

**PARISH OF ST LUKE**

**TOOWOOMBA**

# **PARISH PROFILE**



**We seek to be:**

- ☐ **Focused in Christ**
- ☐ **Joyful and Inclusive**
- ☐ **Compassionate and Active in Witness**

# Profile Summary

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## City of Toowoomba

The city of Toowoomba is the largest inland provincial city in Australia, with extensive manufacturing, education, health, retail and professional services. The population of Toowoomba is around 140,000. It is situated on the eastern escarpment of the Great Dividing Range, almost 700 metres above sea level, with a pleasant climate with temperature ranges averaging 5°–16°C in winter and mild 17°–27°C in Summer. Toowoomba offers the best of both worlds: a relaxed country heritage combined with all the amenities of a bustling modern city. It is home to the Empire Theatre, the largest regional theatre in Australia, and the Cobb & Co Museum. Brisbane is within easy access being just 90 minutes' drive away. The city is an urban centre in South-East Queensland and is the gateway to the Golden West Region, also known as the Darling Downs. The major employment areas in the city are the manufacturing, retail, health, education and service industries, while two major Australian Defence Force establishments in the vicinity contribute to both employment and the general economy of the city.

The city has four major hospitals: two (Toowoomba Base and Baillie Henderson) are state public hospitals, while St Andrew's and St Vincent's are private hospitals. Toowoomba has many schools and other educational institutions offering more primary, secondary, post-secondary training and university education per capita than many other regions in Australia. There is strong economic growth resulting from the development of energy resources found in the Surat Basin, Wellcamp Airport and Business Park, Charlton Industrial Complex, expanding technologies in agriculture, and the proposed Inland Rail link.

With more than 150 public parks and gardens to explore, it is little wonder that Toowoomba is known as the Garden City which is celebrated during the spectacular Carnival of Flowers each September.

## Parish History

St Luke's was one of the four churches established on the Darling Downs by Reverend Benjamin Glennie, the others being St Matthew's Drayton, St Mark's Warwick and St John's in Dalby. The western section of the present St Luke's church was dedicated in February 1897, while the eastern section was dedicated in October 1959. The south transept and clergy vestry were never completed.



*St Luke's Parish Hall*



## A Summary of the Parish

There are three centres that make up the Parish of St Luke.

**St Luke's Church** is located within the grounds of the parish ministry centre in the centre of Toowoomba's CBD. This bluestone church and the adjacent parish hall are both heritage listed. Within these landscaped grounds there is also the Parish Office, the Regional Bishop's Office, and the city Labyrinth. The Regional Anglicare Office is on the neighbouring site and strengthens the strong sense of shared Anglican ministry and mission in the city.

**St Mark's Church** was built in 1970 to cater, at the time, for the growing suburb of Rangeville. The modern 1970's church building has an attached annex and kitchen and a lovely outside enclosed courtyard that provides safety for children from the street. There is a separate hall on the grounds. The congregation of St Mark's aspire to their mission statement "In the Power of the Holy Spirit to Make Jesus Known".

**All Saints' Church** located in East Toowoomba, dates back to 1888 and had various additions in the early 1900's to the original building, including an attached hall and kitchen. The general architecture of the period – a simple wooden building but with lancet-type windows and internal pillars and arches –has always been retained in any works carried out. The church has a Victorian pseudo-gothic structure with furnishings to match, and expansive low maintenance grounds.



*St Mark's Church  
9 High Street, Rangeville*



*All Saints' Church  
26 Arthur Street,  
East Toowoomba*

The current rhythm of worship in the Parish is:

### **St Luke's:**

Sunday: 8am Eucharist  
10am Family Service  
5pm: Contemplative Service

### **St Mark's:**

10am Eucharist

### **All Saints':**

Services currently  
suspended

Thursday: 10.15am Eucharist

Weekdays: 8.30am Morning Prayer

Services of Holy Communion are also celebrated in four nursing homes:  
2nd Wednesday - Willow Glen, Tri-Care, BUPA and Infinite Care.

Baptism Services are currently held at St Luke's at the 10am service.  
Baptisms can also be arranged by request at St Mark's.

### **Our Ministry Team in 2023:**

The Rector, a part-time Admin and Communications Officer, an A/V assistant for Sunday morning services at St Luke's, some very able retired clergy, and heaps of brilliant volunteers! The volunteers assist with the running of worship services, ensure rostered work is done, maintain the grounds, attend to building maintenance, minister to people in need through the Pantry, visit home-bound parishioners, run the plant nursery, assist at regular public concerts, and bless many areas of our community life.

