





St Ignatius Parish TOOWONG

33rd Sunday Ordinary

19th November 2023





Holy Spirit Church Harriett Street, Auchenflower

Stop Blaming God for Your Hell!

Can we deny our destiny? Do we have that much power? Can we really choose our own future?

I don't think we believe we do. Traditional theology basically proclaims that God chooses our destiny. Who decides if we go to Heaven or Hell? God! And, if

that's the case, free will is a farce and, if free will is a farce, then the idea of being loved by God (in the ultimate sense of that word) is a myth. God can care for us, choose us, look after us ... but NOT love us, for Love, in its fullest meaning, is a mutual relationship. It can't be one-sided or forced upon us. If we love and are not loved in return, we don't have a love relationship; we just have a problem!

If we are truly free, we must have alternatives to choose from. And that must apply to the very core of our being. To be able to choose what flavour ice cream we like, but not how we live out life, has little to do with freedom. So it is with life. If we are given the freedom to accept the offer of heaven, we must also have the freedom to reject it. Otherwise, we are not responsible for our future and so, ultimately, free will is emasculated. "Hell" is the name we give to the opportunity to choose other than heaven.

I think the main problem with the idea of Hell is that we have blamed it on God. Our idea has been that Hell is a place to which God sends us for sinning. Not only does that turn God into a vicious ogre with a short fuse, but it doesn't even take sin seriously. It doesn't recognize that sin has its own in-built consequences. It relies rather on the vision that the only problem with sin is that there is some unrelated and imposed penalty connected with doing it ("Do that and I'll make you regret it for the rest of your life!"). But that is not true. Sin is sin because it damages us by the very fact that we do it!

If I can take an example: the real problem with speeding is not that I might get a ticket (which, true enough, can be a real pain in the wallet!), but that it is reckless driving which endangers my own life and that of others. To lose sight of that is to fail to recognize the real danger of speeding.

It is the same with sin. The problem with sin is not what God may do to me when I die, but what I am doing to myself NOW. Every time I sin, I am doing something anti-social, something that doesn't help my relationships with other people. When I sin, I am using other people rather than relating to them as human beings, whether that be sexually, politically, financially or socially. And, since we are creatures of habit formed by our actions, we are making ourselves more and more anti-social.

Some people have the naïve belief that, while they can't get along with anyone on earth, all of a sudden, when they meet God, it will all be sweetness and light. But, if we can't get along with anyone here, what makes us think we will get along any better with God. The problem isn't the other person's; it's ours. So John says in one of his Letters: "Anyone who says they love God and hates their neighbour is a liar. Because if you can't love your neighbour whom you can see, how can you love God whom you cannot see?" (1 John 4/20).

If I reject everybody in this life and try to manipulate them, then, sure as eggs, I'll try to do the same with God. I will reject God, or try to manipulate God and, when God sees through my machinations, I will lose interest in my relationship with God and head off on my own way. So, I choose my Hell. But it won't be God's work. It will be a Hell of my own making.

That doesn't mean that God gives up on us and wishes us to hell. On the contrary, God will do anything to prevent us ending up in our Hell. But God cannot deny us our free will, and so He I. Description of the contrary of

PARISH WEEKDAY MASSES: Holy Spirit Auchenflower: 9am Mondays and Fridays.

ST IGNATIUS Toowong: 5.30pm Tuesdays & Wednesdays & 9.15am Thursdays.

PARISH WEEKEND MASSES: Holy Spirit Auchenflower: Sunday 8.30am.

ST IGNATIUS Toowong: Saturday 6.00pm Vigil and **Sunday** 7.00am & 5.00pm.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR FR WREX'S RETIREMENT & WELCOME OF JESUITS

Important Update: Thank you to all who have registered to attend the lunch to farewell Fr. Wrex and welcome the Jesuits. The response has been so overwhelming that sadly we cannot accept any more registrations for luncheon.

However, everyone is welcome to attend the Thanksgiving Mass on **Sunday 26 November** at St Ignatius Church at 10am. ~ Please note, there will be no 7am Mass on this date.

Livestream. This Mass will be livestreamed if you are unable to attend (or can be viewed back later) - link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWmoPhzFzNw ~ Please note, 5pm Mass on this date will not be live-streamed.

Lift Access: People needing to access the lift will need to be dropped off at the entrance gates to the church. There can be no parking in the grounds or dropping off close to the lift due to the very limited space.

