



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

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

Mass Times

Saturday 25 March

6 pm Gatton

Sunday 26 March

7 am Forest Hill

9 am Laidley

Tuesday 28 March

4:30pm Rosary

5 pm Forest Hill

Wednesday 29 March

8:30am Rosary

9 am Gatton

Thursday 30 March

Second Rite (No Mass)

9 am Laidley

Friday 31 March

8:30am Rosary

9 am Gatton

11 am Laidley

Funeral Lloyd Luck

Saturday 1 April

6 pm Laidley

Sunday 2 April

7 am Glenore Gve

9 am Gatton

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

5:30pm each

**Saturday before the
Vigil Mass,**

or at other times by
appointment.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

March 26, 2023

Leaf of Hope

"The Last Leaf" is a short story written by the American author, O. Henry. It is a story of friendship, sacrifice and hope. In the story Johnsy, a poor young woman who is seriously ill with pneumonia believes that when the ivy vine on the wall outside her window loses all its leaves, she will also die. Her neighbour Behrman, an artist, tricks her by painting a leaf on the wall. Johnsy recovers, but Behrman, who caught pneumonia while painting the leaf, dies.

Jesus triumphs with hope in today's Gospel. By bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus loudly proclaims he is the resurrection and the life. Life is not a journey from womb to tomb, rather beyond tomb to a new life, an eternal life. That is why funeral services begin with the prayer, *"In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven."*

I was once invited by a group of college students for an interactive session. Though I thought it would be an informal meeting, soon I realised that they wanted to get answers for fundamental questions of life.

One of the questions was, ***'What is the purpose of life?'***

In today's Gospel, Jesus' discussion with Martha gives a clear answer that **Jesus is the resurrection and the life** and that those who commit themselves to him, will find the **true meaning of life.**

"If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

(1 Cor.19:20)

***Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."***

Fr. Emmanuel Ayankudry CMI

LENT – a time of prayer, fasting and repentance

Why not join a small group for reflection and discussion using the resource book *From Ashes to Hope?*

Monday 9:45am Parish Office Laidley
Wednesday 9:30am Community Centre Gatton
Thursday 5:15pm Community Centre Gatton



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

9:30am Gatton † 4:00pm Laidley † 5:00pm Gatton

Thank you to the generous volunteers who organise and lead the Stations – most times using a variety of texts and song to challenge and encourage us in our journey with Jesus.

PALM CROSSES

In the last few years, some parishioners have made palm crosses for distribution on Palm Sunday. If you would like to make some, please bring them to the church at least 15 minutes before Mass starts on Palm Sunday. If you need instructions on how to make them, please pick up a flyer at church this weekend.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

In this season of Lent, we gather as a community and celebrate the liturgy, then we seek individual confession and absolution or receive a special blessing.

Laidley – 9am – 30th March

Gatton – 6pm – 31st March

Pope Francis said this recently “Brothers, sisters, let us remember this: The Lord comes to us when we step back from our presumptuous ego ... He can bridge the distance whenever, with honesty and sincerity, we bring our weaknesses before him, He holds out his hand and lifts us up whenever we realise we are ‘hitting rock bottom’ and we turn back to him with a sincere heart. “

The Pope underlined that God waits for us, especially in the sacrament of penance, where he said the **Lord touches our wounds, heals our hearts, and leaves us with inner peace.**

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – SUMMIT²³

The upcoming Brisbane Summit is intended to **empower, inspire and equip** delegates to engage in the mission of the Church. Our parish is hoping to take a group of people to the upcoming Summit to be held at Seventeen Mile Rocks from **6pm Thursday May 18th to 3pm Saturday May 20th 2023.**

Registrations are now open, and for groups of 10 or more the Earlybird registration fee is reduced to \$ 150 per person. (Normal Earlybird \$ 170 until 31 March 2023 then \$ 200) Please advise the Parish Office of your **availability** and interest to attend event. For more information, visit www.brisbanesummit.com

PROJECT COMPASSION – thank you for your ongoing support of this appeal. Please take home a Project Compassion box or **set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season.**

COMMUNITY NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

For each of our candidates, their journey of faith is both individual and communal. They look around them to see what it means to be "Catholic". As they learn about the different Rites of the Catholic Church, they are also eager to learn about the **practical aspects of our faith** and how we live that out every day.

