



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131

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MASS TIMES

Saturday	7 March
5:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
6 pm	Gatton
Sunday	8 March
7 am	Forest Hill
8:30 am	Stations of the Cross
9 am	Laidley
	Morning Tea
Tuesday	10 March
4:30 pm	Rosary
5 pm	Forest Hill
Wedn'day	11 March
8:30 am	Rosary
9 am	Gatton
Friday	13 March
10 am	Tabeel
4 pm	Stations of the Cross – Laidley
5 pm	Stations of the Cross – Gatton
Saturday	14 March
6 pm	Laidley
Sunday	15 March
7 am	Glenore Gve
9 am	Gatton

Sacrament of Reconciliation

before Vigil Mass every
Saturday from 5:30pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

8 March 2026

Who and What am I looking for?

As we continue our Lenten journey, the Gospel gently invites us to pause and ask a searching question: **who and what am I really looking for?** On the first Sunday of Lent, we followed Jesus into the **desert**, led by God's Spirit and tested in solitude. There we confronted temptation and the fragile places of our own hearts. On the second Sunday, we climbed the **mountain** and glimpsed glory in the **Transfiguration**. Between desert struggle and mountaintop revelation, we saw both the **cost and the promise of discipleship**. Now, on this third Sunday, we sit beside a **well in Sychar** and witness a quiet but **transformative encounter**. Jesus meets a Samaritan woman, and in their conversation He names a thirst she scarcely understands herself. It is not merely for water, security, or companionship, but for something deeper - for **living water**. In her confusion, I recognise my own.

We all seek many things. Abraham Maslow described a Hierarchy of Needs: food, safety, belonging, esteem, and self-fulfilment. These desires are real and important. Yet even when they are satisfied, something within us can remain restless. Achievement, comfort, and recognition do not fully quiet the deeper ache of the heart. Thomas Merton observed that a person may spend a lifetime climbing the ladder of success only to discover it rests against the wrong wall. His insight exposes the subtle danger of mistaking lesser goods for ultimate meaning. We may pursue relationships, careers, or even religious observance, yet still avoid the deeper surrender God invites.

In the desert, in glory, and now at the well, **Christ meets our thirst**. Like Moses striking the rock, God once provided water for a wandering people. But **Jesus offers more**: living water that becomes a spring within us. The real question is not whether I am thirsty, but whether I will dare to drink - to seek not just what I want, but the One for whom my heart longs.

Bléssinas, Fr. Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm: Third Sunday of Lent

If today you hear His Voice, harden not your hearts.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday
11 March 8:00am **ROSARY AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
St Mary's Church Gatton
In the Spirit of the Eucharistic Renewal and to pray for peace in the Middle East – All welcome
- Friday
13 and 20 March 4:00pm **LENT – STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
5:00pm **St Patrick's Church Laidley**
St Mary's Church Gatton
- Wednesday
11 and 18 March 9:30am **LENTEN GROUPS**
Gatton Community Centre
- Friday
13 and 20 March 5:30pm **Gatton Community Centre**
- 
- Tuesday
17 March 9:00am **SAINT PATRICK'S DAY MASS**
St Patrick's Church, Laidley
The children of St Mary's School
All welcome
- Monday
23 March 6:30pm **SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION**
St Mary's Church Gatton
- Tuesday
24 March 8:00am **SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION**
St Patrick's Church Laidley

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028

A time for Eucharistic Renewal

In 2028, Sydney, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, an extraordinary global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Pilgrims from around the world will come together in worship, reflection, and celebration, united by a shared faith and a mission to carry Christ into the world. The Eucharistic Congresses began in the 1880s to promote reverence for **Christ's real presence in the Eucharist**, uniting Catholics in prayer and worship. They serve as vibrant, revitalising, faith-filled expressions of love for Jesus in the Eucharist. As we enter 2026, the **Year of Prayer**, the Church in Australia is given an opportunity to strengthen the foundations of our spiritual life. This year invites every community to renew its commitment to personal and communal prayer, preparing hearts to receive the deeper renewal that Eucharist28 seeks to foster. You will hear and see more over the coming months. **Eucharist28, A Moment to Believe!**

For more information visit: eucharist28.org

COMMUNITY NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

PROJECT COMPASSION

This week, we meet Ahmad who is a Caritas Jerusalem staff member in Gaza.

Ahmad, Gaza

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict. Through these repeated displacements, Ahmad found strength and solace in his work as part of Caritas Jerusalem's Media and Communications team.

Ahmad says, *"Thank God we work at Caritas, allowing us to serve people in the most challenging conditions despite the lack of medicine. How beautiful it is to see a mother or child come to you for help and to be able to provide them with support in the most difficult circumstances. This organisation helps us make our voices heard, which has brightened our days."*

LENT AND ALMSGIVING

The Catholic Church considers almsgiving **"a witness to fraternal charity"** and **"a work of justice pleasing to God"** (CCC No. 2462).

Almsgiving is the act of donating money or goods to the poor or performing other acts of charity. However, when defining almsgiving, it helps to understand the meaning behind the word itself. The roots of the word "alms" can be found in ancient Latin and Greek words meaning mercy and pity. Similarly, the root of the word "charity" comes from the Latin "caritas," meaning love. Charity, or almsgiving, is an outward sign of Christian love for others. Generally, it involves some type of sacrifice on behalf of the giver in order to provide for the needs of the other. In doing this, bonds of community are formed.

More than simply giving money, almsgiving is an act of love that can deepen our prayer life and bring a greater sense of meaning to fasting. Almsgiving incorporates the spiritual practices of prayer and fasting in a way that manifests itself by caring for our neighbours in need. It can deepen our prayer as we are brought into contact with our brothers and sisters who live in poverty and give us a greater understanding of what it means to go without while fasting. It can also prompt important questions: **Do I really need this? Am I consuming too much?** Almsgiving provides us with a human connection and the opportunity to see the impact that works of charity can have on others.

HELP RESTORE ST THERESE'S CHURCH, GLENORE GROVE TO ITS FORMER GLORY!

St Therese's Church at Glenore Grove is in need of outside renovation. The goal for 2026 is to raise funds to paint the outside of the church. Every donation whether large or small, is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Father Emmanuel or Brian Lyne on 0429 620 426. Donations can be made to:-

Account Name: St Therese Paint Project

BSB: 064-786

Account No: 100028952

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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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

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME:

Pauline Ferris, Kevin Litfin, Janice Litfin, Jean Gould, Mick Bugler, Monique Topp, Mavis Goos, Kelly Laurie, Helen Pescador, Fr Ray Wilson, Ben Quade, John Panzram, Leo Ziebarth, John McManus, Alice Ryan, Gertrude Legge, Fr Kevin Ryan, Lloyd Luck, Thomas Wolens, Monica Hauser, Zigmund Pitura and Maureen Fox

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?

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to register your details with the Parish. This will help us with up-to-date contact information. Parishioners and visitors are asked to register using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your phone
<https://olvcatholic.flocknote.com/register>

