



Mass Times

Saturday 27 January

6 pm Gatton

Sunday 28 January

7 am Forest Hill

9 am Laidley

Tuesday 30 January

4:30 pm Rosary

5 pm Forest Hill

Mass

Wednesday 31 January

8:30 am Rosary

9 am Gatton

OLGC

Opening

School Mass

Friday 2 February

8:30 am Rosary

9 am Laidley

St Mary's

Opening

School Mass

11:30 am Gatton

Requiem

Funeral Mass

Marj Murphy

Saturday 3 February

6 pm Laidley

Sunday 4 February

7 am Glenore Gve

9 am Gatton

Children's

Liturgy

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131

Email: gatton@bne.catholic.net.au

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B) 28 January '24

Costly Freedom

In the first major episode in the public ministry Jesus is confronted by a man with an unclean spirit.

What in the 21st century are we to make of Satan, demons and unclean spirits? "A *healthy spirituality will acknowledge the reality of spiritual forces opposed to God and to life. But, to take the gospel material as an invitation to see manifestations of the demonic or the everywhere is dangerous.*" – Brendon Byrne.

In today's Gospel Mark tells us that in the person and actions of Jesus, the **triune God breaks the captivity of the human race** to the demonic, **setting it free** to become truly human.

But, that freedom proclaimed here will not come about without cost: A cost to Jesus, a cost to the Father, and a cost to those to those called to associate themselves with his life and mission.

(Understanding Mark's Gospel – continued from last week)

Jesus enters the holy city of Jerusalem on the day that we now celebrate as Palm Sunday. Mark then gives us a day by day account of this last week in the life of Jesus. Over one third of Mark's Gospel is devoted to what Jesus does and says during last week. (241 out of 664 verses, roughly 36% of the gospel).

Another key word that Mark uses during the Galilean and during the way to Jerusalem is 'euthus', which can be translated as 'immediately', or 'instantly'. **There is a sense of urgency or immediacy about Jesus' proclamation of the reign of God.** This sense of immediacy is enhanced by Mark's use throughout the gospel of what is known as the historical present tense. Instead of talking about events in the past tense, Mark uses the present tense, even though the events he describes took place in the past. Mark describes what Jesus does and says during the last days of his life day by day, even further, hour by hour – morning, mid-morning, noon, mid-afternoon, and evening.

(to be continued)

Responsorial Psalm: Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wed'day 31st January **Opening School Mass – Gatton**
9:00am Everyone welcome
- Thursday 1 February **Meditation TBC**
5:30pm Gatton church
- Friday 2 February **Opening School Mass – Laidley**
9:00am Everyone welcome
Laidley Catholic Ladies Meeting
10am Laidley Hall All welcome
- Saturday 10 February **Baptism Preparation Session TBC**
10:30 – 11:30am St Mary's Church Gatton
- Wednesday 14 February **Ash Wednesday**
9:00am Laidley
2:00pm Gatton - OLGCLiturgical at church
6:00pm Gatton

PREPARING FOR LENT

Why not pray that God will bring about the unexpected in your life during your observance of Lent in 2024?

Can this Lent be about **allowing God to do what God wants to do** in your life?

Too easily, and perhaps out of habit, we can focus on ourselves as we consider how we will observe Lent. As Shane Dwyer (author of this year's Lent resource) correctly points out, **"While making those decisions is appropriate (prayer, fasting and almsgiving are always important), understand that they are your little ways of opening yourself to God's mercy, peace and power. They are like little cracks in the shield of your soul which allow the light of God to come flooding in"**.

LENT RESOURCE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL CHURCHES - \$ 8

For 17 cents per day, this resource takes you on a 47-day journey into our world as God sees it, and how our individual and parish mission can make a difference.

Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, made these comments and encourages you to either use it personally, or to join a group within the parish.

He said, **"This resource: A Resurrected Life is subversive. It challenges our conventional way of thinking and invites us to believe in the extraordinary hope that the Gospel bears. This is a hope ground not on vapid promises, but on the fact of a God who takes flesh, entering even our woundedness and brokenness, so that life may come from death and strength from weakness. This is a God who transfigures our wounds, even the cosmic wound of death, which become fountains of healing and life for those around us and for the world"**.