If you have some **words of wisdom** that you would like to share with them, please email them to the office, or write them out and give to Father Emmanuel or Chris at Mass. Or if you would like to take a few moments to share your love of Jesus and of how the Catholic Church is your spiritual home, you are welcome to come to one of our sessions. Please pray for **Shona, Lillie, Sienna, Michael O'D, Michael M, Tracey, Jorja, Maddie** and **Amanda** as they eagerly await the JOY of our loving God in receiving the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

SJ 2023 - Sacrament of Reconciliation for School age children

Congratulations and every blessing to **Abbi, Lilly, Lionel** and **William** as they made their first confession and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday. May they continue to grow in holiness as they seek a deeper relationship with Jesus and continue to experience His love and mercy.

VINNIES GATTON – Vinnies help so many, can you help Vinnies?

Vinnies help anyone in need, regardless of their background, culture, religion or political opinion and almost everyone who does this work is a volunteer.

How can you help?

If you are strong and fit, could you help with pick up and delivery of furniture?

If you have time on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 7am and 10:30am, your assistance would be appreciated at the shed sorting donations.

If you would like to become a Conference member of Vinnies, you could assist with welfare distribution on a **Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 4 and 5pm**.

For Conference members, meetings are held once a month and last about an hour.

By volunteering, you can be sure **you're making a difference for those in need**.

For some Vinnies volunteers, this is a chance to give something back to the community, to use their skills and experience to make a difference in the lives of people who need assistance the most. For others, it is a chance to develop new skills and experience in a supportive environment.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Nellie 0428 454 482.



EASTER SINGING PRACTICE

Come and join us as we prepare for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum with singing practice.

Monday 27th March from 7pm in St Mary's Church Gatton. Everyone welcome!

WELCOME FATHER DAVE

This Sunday we welcome Father Dave O'Connor to celebrate the Sunday Masses. He looks forward to being at Forest Hill and Laidley and meeting everyone at morning tea.

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 ...

THE SICK:

Pat Heenan, Laurie Didsman, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Warren Forbes, Mark Wendt, Michael Trail, Shannon Gilchrist, Colleen Scheiwe, Edilberta Parcell, Bidy Dwyer, Marilyn Didsman, Catherine Dormer, Mary & Lionel Dusart, Lucy Kimmings, 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:

Barry Crosby, Charlie Schimming, Patricia Pingel, Aloysius (Lloyd) Luck

ANNIVERSARIES:

Neta Mogg, Raymond Rogers, Beatrice Sutton, Elizabeth Schulz, Graham Bennett, Kathleen Brabrook, Noel Williams, Norah Bauer, Phyllis Ward, Mary Olm, Bernie Luck, Kenneth Boyd, Ernest Seng, John Edward O'Brien, George Welsh, Annie Bugler, Mervyn Laffey

*May you be held by the God of compassion
as you remember your loved ones today.*

*May God be with you in your sorrow,
and comfort you in your loss.*

*May your God, your family and your friends,
give you strength and confidence.*

*May your spirit be lifted, may your heart be filled with peace,
and may the light of God's promise fill you with joy and hope.
Amen.*

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The next preparation session for families preparing for baptism of their child will be held on **Saturday 1st April commencing at 10am at the Community Centre, Gatton.**

Please contact the Parish Office for application forms which need to be submitted prior to the session. We have baptisms twice per month – first Sunday in Gatton and fourth Sunday in Laidley.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Thank you to the generous parishioners who support our parish planned giving through weekly/monthly envelopes.

It is no longer financially viable to engage a printing company to do them as we only have about 10 people using envelopes.

If you wish to change to **Direct Debit**, please contact the Parish Office to arrange forms.

If you wish to **continue using envelopes**, you can either write your number on an envelope or contact the office to arrange printing.