Volunteers. If you are unable to deliver your food donations or assist as planned, please advise Mary Anne Paddock on M: 0407 003 097 or E: padfam@iitnet.net.au ASAP so other arrangements can be made.

Gift for Fr Wrex. If you wish to make a financial contribution for the gift to Fr Wrex, please put an envelope marked 'Gift' in the collection at Mass or visit parish office (during office hours) or alternatively you can make one via credit card (Bpoint link— https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/toowong?BillerCode=2046332).

Choral Connection and conductor Will Brown present Gabriel Fauré Requiem Op. 48 .. from scratch.

On Saturday 25 November at St Ignatius Church.

All singers and audience members are warmly invited to join 'Choral Connection' for a 'from scratch" rehearsal and performance with chamber ensemble of this much-loved work.

Rehearsals: 9.30-11.30am, 12noon-2pm and Concert at 2.30pm.

Cost: *Performers: \$50 full price, \$40 Concession card & full-time student. (incl. light lunch and supper). *Audience member: \$30 Adults, \$25 Concession card & full-time student,

Children under-14: Free (including supper after performance). Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/1130387

GIVING TREE



Please remember the St Vincent de Paul Society's Toowong Conference at the "Giving Tree" during Advent.

From next weekend,

please take an envelope from under the 'Giving Tree' (either for a cash offering or credit card) and place on collection plate (please do not leave money in envelopes at the tree).

Tax deductible, receipts will be issued if name and address is supplied.

Toowong parishioner, Cormac Stagg, has recently published a book titled, 'The Quest for a Humble Heart', The Quest for a Humble Heart

which is available now.

You can purchase e-book or hard copy via Amazon, use this link—

<u> https://www.amazon.com.au/Quest-Humble-Heart-</u> Inner-Freedom/dp/0645706604/ or alternatively please contact Parish Office to arrange purchase of one of the limited copies Cormac has

made available for purchase via Parish Office. Cost: \$20 (cash only)





Empowering Mind Enriching Futures



Visit stignatiustoowong.qld.edu.au to find out more and enrol now

New CBA Smart Terminals are being trialled at St Ignatius Church.

Our Parish has now received two devices, to be positioned at church doors at weekend Masses, to receive your electronic donations. A great option for those wanting to give, but not carrying cash to put in collection basket.

To use, it is as simple as:

1. Choose the amount you would like to give, by touching the device screen (on \$5, \$10, \$20 or 'other amount'),

2. Then tap your credit card or smart phone over the device (as you would for any other electronic purchase).

As always, the Parish is forever grateful for any donation you are able to make and for your ongoing support of our parish. If you require any assistance with using the device, please speak to the Sacristan (at the Mass you are attending). Thank you.

Where to find YOUTUBE on Parish's new website (top of screen) select 'Our Parish' & (from drop-down list) select 'Parish YouTube Recordings' click on it & it will take you to the Parish's YouTube page (or alternatively scroll down page to the blue footer along bottom and click on the 'arrow' icon, which will take you to the Parish's YouTube page), from there you can select to stream Sunday 5pm Mass or view other parish recordings.

Readings: Thirty—Third Sunday: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6. Matthew 25:14-30.

Next Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28. Matthew 25:31-46.

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Spoken Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Sung Response: O Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways (repeat)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!



Your Prayers Are Requested For All Parishioners & friends who are sick & in need

Elizabeth Teresa, Tandina Gabriel, Cathy Mamata, Melissa Acosta, Doreen Waller, Matthew McKay, Nina Starkey, Lyndal & Grant Mitchell, Sr Marie Patrice rsm, Judy Hijin, John O'Rourke, Glenice Dickinson, Hannah Sinead, Susi Hopkins, Leigh Victoria, Adriana Meneses, Paul Massingham, Fr Michael Lowcock, Isabella Shand, David O'Connor, Liam O'Brien, Marie O'Sullivan, Glenice Dickinson, Denise Dimauro, Allison King, Zeneida Feril, Eugene Carniel, Allan Doxey, Patrice McKay, Margaret Twomey, Nat Lentz, Deb Galbraith, Melissa Grimsgard, Jeremy Ross, Teresa Galarza, Ange Beasley, Marie Anne Colman, Michael & Christine Hynes, Adrian Duffy, Kevin Anderson, Amy Frances Nugent, Josephine Cunningham.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Agnes Redding, Glenice Dickinson, Arline Nosovich.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fran Veronica Millar, Guillermo Prospero Sr, Benedict Sullivan.

