



MASS TIMES

Saturday	14 February
6 pm	Laidley
Sunday	15 February
7 am	Glenore Gve
9 am	Gattton
	Morning Tea
	Children's Liturgy
Tuesday	17 February
4:30 pm	Rosary
5 pm	Forest Hill
Ash Wed	18 February
8:30 am	Rosary
9 am	Laidley
2 pm	Gattton Liturgy
6 pm	Gattton
Friday	20 February
8:30 am	Rosary
9 am	Laidley
10 am	Tabeel Liturgy
Saturday	21 February
6 pm	Gattton
Sunday	22 February
7 am	Forest Hill
9 am	Laidley
	Morning Tea



Sacrament of Reconciliation

before Vigil Mass every Saturday from 5:30pm

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gattton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131

Email: gattton@bne.catholic.net.au

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 15 February 2026

Four Kilometres of Faith

Recently, we witnessed an extraordinary example of courage and faith in the news – a miraculous incident which tells us, 'When faith carries us further than strength'.

Thirteen-year-old **Austin Appelbee from Western Australia** swam for more than **four hours over approximately 4 kilometres** through rough ocean waters to reach land and raise the alarm after his family was swept far out to sea. His mother and younger siblings were left adrift, clinging to paddleboards, as night fell and conditions worsened. Thanks to Austin's determination, emergency services were alerted in time, and **his family were located and rescued safely**. Though exhausted and shaken, they were reunited. A powerful reminder of how courage, hope, and God's providence can work together even in the most frightening moments.

What makes this story especially moving, is not only the physical strength and endurance Austin showed, but what sustained him in those long hours. Austin said he kept going through **prayer, Christian songs, and thoughts of the people he loved**. He later reflected, "I don't think it was me who did it — it was God the whole time". **Stroke by stroke, God was there!** St. Paul reminds us that faith carries us further than we ever could on our own: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". **Phil 4:13**. Psalm encourages, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you". **Psalm 50:15**.

Austin's testimony shows us that faith is not just for Sundays — it shapes how we face fear, fatigue, and seemingly impossible circumstances. Like the disciples in the storm who cried out to Jesus, our prayers become lifelines in times of distress (**Mk 4:35-41**). Austin was held by God in the storm and his prayer carried him home. Let Austin's story be the right note to begin Lent. God walks with us through every challenge when we keep turning to Him, trusting that He will bring us safely through.

Blessings, Fr. Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday
18 February

9:00am
11:30am
2:00pm
6:00pm

LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
A day of Fasting and Prayer
St Patrick's Laidley
St Mel's Esk
St Mary's Gatton liturgy led by OLG School. All welcome
St Mary's Gatton

Friday
20 & 27 February

4:00pm
5:00pm

LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS
St Patrick's Church Laidley
St Mary's Church Gatton

Wednesday
25 February

9:00am

MASS - ANOINTING OF THE SICK
St Mary's Church, Gatton
All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate.

Saturday
28 February

7:30am

ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
Gatton Church of Christ
Cnr Allan & Hickey Streets, Gatton
Families welcome

Saturday
28 February

10:00am

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION
St Mary's Church, Gatton
Please register your interest and complete and return all paperwork prior to this session.

Saturday
28 February

4:00pm

OCIA INFORMATION SESSION
SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY FOR TEENS & ADULTS
Parish Office, 37 John Street South, Laidley
Please register your interest and complete and return all paperwork prior to this session.

Thursday
5 March

9:00am

LAIDLEY CATHOLIC LADIES MEETING
Parish Hall, Laidley
All are welcome

Friday
6 March

10:00am

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - LAIDLEY
Laidley Uniting Church
45 Patrick Street, Laidley

Friday
6 March

10:00am

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - GATTON
Gatton Church of Christ
Cnr Allan & Hickey Streets, Gatton

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Please note that there will be a temporary change in office hours between Monday, 9 February to Friday, 6 March 2026.

The office will be attended on Tuesday and Friday only between 8:00am and 4:00pm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WENDY CROSBY

This week we send our birthday congratulations to Wendy Crosby. We thank Wendy for the countless ways she has shared her gifts and talents with our church family for so many years. We are truly blessed by your presence. May God bless this day with more love than your heart can hold, and fill your year ahead with joy, health, and peace. Happy Birthday Wendy!

