ST PAUL'S PARISH WOODRIDGE

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY
10 - 11 JANUARY 2026 YEAR A

RESPONSE: THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is My Beloved Son, hear Him. Alleluia!

STOPline—If you think it's wrong...report it. STOPline is an independent service that receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by workers (including priests, religious, employees, educators, practitioners, support workers and volunteers). Phone: 1300 304 550; Email: AOB@stopline.com.au. Information can be provided anonymously.

Parishioners and visitors are invited to sign-up to Flocknote, our communication tool. Our Parish (and the Archdiocese of Brisbane) has officially adopted Flocknote, as well as all parishes, as a safe, new, and improved way of communicating in parishes. Flocknote is free for parishioners to use, and there is no need to download anything. Your information is kept secure and private. It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up. Then we can communicate with you more easily via email.

PARISH INFORMATION

Website: www.stpaul'swoodridge.org

Parish Priest **FR LADU JAMES YANGA** **Ph (07) 3808 4134**
Presbytery 75 Ewing Road, Woodridge Ph 3808 7661 (8pm-8am)

Parish Office **3 St Paul's Drive, Woodridge** **Ph 3808 4134**
Postal Address PO Box 98 Woodridge 411 4
Email Address **woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au**
Office Hours **Monday-Friday 10am-4:30pm**
Parish Secretary **Nelda Ward-Naughton** **Ph (07) 3808 4134**
Administration Officer **Mary Ann Policios Barbour** **Ph (07) 3808 4134**
Pastoral Council Chairman: **Peter Geidamovics**
Email: pastoral.woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au
Pastoral Council Secretary: **Marina Ene**

St Paul's School Principal: Helen Boyes **Ph (07) 3208 2868**
St Paul's Primary School Email: **pwoodridge@bne.catholic.edu.au**
RCIA Coordinator: **Tess Vethecan-Kessels**

WH&S & Local Safeguarding Officer: Marina Ene
Email: safeguarding.woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au
Custodians Coordinator: Marina Ene
Email: stpaulcustodian@gmail.com
St Vincent de Paul Helpline - 1800 846 643

Custodians on duty

5— 11 Jan 26	**Costello & Ula Afakasi**
12 —18 Jan 26	**Chris & Joycelyn Veamatahau**
19 – 25 Jan 26	**Sofeni & Sally Pa'apa'a**

Parish Caretaker: **Glen Reiha**
Parish Liaison Officer to ROSIES: **Margaret Harvey** Mob: 0411 300 209

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

9 AM — MONDAY-WED-THU-FRIDAY-SATURDAY
TUESDAYS - NO MASS
The Rosary and Divine Mercy prayers are said before these Masses.
HEALING MASS - 9AM 1st Wednesday of the month
TRINDER PARK AGED CARE MASS—1:30 pm - 1st Friday of the month
ARCARE AGED CARE SLACKS CREEK MASS—11am—2nd Thursday of the month

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

6PM SATURDAY
SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9AM
SYRIAC MASS –SUNDAYS 4-8PM
AFRICAN MASS—3rd SUNDAY 12PM
ZOMI MASS- 1STSUNDAY 11AM
KARENNI MASS-4TH SUNDAY- 10:30AM

RECONCILIATION

Sat: 5.15pm-5.45pm or by appointment with Priest

BENEDICTION- Fridays after 9am Mass and during Our Lady of Fatima devotions on the 13th of each month.

PRAYER GROUPS:

Divine Mercy – Mondays 5:30pm-9:30pm—Church

Marian Cenacle - Wed 9.30am -Church

Confraternity of Our Lady Help of Christians - Fridays, 10am - Meeting Room
Adorers of the Eucharist -7:30 pm every **1st Friday** of the month - Church

Holy Trinity (Charismatic) -10am— **2nd Sunday** of the month- Meeting Room

Our Lady of Fatima every 13th of the month, 6:30 pm—Church
Maria Rosary Group –2pm every 1st Friday of the month - Meeting Room

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Please obtain the required forms from the Parish Office via email, or in person, Complete and submit the forms along with the applicant's birth certificate ahead of the actual baptism preparation meetiing with Parish Priest. at 3pm every Wednesday. Booking for a meeting with Parish Priest is essential. Baptisms are celebrated individually Baptism—Sundays

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 9am except school holidays.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

By appointment with priest

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH OPERATING EXPENSES:

Small hosts – 6 jars (1,000 count)	- $170.24
Medium hosts – 3 boxes of 50 pcs.	- 41.85
Large hosts – 10 boxes of 10 pcs	- 149.50
Energy Australia – parish	- 444.54
Electricity – church shared w/ school/month	-335.94
Origin – presbytery-quarterly	- 297.83
AGL – presbytery – quarterly	- 161.12
Industrial bin collection-monthly	- 385.69
Rates – church & presbytery	- 1,244.75
Rates - church shared w/ school/quarterly	- 1,430.48
Jani King– cleaners for church facilities/mo	- 778.13
Office internet & telephone –monthly	- 439.41
Repairs & Maintenance – Church	- 3,259.80
Repairs & Maintenance – Presbytery	-24,550.00
Total Operating Expenses	- $33,689.28

Plus Miscellaneous Expenses – varies each time

Total collections from weekend Masses over Christmas including last week is $8,593.50. Thank you all for your generosity and continual support to the parish. God bless everyone.