BAPTISMS: Alice Trikamji, Theodore Nihill.



A Baptismal Prayer

Heavenly Father, In your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours.

Surround this child with your love, protect it from evil.

Fill it with the holy sZirit and receive it into the family of your church, that it may walk with us in th way of Christ, and grow in the knowledge of your love.



Diary Dates November

19 33rd Sunday Ordinary

Children's Liturgy during 8.30am Mass & after-Mass hospitality—Holy Spirit

Baptisms: 10.30am—St Ignatius

- 20 CWL meeting following 9am Mass— Holy Spirit
- **21** *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 22 Saint Cecilia
- **24** Saints Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

10am Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr Wrex's retirement & Welcome Jesuits—St Ignatius Followed by light lunch—Hall (Nb. No 7am Mass—St Ignatius.

*5pm Mass will not be livestreamed)

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DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS 33rd week Ordinary (1)

1st Reading Gospel

Mon: 1 Maaccabees 1:10-15, 41-43,54-57, 62-64. Luke 18:35-43.

Tues: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31. Luke 19:1-10. Wed: 2 M'bees 7:1, 20-31. Luke 19:11-28. Thurs: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29. Luke 19:41-44

Fri: 1 M'bees 4:36-37, 52-59. Luke 19:45-48 Sat: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13. Luke 20:27-40

PLEASE NOTE:

Parish Office will be CLOSED on Mondays until further notice.

<u>Please note</u>:

Any inclusions for the Parish newsletter should be marked to the attention of Parish Secretary & received, by email or note, at Parish Office no later than 12noon Thursdays. Thank you.

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Collections: \$3,379.65, *Other: Jesuit Mission (Concert 31/10): \$909.85.

<u>'CHILDREN'S LITURGY</u> is held during Holy Spirit's 8.30am Sunday Mass, fortnightly during school terms only. Children of all ages are welcome to attend **this Sunday** (19 November) it is an enjoyable way for our children to participate in the liturgy.

Works on ST Ignatius Church. Works are continuing (repairing surface of the church's front stairs and verandah area), which is expected to take until approx. mid—December. At this time the only access to St Ignatius Church will be by the side—entrance door. Temporary fencing has been installed preventing any access to stairs from both carpark-side and front-side of church (and hall's front entrance).

November Mass Envelopes. Mass offerings for Deceased relatives and friends. Envelopes are available now at both churches from rotary stands (and included in TG envelope packs). Please place into collection basket at weekend Masses. November Memorial Book is located in front of the altar (both churches); you are invited to write the names of those whom you would like to be remembered at all Masses during the month of November.

ATTENTION: READERS: 2024 'BREAK OPEN THE WORD' (YEAR B). Once again Fr Wrex is providing, free-of-charge, a copy of *Break Open The Word* to (rostered) 'Readers' in gratitude and to assist them with their Ministry (one copy per household). 'Reader' volunteers should have received an email from parish office during the week. Please collect your named envelope form the church where you are recorded as a Reader.

<u>St Vincent de Paul, Toowong</u> will selling Christmas Cards (packs of 5) - \$ TBC and 2024 Columban Calendars—\$10 each. Both will be available at both churches soon.

ST Ignatius Peace Through Justice Group.

There will be a **Silent Vigil hour** held on **Tuesday 21 November** at St Ignatius Church, from 6—7pm, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as an opportunity for parishioners to pray for peace in the Middle East.

We are pleased to announce our **Fundraising Stall** will be held on **2–3 December**, at all Masses. There will be delicious home—baked items and a range of craft items and plants suitable for Christmas gifts. The proceeds will go equally to Louise Sullivan's Sudan Education for Peace charity and to the Ethiopian fistula hospital. We welcome any contributions of baked goods or craft items from parishioners.

Advent Angels. To make this Advent season special we have made some small, beautifully handcrafted wooden angels with candles. See flyer on church notice-boards for full details or www.stignatiustoowong.org.au/st-ignatius-peace-through-justice-group/Early orders are welcome.



Limited copies of **November edition** are available now, at both churches for **\$4 each** (please place your payment in money-box provided).