PROJECT COMPASSION

This coming week, we begin our annual journey of Lent and with it our annual commitment to **Project Compassion**, organised by Caritas Australia. For generations, Project Compassion has helped us express our Lenten commitment to prayer, personal sacrifice and almsgiving. The focus this year is a call to **"Unite Against Poverty"**. It is a powerful call. When we *Unite Against Poverty*, we unite for justice, dignity, and hope. We show that compassion is stronger than despair, and that together, we can build a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Here is an example of how our support can change lives!

Sisilia, Tanzania

Sisilia, 13, used to walk long distances three times a day to collect unsafe water, leaving her exhausted and late for school. With Caritas Australia's support, her village now has clean water taps. Sisilia can focus on her studies, lead hygiene education, and pursue her dream of becoming a pilot. Her story reminds us that access to clean water is life-changing, and something we often take for granted.

You will find envelopes in the pews and at the entrance to the Church.

WHAT IS LENT?

What are your priorities in life right now? Lent is an invitation to rearrange your priorities—to focus on what matters most and leave behind what matters least.

Lent is the season where the Church prepares for Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, Lent spans 40+ days until Holy Thursday. In the fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying, and preparing for his mission. Lent is your opportunity for that same focus.

Lent is your invitation to take your spiritual life seriously. It is the perfect time to form life-giving habits and abandon self-destructive habits. It is your chance to discover the abundant life Jesus invites us to at Easter.

During Lent, we strive to become better individuals by practicing something that challenges us but is still achievable, enabling us to grow in faith and become a better version of ourselves.

Take these 40 days to explore God's dream for your life and it will change everything. Are you ready?

OUR PARISH

Parish Priest:

Father Emmanuel
Ayankudy CMI
A/ Hrs: 5462 5374

Parish Manager

Christine Pingel

Parish Secretary

Anne Jung

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:

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Safeguarding:

Complaints and
Disclosures
Phone: STOPLINE
1300 304 550

SCHOOLS

OLGC Gatton
5460 2999

OLGC OSHC
0487 001 722

St Mary's Laidley
5465 1240

Sophia College
5411 3400

WE PRAY FOR ...

FOR THE GOOD HEALTH, STRENGTH AND HEALING OF:

Lynn Nowlan, Rita Ilka, Moya Beckman, Patricia Potbury, Brian Smith, Bill Beckman, Ellen Bachmann, Peter Blanch, Maddison Cutler, Rodney Cutler, Herpich family, Isaiah Joseph, Graham Henneberry, Peter Das, Nikki McLay, Paddy Boyd, Toshikatsu Konishi, Shirley Myles, Sienna Beutel, James Earley, McGregor-Shaw family, Michael Trail, Therese Thompson, Theresa Jones, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Edilberta Purcell, Elizabeth Marten, Judy McGlade

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED THAT THEY MAY REST IN PEACE:

Mary Towler, Rosemary Porter, John Jung, Todd King

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME:

Donna Church, William Chadwick, Gerald O'Keeffe, Barry Teis, John Ashton, Patrick McNamara, Vincent Mallon, Eileen Ryan, John Caldwell, Josephine Avington, Catherine Kavanagh, Eunice Kachel, James Lewis, Edward Schipp, Frank Bourke, Colin Robeck, Olivia Raisin, Genevieve Birney, Jacoba Stevens, Bill Dwyer, Gerard McDonald, Leo Reynolds, Gerard Cronin, Arthur McIvor, Josephine Hockings

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS LENT

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday morning Gatton Community Centre at 9:30am commencing 25th February

Friday evening Gatton Community Centre, commencing 20th February, immediately after Stations of the Cross (5:30pm).

Laidley – If anyone is interested in leading a group, please let the office know.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent:

4pm St Patrick's Church Laidley

5pm St Mary's Church Gatton

Stations of the Cross will also commence 30 minutes before the weekend Mass at Gatton and Laidley



HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH FLOCKNOTE?

Thank you to those who have already registered. To help us with up-to-date contact information, parishioners and visitors are invited to register using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your phone.

<https://olvatholic.flocknote.com/register>

