ at Plainland**  
Come and support our parish fundraising.
- 10:30am **THE LONG WALK FOR WATER - GATTON**  
Join our parish community as we take a short 2 kilometre walk and raise funds for Project Compassion. If you cannot walk, please consider supporting others.
- Friday  
**4 April** 9:00am **ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS - LAIDLEY**  
Please consider volunteering to transport the sick and housebound for this Mass.
- Sunday  
**6 April** 7:30am **CARITAS MORNING TEA – GLENORE GROVE**  
Mass will begin at **6:45am** on this morning  
Please bring a plate. Tea, coffee and juice provided
- 10:00am **CARITAS MORNING TEA – GATTON**  
Stay for a delicious morning tea after Mass and donate towards our parish Project Compassion fundraising
- Friday  
**11 April** 7:00pm **CELEBRATION OF GOD'S MERCY**  
St Mary's Church Gatton  
Reflection and reconciliation ... celebrating the tender love of the Father and his unfailing mercy.
- Sunday  
**13 April** 10:30am **THE LONG WALK FOR WATER - LAIDLEY**  
Join our parish community as we take a short 2.5 kilometre walk and raise funds for Project Compassion.
- Saturday  
**26 April** 7:30am **ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
Community Centre Gatton, hosted by our parish.  
Please come along and support this event that raises money for chaplains in the State schools.
- Saturday  
**17 May** 9:30am **AGEING WISELY**  
The greying years are often a difficult time for parishioners as we try to navigate changing living arrangements, health and financial circumstances. This seminar is open to people of all ages – come and hear from professionals, including an aged care provider, funeral director and a professional who will speak about your Will, Enduring Power of Attorney and leaving a bequest.  
More details to come soon. RSVP required please

### LIVING LENT

Thank you to Rach and the Adult Faith Formation team for leading us in the Lenten Encounter on Sunday. The theme was **Radiate Christ**, and everyone had great faith filled discussions, and each gained prayerful insights to help them become more focused in this season of Lent.

One of the group discussions was focused on our **Lenten practices** – what we've done in the past, and what are some new ways to consider in 2025.

There were some great suggestions that you might like to adopt this year.

#### #1 PRAYER – ideas for 2025

- Attend **weekday Mass**. Available, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in our parish
- Use a **guided meditation** on an App on your phone or computer.
- Find a **prayer partner**, and meet regularly to pray for your needs, and the needs of the whole world.
- Take a **Prayer Walk** – around a park, around your neighbour, stopping to pray specifically for people and places eg: walking past a school, pray for the students and teachers eg: walking through a park, pray for the faith of families
- Attend **Stations of the Cross** – on Friday afternoons, or be sure to come 30 minutes early to the weekend Masses at Gatton and Laidley
- Have a **Prayer Jar** – write out different needs for yourself and those you love. Add to the jar. Then each morning, choose one to pray for during the day

#### #2 ALMSGIVING – ideas for 2025

- **Volunteer as a family** – maybe ask to be on the church cleaning roster
- Visit the **sick and housebound**
- **Donate a service** – what gifts and talents do you have that would be a blessing to others, especially those who cannot afford that service
- Support the parish **Project Compassion/Caritas** fundraising opportunities
- Start **collecting blankets and warm clothes** for those who may in need this winter

### CARITAS MORNING TEA

Please come and support one of our parish morning teas, or invite family and friends to get together and have a morning tea or meal, with donations going to Project Compassion. At Laidley, this Sunday after the 9am Mass on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

Glenore Grove, this will be after the 7am Mass on **6<sup>th</sup> April** (please bring a plate)

Please note the Glenore Grove Mass will start at 6:45am to allow time for the morning tea. At Gatton, it will be after the 9am Mass on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY LORNA LYONS

This week we celebrate with Lorna, a wonderful lady, as she enjoys her birthday. May this blessing bring her much happiness and hope.

*May the **PEACE** of God be with you on your special day.*

*May His gifts of **GRACE** surround you, may His **BLESSING** rest upon you  
and His **WISDOM** guide you today and always.*

*Amen*

## 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:

Isaiah Joseph, Graham Henneberry, Helen Stevens, 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:** Darren Nolan, Helen Pescador

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Dermot Tiernan, Robert Alberts, Edna Kanofski, Nora Luck, Maria Stys, Richard Lutz, Barry Crosby, Mavis O'Dea, Grace Gardiner, Mary Robinson, Lauretta "Jean" McGovern, James Kearney, Mary McGuirk, Yvette Durrant, Phyllis Deering, Neta Mogg, Raymond Rogers, Beatrice Sutton, Elizabeth Schulz, Graham Bennett, Kathleen Brabrook, Noel Williams, Norah Bauer, Phyllis Ward

*"The LORD is close to the broken-hearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* Psalm 34: 18

## NEWS - HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY BRISBANE

The Rector of the Holy Spirit Seminary, Fr Neil Muir, sends us the following greeting ...

*"What a joy it is to share some **good news** with you; this year, we've welcomed nine new seminarians to Holy Spirit Seminary. In this Jubilee Year, their presence is a **sign of great hope** for the future. It is also a reminder that the Lord listens to our prayers, answering in His own time and way. Each of these men has been called by name, and their presence is a blessing to the Church.*

*As you know, **formation is a journey** that requires **patience, perseverance, and prayer** – not just from the seminarians themselves, but from all of us who walk alongside them in ministry. At all churches from this weekend, you will find the **2025 Holy Spirit Seminary prayer calendar**, featuring all 22 of our seminarians. These men have taken the courageous step of offering their lives in service to God's people, and they need our prayers more than ever.*

***May I invite you to take one of these calendars and pray for each seminarian by name?***

*There is something profoundly powerful about knowing that the people of God are praying for you. I have seen firsthand how much it encourages and strengthens these young men in their discernment."*