PARISH WEBSITE, https://www.stignatiustoowong.org.au/, provides links to:

*Read Parish's weekly Newsletter and a new page 'Sunday Liturgy' contains that Sundays Readings and Fr Wrex's latest homily;

*VIEW Parish's YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLghy4aXqqJRrUILiXPjoSA?view_as=subscriber, to

STREAM 5PM SUNDAY MASS from St Ignatius Church each Sunday (or watch previous MASS OR EVENT RECORDINGS).

Archdiocesan Links: *Watch Mass live from St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane (8am Weekdays, 8am & 10am Sundays) go to http://archbne.org/bzw *View '2 MINUTE HOMILIES' for Sunday's Gospel (featuring clergy from parishes around Archdiocese of Brisbane).

Service of Solidarity with Gaza and the Holy Land

In a time of deep sorrow and anguish for us all, we look for hope and

Let us come together in love, prayer and support. Let us acknowledge the reality that impacts us all as we share messages of hope.

The Australian Catholic Bishops have said: 'Peace can come only from justice. We call people of faith to pray with us for a lasting peace and the triumph of human dignity.'

Please join us: Monday 27 November, 4:30 to 5:00 pm AEDT



Everyone is welcome. Please register in advance for this webinar:

https://caritas.zoom.us/ webinar/register/WN_DWjzzzhRoGN8Q0ifg61Zg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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OUR MISSION PRAYER

We, the St Ignatius community, are called to live the good news. We pray that we become the people that Jesus Christ called us to be. We pray that we know the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit through knowing Jesus in prayer, scripture and liturgy. We pray that we give hope to others by a practical, personal kindness,

affirming each person's dignity, worth and destiny in Christ. May we live out this mission of our Christian vocation in the spirit of St. Ignatius.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

Archdiocese of Brisbane's Office for Safeguarding https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/support/safeguard/ Privacy Policy -

https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/privacy-policy

STOPline Service. STOPline is an external service provided for the Archdiocese to receive confidential disclosures. Disclosures can be made anonymously. Phone: 1300 304 550 | Email: AOB@stopline.com.au | Online: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com



When making out your will please consider the needs of the parish.

Parish WEBSITE www.stignatiustoowong.org.au Current Newsletter now on our website!

Parish Office Information

Parish Office Hours: Monday* to Friday 10am—3pm (* closed on Mondays until further notice)

Email: toowong@bne.catholic.net.au Postal Address: 30 Kensington Terrace, Toowong Qld 4066. Phone: 07 3870 7818. Website: www.stianatiustoowong.org.au Facebook: St-Ignatius-Parish-Toowong *Instagram:* st.iggysyouth

We are part of the Brisbane West Deanery ~ website: www.brisbanewestdeanery.com.au email: bwdeanery@bne.catholic.net.au

Emergency Contact If you require a priest in an emergency, please phone the parish priest on 0402 049 017.

* Fr Wrex Woolnough, PARISH PRIEST

Mobile: 0402 049 017

Parish Office Staff

Monica Florence (Tues-Fri) - PARISH SECRETARY (including Newsletter)

Safeguarding Children <u>& Vulnerable Adults</u>

Janine Curcuruto -



LOCAL SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

M: 0412 452 164. Email: <u>lsr.toowong@bne.</u> catholic.net.au

or jscur@icloud.com

Liturgical Ministry:-Holy Spirit Church *Ministry Roster:

Pat Lve 0434 894 922 *Children's Liturgy Roster: Danielle Younger

St Ignatius Church. *Ministry Roster: Liz Alvey

& James Donaldson E: alveydonaldson@gmail.com

*Altar Server Convenor: Tony Nguyen 0411 484 137

Parish Pastoral Council Stan Sielaff—Acting-Chair

Finance & Development —Chair

Musical Director Anthony Young

PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Ignatius Parish TOOWONG

Principal— Duncan Maitland APRE—Sue Suter 46 Grove Street Toowong Qld 4066 Phone: 3371 1094 www.stignatiustoowong. <u>qld.edu.au</u>

* **OSHC**— 3870 3270

Queensland's Privacy Scheme and the Commonwealth Government's legislation deals with the manner in which private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. The Parish of Toowong is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in both the legislations and Privacy Scheme and by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. A copy of the Parish's Privacy Policy is available to any parishioner by contacting the Parish Office on 3870 7818 during office hours.