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Thank you to the two wonderful volunteers who have committed to this ministry at Karinya. Also, a big **thank you** to the ongoing commitment of the generous volunteers who faithfully serve at Tabeel and Regis Nursing Homes.

THE MASS ... a series by Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Archbishop Mark Coleridge is a great communicator. Commencing before Mass next weekend, we have the opportunity to start to unpack the elements of the Catholic Mass in this sixteen-part series that will be shared at Laidley and Gatton.

PRAY FOR OUR RCIA CANDIDATES

Please continue to pray for **Robert, Jeeahn, Kylie, Todd, Amanda** and **Luke** as they explore the faith we live in the everyday. Last week one of the topics we explored was the Holy Trinity, and it was great to use the example from the meditation Father Emmanuel had done the previous week, using the symbol of the tree.

How would you explain the Holy Trinity to someone?

In early February, the RCIA candidates will be stating their desire in the **Rite of Acceptance** to become part of the Catholic Church, and more importantly, to become part of our community. May your **kindness, prayers, welcome and hospitality** support and encourage them.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

For children of all ages – recommencing Sunday 4th February

Welcome back to all the families, children and volunteers after the Christmas break. Re-energised and refreshed, the Children and Families team will recommence Liturgy of the Word during the 9am Masses at Gatton.

THE BUSINESS CARD OF MOTHER TERESA

One of Mother Teresa's most recognized prayers came to be known as her "business card:" **"The fruit of *silence* is prayer; the fruit of *prayer* is faith; the fruit of *faith* is love; the fruit of *love* is service; the fruit of *service* is peace."** Many view these words as the secret to her success in ministry and care for the poor.

Mother Teresa had a deeply intimate relationship with Jesus that was fostered by silence throughout her life. **Her practice of silence created room for prayer and space for her relationship with God to grow.**

For Mother Teresa, silence was a prerequisite to prayer and the ability to meet with God. Prayer, through the means of silence, took upon itself to form the deep intimacy with God and with Jesus. Something to contemplate in the week ahead.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

The Parish Leadership Team have been working on the practical requirements for the initial teams in this ministry. The dates are being finalised for sharing of this information within our parish community, and how people can nominate to be part of these teams.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

What a delight to wish these lovely ladies a Happy Birthday. Their smiles always light up the room ... congratulations to **Patricia Jung** and **Maureen Bishop** on their birthdays. May God bless them with good health, great courage and a spirit of endurance through any challenges that come their way. God bless you both.



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:

Therese Thompson, Daryl Reynolds, Eric Pingel, James Earley, Theresa Jones, Theresa Knight, Jodi Thompson, Roslyn Furber, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Edilberta Parcel, Biddy Dwyer, Marilyn Didsman, Mary & Lionel Dusart, 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: Marjorie Murphy, Marjorie Cusack,
Greg Breuer, Marjorie Schulz

ANNIVERSARIES:

Elizabeth Roessler, Keith Reynolds, Roy Schulz, Errol Frohloff, Mame Breuer, Katherine Woods, Doris Buckley, Joe McNeil, Maria Stevens, Vi Elliott, Harold Cook, Robert Falconer, Fr Peter Collins SSS, Maureen Panzram, Monica McCarthy, Eunice Jackwitz, Clare Boulter, Joyce Quade, Eric Furley

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

This year the featured country is Palestine, and the verse is chosen from Ephesians 4:2 "***I beg you ... bear with one another in love.***"

Men and women, mark your diaries now to attend this annual ecumenical event. The Laidley and Gatton Catholic churches are the host churches in the Lockyer Valley this year; please show your care and support for those around us and in the world, particularly in the war-torn country of Palestine.



As these are ecumenical events, it is a great opportunity to invite your non-Catholic friends to participate in the service and enjoy the warm hospitality of our parish men and women.

Friday 1st March

St Mary's **Gatton – 10am** service followed by morning tea
St Patrick's **Laidley – 11am** service followed by light lunch

For more information, please contact **Margaret Stevens** at Gatton, **Joan Jackson** at Laidley or through the Parish Office.

VOCATION VIEWS

Jesus speaks as one having authority. As we follow God's call, we remember the same authority passed down to the Church that she might guide us closer to Christ and help us **discern** our vocation and have the **courage** to respond.

www.vocationbrisbane.com