GOOD NEWS! FR LADU JAMES YANGA – offers to do one Wedding for free at St Paul's Catholic Parish, Woodridge. Please call (07) 3808 4134 for information.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION – will start on Friday, 13th of February 2026. For more information please contact Miguel Miranda on 0434 330 378 or Ana Vilma Miranda on 0466 721 942.

RITE OF ELECTION 2026:

The Rite of Election 2026 in the Archdiocese of Brisbane will be celebrated in the Cathedral of St Stephen on the First Sunday of Lent, 22 February, at 3:00 pm.

Important Information About The Rite of Election –

Who comes? Catechumens (those who will be baptised, confirmed & receive Eucharist at Easter); Candidates for Reception into the Catholic Church. (While the Rite of Election is for catechumens, those preparing for reception into the Catholic Church and who were received during the year stand with the baptised and support the catechumens.) Candidates will be acknowledged and prayed for during the liturgy; Sponsors, godparents, catechists, parish priests, parish RCIA team members, and the families and friends of the catechumens and candidates.

What happens? The ceremony begins with a Liturgy of the Word. After the homily, the rite unfolds in two distinct movements, reflecting the different journeys of Candidates for Reception and Catechumens.

1. Candidates for Reception into Full Communion
2. Rite of Election of Catechumens
3. Conclusion of the Rite

What do we bring? The parish Book of the Elect. Make sure it is worthy of the occasion! Food & drink for afternoon tea on the lawns after ceremony. A coffee van will be present. St Paul's Catholic Parish, Woodridge RCIA coordinator is Tess V-Kessels on 0409 618 956.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Matthew 3:13-17

This passage is Matthew's version of Jesus undergoing John's ritual washing as the sign of a change of heart. John had been preaching that the time of the Messiah's coming was at hand and that people needed to prepare themselves for this by smartening up their lives and doing away with whatever did not gel with a commitment to God. John invited the people who listened to him to come forward into the Jordan River and be dipped or immersed in the water. We have to give John credit for using a familiar Jewish cleansing ritual to give people a physical experience of their decision to turn back to their God.

The Greek verb used by Matthew, Mark and Luke for 'dip' or 'duck' is *baptizein*, from which we get baptize and baptism. But to speak of the 'baptism of Jesus' seems to suggest that He submitted to sacramental baptism, which, of course, had not been instituted or set up at this stage. In effect, Jesus was endorsing John's ritual as a physical symbol of being washed from sin and a return to the Lord.

In both the Hebrew of the Jewish Scriptures, and Aramaic, the language of Jesus and His Jewish contemporaries, repentance is viewed as primarily as a return to God.

The full impact of this event is described by Matthew as a Spirit experience, Jesus emerges from the water with His own inspired gut-feeling that He is called to embark on a prophetic mission. – Laurie Woods

2026 LENTEN RESOURCE – THE JOURNEY HOME:

Archdiocesan Ministries has developed a new Lenten reflection resource for 2026 called 'The Journey Home'. The Journey Home features daily reflections written by our guest writer, Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. Designed to be used by individuals and in small groups, each day offers a reflection on the Gospel and prompts for your personal reflection.

For more information or to pre-order, please visit – lentprogram.com.au

Stock will be available for delivery or collection from early January.

MONDAY EVENING DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETING in the ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 WEEKS STARTING MONDAY, 29 DECEMBER 2025 – 12 JANUARY 2026 AT 5:30 PM in the CHURCH. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Intentions for the Divine Mercy Chaplet centre on obtaining mercy for oneself and the world, trusting in Jesus' mercy, showing mercy to others, and interceding for specific groups like sinners, the dying, the lukewarm, and souls in purgatory, as revealed to St. Faustina. You can pray for general needs, personal conversion, healing, or specific people, trusting God's will for great graces and defence at the hour of death.

For more information please contact Marina 0426 011 160.