### **Community Relationships and Ecumenical Involvement**

- The Parish is involved in civic and ecumenical activities.
- The Parish is supportive of the Diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan.
- We have good working relationships with the Toowoomba Regional Council.
- The annual floral display in St Luke's Church, together with various stalls and activities in the grounds, as part of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, draws visitors from all over Australia and overseas. The Carnival activities are also an important parish fund-raiser.
- St Luke's church is used for various musical events, such as visiting orchestras and choral productions, while the pipe organ is used both for public recitals by recognised organists and for church services. St Luke's church is also used by various community organisations, such as the Police, and the RSL for its Remembrance Day service. The Glennie School uses St Luke's for their annual Founder's Day service, as does Toowoomba Anglican School for their annual Carol Service.
- All three church halls and the Benjamin Room in the parish ministry centre are rented for various community activities and community organisations.
- There are good relationships with other churches in Toowoomba, and with other faith groups.
- Toowoomba is a multicultural and multi-faith city with a strong commitment to peace and harmony. Congregations within the Parish have engaged with this reality in a range of ways over the years.

### **Plans and Vision for the future**

The vision of the Parish is to have active congregations in the heart of our city who are Christ-centred, joyful, and inclusive, while being compassionate and active in witness. We have a wonderful heritage and faithful, gifted, hard-working people.

We have identified our strengths and weaknesses through participating in a number of Natural Church Development (NCD) surveys (*our strengths are gift-based ministry and loving relationships; our weaknesses are evangelism and passionate spirituality*). We have identified three priority areas through the Diocesan Vision consultation process in relation to Worshipping, Proclaiming, Serving and Learning.

### **1. To Grow as a Worshipping Welcoming Community**

- More effectively follow up and nurture newcomers.
- Continue to build relationships with community leaders and businesses.
- To be theologically grounded in the Bible and best modern scholarship within the depth of Anglican tradition.
- To be known as a praying community and seek to develop and enhance our life of prayer at every level.

### **2. To Strive for Growth as a Christian Community**

- Recruit and resource a part-time Intergenerational Minister.
- Improve communications within the Parish: e-newsletter, website, & Facebook
- Better enable and encourage the participation of children in worship.
- Offer gathering events for baptism families.
- Offer more opportunities for learning and fellowship.
- Increase the number of small groups and provide resources for learning.
- Establish a young-parents study group.

### **3. To Offer Community Outreach**

- Develop stronger community partnerships eg Anglicare, Toowoomba Regional Council, the Glennie School, Toowoomba Anglican School, the Toowoomba Grammar School.
- Develop the weekly outreach of the Plant Stall on Saturday mornings.
- Extend pastoral care to those who access the Parish Larder.
- Be more intentional with the outreach opportunities created by our regular concerts. This includes the monthly Thursday concert.
- Recognise the need to pursue social justice as part of the Christian gospel.

#### *More broadly we aim to:*

- Guide and empower parishioners on their faith journey.
- Encourage children and young people to grow in their faith.
- Provide a safe environment for worship.
- Support and provide training to lay and ordained ministry.
- Encourage parents and grandparents to share their faith with their children.
- Encourage all people to recognise and use their gifts in the life of the church.
- Support people in their outreach to community.
- Encourage cheerful giving.
- Be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.
- Be thankful for the grace of God and the generosity of our parishioners.
- Provide effective administration.
- Minister to members of the parish who are unable to physically attend services.
- Support and be involved in ecumenical fellowship.

## **The qualities, abilities & experience we seek in a new Rector**

Someone who:

1. has a great love for God, and a great love for people.
2. prays and encourages others to pray.
3. has the ability to preach and teach in an engaging way so that people are nurtured in their life of faith.
4. has the ability to prepare and lead both traditional and contemporary Anglican worship well.
5. has a demonstrated ability to lead and work collaboratively.
6. will recognise and encourage the gifting of others.
7. has enthusiasm to motivate and inspire others.
8. has the ability to develop strategies for our church to grow and develop further our evolving Vision. (The 2022 Vision document is available on request)
9. has knowledge of the Diocese and Parish administration processes.

### **MISSIONAL PRAYER**

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Parish Contact Details

Address: 152 Herries St, Toowoomba, QLD 4350  
Postal Address: PO Box 2434, Toowoomba, QLD 4350  
  
Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm  
  
Telephone: 07 4639 1910  
Email: [stluke.tmba@bigpond.com](mailto:stluke.tmba@bigpond.com)  
Website: [www.stlukestoowoomba.org.au](http://www.stlukestoowoomba.org.au)

### *Available on Request:*

- Parish Vision Statement
- Financial Statements / Parish Budget

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to this role, or you have any questions please contact our regional Bishop Cam Venables

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