



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131

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MASS TIMES

Saturday 28 February

5:30 pm Stations of
the Cross
Laidley
6 pm

Sunday 1 March

7 am Glenore Gve
8:30 am Stations of
the Cross
9 am Gatton
Morning Tea
Children's Liturgy

Tuesday 3 March

4:30 pm Rosary
5 pm Forest Hill

Wed'n'day 4 March

8:30 am Rosary
9 am Gatton

Friday 6 March

9 am Laidley
4 pm Stations of
the Cross –
Laidley
5 pm Stations of
the Cross –
Gatton

Saturday 7 March

6 pm Gatton

Sunday 8 March

7 am Forest Hill
9 am Laidley

Sacrament of Reconciliation

before Vigil Mass every
Saturday from 5:30pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

1 March 2026

Invitation to Interior Reflection

As our Lenten journey unfolds, we find ourselves walking closely with Jesus through landscapes both stark and radiant. Last Sunday, we stood with Him in the desert — a place of testing, hunger, and decision. There, Jesus relived Israel's wilderness story. Yet where Israel grumbled, **He trusted**; where Israel faltered, **He remained faithful**. In the silence of the desert, obedience took root. Today, the scene shifts from wilderness to mountain. Jesus leads Peter, James, and John upward, and before their eyes **He is transfigured**. Matthew tells us this occurs "six days later", a detail that draws us deliberately back to Mount Sinai. In Exodus, Moses ascends the mountain, and the glory of the Lord rests there for six days before God calls him from the cloud. Those days were filled with awe and expectancy as Israel waited below. Now, once again, **a mountain, a cloud, and divine glory converge**. A voice speaks, not to deliver a law written on stone, but to **reveal a Son**.

These are not casual parallels. They proclaim that the story of the Exodus has **reached its fulfilment**. The God who revealed Himself to Moses, now **reveals himself definitively in Christ**. The journey from slavery to covenant, from desert to mountain, finds its deepest meaning in Jesus. What began on Sinai is not erased but surpassed. Yet the God of Sinai's thunder is also the God who spoke to Elijah **in a gentle whisper**. Divine glory does not always blaze; often it shimmers quietly within the fabric of daily life. In a world saturated with noise and endless distraction, we risk losing the capacity to hear that whisper. Many who step away from their devices, even briefly, rediscover a forgotten richness, **a stillness that allows God to speak**.

Lent invites us to climb the mountain and enter the cloud, but also to cultivate interior recollection. In silence, trust is strengthened. In quiet attentiveness, we learn again to listen to the beloved Son.


Blessings, Fr. Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm: Second Sunday of Lent

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Friday
6 and 13
March | 4:00pm
5:00pm | LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS
St Patrick's Church Laidley
St Mary's Church Gatton | |
| Wednesday
4 and 11 March | 9:30am | LENTEN GROUPS
Gatton Community Centre |  |
| Friday
6 and 13 March | 5:30pm | Gatton Community Centre | |
| 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 | |
| Tuesday
17 March | 9:00am | SAINT PATRICK'S DAY MASS
St Patrick's Church, Laidley
The children of St Mary's School | |

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

PROJECT COMPASSION

This week, we meet Manaini. Just another example of how our support can change lives!

Manaini, Fiji

Manaini lives in remote northern Fiji, where life has always been a struggle for her. She is a mother of six and grandmother of two. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

LENT AND FASTING

Key Teachings from the Saints

St. John Chrysostom: He emphasized that fasting should not be restricted to just food, but also to "evil intentions, words, and deeds". He warned against just abstaining from meat while "devouring" one's brothers through gossip or anger.

St. Augustine: Emphasized that fasting raises the mind to God and "scatters the clouds of concupiscence". (Concupiscence is understood as an effect of original sin that remains after baptism. The waters of baptism cleanse us of original sin itself, but concupiscence remains as a lingering effect. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that "*certain temporal consequences of sin remain in the baptized, such as suffering, illness, death ... as well as an inclination to sin that Tradition calls concupiscence*" (No. 1264).

St. Basil the Great: Argued that "penance without fasting is useless and vain".

St. Benedict: Recommended that monks (and all Christians) "love fasting" and, with the approval of a spiritual father, undertake voluntary, moderate fasts during Lent".

St. Francis de Sales: Warned against vanity in fasting, noting that if one fasts to be seen by others, it is not a holy act. He insisted on fasting in obedience to the Church.

Practical Advice from the Saints and Pope Francis

Fast from Sins: The most crucial aspect of fasting is to abstain from evil, anger, and slander.

Moderate and Purposeful: Fasting should not be done to excess. It should strengthen the soul without destroying the body's ability to function and serve.

Hiddenness: Jesus taught, and the saints reiterated, to "not look gloomy like the hypocrites," but to keep the fast between oneself and God.

Pair with Charity: When you skip a meal, give the money saved to the poor, making the fast an act of love.

Pope Francis said: *"Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience."*

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OUR PARISH

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Christine Pingel

Parish Secretary

Anne Jung

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Days of operation
may vary – please
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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

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME:

Charles Francis, Fred Gowdy, Gregory Elliott, William Friend, Maxwell Martin, Joseph Robeck, Annie Gough, Brian Upton, Myrtle Friske, Julie-Anne McNeill, Harold Woodbine, Maria Mertens, Margaret O'Brien, Martin Costello, Elizabeth Hauser, Albert Curry and Darren Nolan.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS LENT

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

Wednesday morning after 9:00am Mass at Gatton Community Centre.

Friday evening after 5:00pm Stations of the Cross at Gatton Community Centre.

Please support our Volunteers who lead the Stations of the Cross and Lenten Groups

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>