ROSTERS

CLEANERS – JANUARY 2026

9-10 January 2026: Burundian Community
16-17 January 2026: Divine Mercy Group
23-24 January 2026: Syriac Community
30-31 January 2026: Sri Lankan Community

READERS THIS WEEK: 10/11 JANUARY 2026

6PM	7:30AM	9AM
Atele Ula	Theresa Tominiko	Holy Trinity
Pesi Silao	Shana Tominiko	Choir
Marina Ene	Lillian Tagaloa	

READERS NEXT WEEK: 17/18 JANUARY 2026

6PM	7:30AM	9AM
Julita Jaurigue	Jeannie Stehr	Divine Mercy
Andrea Nigodemo Idris	Mago Ioane Tausaga	Choir
Rebecca De Los Ama	Marina Ene	

THIS WEEK'S READINGS- 10/11 JANUARY 2026 (THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR A)

1. 1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
2. 2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38
3. Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS–17/18 JANUARY 2026 (2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A)

1. 1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
2. 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
3. Gospel: John 1:29-34

PIETY STORE – Opening hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am – 10:30 am. Saturdays: 6:45 pm, Sundays: 8:15 am and 10 am.

vocation BRISBANE.com

Baptism is the starting point; union with God is our goal. How we serve others in between is our vocation. To talk to someone about your vocation, contact Vocation Brisbane, by calling 1300 133 544 or by email vocation@bne.catholic.net.au

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD/ANNIVERSARIES – We pray for all the holy souls in purgatory, our family members, our friends, and people who have died in Ukraine, Israel, & Gaza. May they rest in peace.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK – We pray for God's healing touch for David ALVARADO, Ndayizeye Lina GABRIELL, Liliana DERNIER, Reba WILSON, Bev ANDERSON, Abner TAGALA, Kevin HICKS, and all the sick of the parish. May the healing power of Jesus Christ breathe across your being now.

ST PAUL'S PARISH, WOODRIDGE BANK DETAILS:
For those who wish to donate directly online. Thank you.
Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Parish, Woodridge
BSB: 064 786
Account Number: 100 001046

POOR BOX – for the last two weekends is $372.75. Thank you.

2026 SAFEGUARDING AUDIT PROCESS OVERVIEW:

In 2026 the Office for Safeguarding Services will be focusing on the Safeguarding Audits through a different lens. Essentially parishes, ministries and services will be conducting a self-assessment. Sel-assessments were successfully trialled in 2025 across 10 parishes utilising the Guardian system. In 2026 we will NOT be using Guardian for the self-assessment, rather it will be a web-based, easy-use document via Snapforms on the Safeguarding webpage.

DON'T PANIC!

The process is very easy, step-by-step user guides will be provided and we will be here to assist if need be either on-site or remotely. There will be no need to provide or upload evidence, this will be held locally and provided on request if need be. Upon submission of the self-assessment an Action Plan will be generated and provided to you to address.

Why are approaching audits this way?

Over the past three years The Archdiocese has stagnated with an average Safeguarding Audit rating of 70% whether this was via an internal audit, an external audit or an ACSL audit. While this is encouraging result, consistently there were four areas where the vast majority of parishes struggled to comply.

1. Blue cards and police checks.
2. Safeguarding Training
3. Risk Assessments; and
4. Facilities Use Agreements for third-parties.

Where to from here? Processes are being finalised and testing underway. From Safeguarding Office.

LAUGHS: LAURIE WOODS

A surgeon, an engineer and a politician were arguing about which profession was the oldest. The doctor said, 'Well, in the account of creation God took a rib from Adam, so surgery is the oldest profession.' The engineer said, 'But before that, God created the heavens and the earth from chaos, so engineering is the oldest profession.' And the politician said, 'Yes, but who do you think created the chaos?'

PRAYERS FOR YOU:

Don't trust to hold God's hand; Let Him do the holding … and you the trusting.
– Hammer William; Webb-Peploe

FLOCKNOTE:

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All parishioners are encouraged to scan the QR code on the front page of the newsletter to register. God bless.

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Phone: 07 5660 0793
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Happy Washing!

NEXT TO "FOODWORKS WOODRIDGE"

RUMMIKUB = Wednesdays 10am-3pm in Room 1 at the Adult Ed Centre Cost: 2 BYO Lunch Contact Reba 0403 482 210 or Anne 0403 300 660.

CARPET BOWLS – Every Thursday 10-12pm in the Fr David Batey Hall. Joining fee $2 Session $4 Contact Connie on 0423 004 684

TAI CHI CLASS – Thursdays 5pm-6pm in Fr David Batey Hall with Joseph Cheng – 0434 445 678.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MIGRATION ADVICE SERVICE - This **FREE** service of a Migration Agent/Lawyer is offered on the **1st Saturday of each month from 10am-1pm in the Meeting Room at St Paul's Parish, Woodridge. An Appointment is essential. This advisory service is for those who cannot afford the services of a migration agent/lawyer. Please ring 1 800 846 643 between 6pm and 9pm.**

MAKE IT FABRICS – Do you love sewing but on a budget? See Paola at Shop 4/54 Kingston Rd, Underwood Tel: (07) 3162 4700 for budget sewing materials, laces, trims and sewing machine repairs.

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