



# Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131

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## MASS TIMES

### Saturday 21 February

5:30 pm Stations of  
the Cross  
Gatton  
6 pm

### Sunday 22 February

7 am Forest Hill  
8:30 am Stations of  
the Cross  
Laidley  
9 am Laidley  
**Morning Tea**

### Tuesday 24 February

4:30 pm Rosary  
5 pm Forest Hill

### Wed'n'day 25 February

8:30 am Rosary  
9 am Gatton  
**Anointing Mass**

### Friday 27 February

10 am **Tabeel** Mass  
4 pm Stations of  
the Cross –  
Laidley  
5 pm Stations of  
the Cross –  
Gatton

### Saturday 28 February

6 pm Laidley

### Sunday 1 March

7 am Glenore Gve  
9 am Gatton

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

before Vigil Mass every  
Saturday from 5:30pm

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (Year A)

22 February 2026

### *Repent and Believe in the Gospel*

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. The English word Lent comes from Old English *lencden*, which literally means "springtime". The root "lenc" refers to the lengthening of daylight as winter gives way to spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

On this first Sunday of Lent we join Jesus in the desert. Matthew tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be put to the test by the devil. The forty days of Lent recall the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert before beginning his public ministry. We are invited to enter into two privileged biblical places, the **garden and the desert**. Both places test our fidelity to God. The forty days Jesus spent in the desert deliberately echo the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness after the Exodus. For both the Israelites and for Jesus, the **desert is a place of testing**. The desert has long served as a symbol of the encounter between the naked self and God: barren, vast, and unforgiving, it strips away distractions and leaves one alone with oneself. The desert journey becomes a metaphor for leaving everything behind and confronting the basic question: **Who am I, and what truly matters?**

Today's readings teach us that temptation often begins not with an outright lie, but with a subtle distortion that makes God seem mean, restrictive, ungenerous. But, the good news is that Jesus leads us to a **new Exodus**, to rescue us from the power of the prince of this world. He steps into the desert as the New Adam and as the true Israel. Adam was tempted in a garden of abundance and fell; Jesus was tempted in a wilderness of hunger and remained faithful to God.

Israel was tested forty years in the desert and often rebelled; Jesus was tested forty days and remained utterly obedient to His Father.

*Blessings, Fr. Emmanuel*

## Responsorial Psalm: First Sunday of Lent

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

## Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |                  |  |
|--|------------------|--|
| Wednesday<br><b>25 February</b>                    | 9:00am           | <b>MASS - ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b><br><b>St Mary's Church, Gatton</b><br>All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate.  |
| Friday<br><b>27 February</b>                       | 10:00am          | <b>MASS AT TABEL</b><br><b>Laidley</b>   |
| Friday<br><b>27 February</b><br>and <b>6 March</b> | 4:00pm<br>5:00pm | <b>LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b><br><b>St Patrick's Church Laidley</b><br><b>St Mary's Church Gatton</b>  |
| Saturday<br><b>28 February</b>                     | 7:30am           | <b>ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST</b><br><b>Gatton Church of Christ</b><br><b>Cnr Allan &amp; Hickey Streets, Gatton</b><br>Families welcome  |
| Saturday<br><b>28 February</b>                     | 10:00am          | <b>BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION</b><br><b>St Mary's Church, Gatton</b><br>Please register your interest and <b>complete and return all paperwork prior to this session.</b>   |
| Saturday<br><b>28 February</b>                     | 4:00pm           | <b>OCIA INFORMATION SESSION</b><br><b>SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY FOR TEENS &amp; ADULTS</b><br><b>Parish Office, 37 John Street South, Laidley</b><br>Please register your interest and <b>complete and return all paperwork prior to this session.</b> |
| Thursday<br><b>5 March</b>                         | 9:00am           | <b>LAIDLEY CATHOLIC LADIES MEETING</b><br><b>Parish Hall, Laidley</b><br>All are welcome   |
| Friday<br><b>6 March</b>                           | 10:00am          | <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - LAIDLEY</b><br><b>Laidley Uniting Church</b><br><b>45 Patrick Street, Laidley</b>   |
| Friday<br><b>6 March</b>                           | 10:00am          | <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - GATTON</b><br><b>Gatton Church of Christ</b><br><b>Cnr Allan &amp; Hickey Streets, Gatton</b>   |

### 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

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthday Congratulations to **Brian Earley, Pat Heenan, Tony Fitzgerald and Ray MacNamara** and anyone else who may be celebrating a birthday this week. Your unwavering dedication and selfless service to our parish have been a shining example of faith in action. May God continue to bless you all with good health, joy and spiritual strength, and may His grace guide you in all that you do.

### PROJECT COMPASSION

Following on from last week, here is another example of how our support can change lives!

#### **Monoranjon, Bangladesh**

Monoranjon lives in a coastal village in Bangladesh, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

### LENT AND PRAYER

St. Teresa of Avila defines prayer as a humble, intimate conversation with God - *talking to Him whom we know loves us*" - making it essential for fostering intimacy with Christ during Lent.

She emphasises that deep, consistent prayer (or mental prayer) is crucial for self-knowledge, humility, and inner transformation, which aligns with the Lenten call to penance.

#### **Importance of Prayer During Lent:-**

**Deepening Relationship:** Lent is a time to develop a more profound, consistent, and personal relationship with God, allowing us to know Him better through communication.

**Nourishment for Service:** Prayer provides the grace and love needed to serve others, which is a key part of Lenten charity.

**Focussing on Christ's Love:** It helps us to fix our eyes on the love of Christ, which motivates our repentance and self-reflection.

**Transforming the Soul:** Through silent, inward reflection, such as reading her work *The Interior Castle*, one can journey closer to spiritual perfection during the 40 days of Lent.

St. Teresa invites us to make **prayer a top priority during Lent**, utilising it to cultivate a deeper connection with God, which in turn leads to a more meaningful and transformative Lenten experience.

### WE NEED YOU! PLEASE ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE

Our parish relies on volunteers to bring our liturgy to life. We are especially in need of **Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Projectionists** for **all our churches** in the parish. It is a beautiful way to deepen your faith, serve your neighbours, and participate more fully in the Mystery of the Eucharist. Don't worry about experience as full training and mentorship are provided. Please call the parish office to register your interest.

## 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.

### 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 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

### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME:

Catherine Murphy, Eva Marsh, Agneo Dolley, Jack Reimann, Barry Ketter, Fr James Cahill, Francis Reuter, Patty Brennan, Michael Ryan, Kevin Bowe, Ursula O'Connor, Kathleen Roache, Frank Hobbs, Bridget Dwyer, William Redmond, Kevin Thomas, Curtis Sutton, Cecily Ward.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS LENT

### LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

**Wednesday morning** Gatton Community Centre at 9:30am commencing 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Friday evening** Gatton Community Centre, commencing 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://olv.catholic.flocknote.com/register>

