

St Thomas More's Parish

*St Thomas More's Catholic Parish, a welcoming people of faith,
lives out God's Mission, embracing love, justice and peace.*

We acknowledge the Giabal and Jarowair people, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

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Parish Council Email: parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Website: www.stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Facebook Page: [@stmparishtwmba](https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba)

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B, 21 - 22 April, 2018

Readings: Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

This year we celebrate World Earth Day on Good Shepherd Sunday. The liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus as the noble or good shepherd of the believing community. "Shepherd" in its literal sense is not really part of our 21st century vocabulary, and yet we use it metaphorically, as a verb or as a noun. Its verbal form connotes care and compassion, protection, guidance and tender relationship. In John's gospel, Jesus rightly claims for himself the title "good shepherd". He contrasts the good shepherd or leader with the leader that fails to care for the flock. Knowing one's sheep, staying with them in the face of mortal danger and being prepared to die for them are marks of the good shepherd.

There are echoes here of the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly of Ezekiel 34 where the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor describes the leaders of Israel in their relationships with the people. There are likewise echoes of an early second century description of the Emperor Tiberius in whose reign Jesus of Nazareth was executed, precisely because he did not abandon his "flock". The Roman historian Suetonius has this to say of Tiberius: "To the governors who recommended burdensome taxes for his provinces, he wrote in answer that it was the part of a good shepherd to shear his flock, not skin it" (Suetonius, Life of Tiberius 32.2).

In the pre-industrial biblical world and early centuries of the Common Era, the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor was heard by an audience that enjoyed a much closer relationship with sheep and their human carers than do most people today. In Australia, for instance, there are 71 million sheep and almost 25 million people. In other words, the ovine inhabitants of Australia outnumber the human by almost three to one. Yet most of our highly urbanised human population knows its sheep only in their disembodied forms. The human-ovine relationship is, for the most part, reduced to that of consumer and consumed. Sheep are valued, not for their intrinsic goodness as creations of a loving God, but rather as commodities that provide food and clothing for the human population. We now know that modern domesticated sheep evolved from creatures that pre-date modern humans. We might take time to consider the implications of this for our relationship with the other-than-human inhabitants of our planetary home.

Celebrating World Earth Day on Good Shepherd Sunday provides us with an opportunity to move beyond our human-centred views of the world and our human-centred interpretations of our sacred texts. We might hear a call to value the realities that underpin gospel images such as the Good Shepherd/sheep metaphor. We might also hear a call to expand our appreciation of all the inhabitants of our planet. To be good shepherds in our time is to embrace the whole Earth Community with reverence and compassion.

(Reflection by Sister of Mercy, Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, Theologian and Biblical Scholar)

Parish Leader:..... Michael Bermingham
Priest Director: Peter Dorfield
Pastoral Council: Julie Hintz
Finance Committee: Tim Davis
Secretary:..... Donna Pugh
Secretary:..... Jenny Bartkus
School Principal:..... Michael Cash
APRE: Lee ann Weekes
School Board.....Matt Andreas
Parish Safeguards Representatives:
Maree Keating – 0435 173 882
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 23 - 29 April, 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P.
7.00pm.....Revenue Committee
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass
Wednesday 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
7.00pm.....Meditation
Friday 9.00am.....Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup
11.00am.....Meditation

Fifth Sunday of Easter- Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8



April 2018

25 April – Anzac Day – Office Closed

30 April – Parish Pastoral Council – Agenda Meeting

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Enrolment for Confirmation and First Communion:

Enrolment of the children for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion will take place at both Masses on the weekend of 28 and 29 April. This is an opportunity for the community to welcome the children and their families and to offer them our support and prayers as the children complete their initiation into the Church Community. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at St Thomas More's on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 7.00pm. First Communion will be celebrated at both Masses on the weekend of 23 and 24 June 2018. Any queries, please contact Michael on 0407 804 461 or by email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

Farewell to Fr Peter Dorfield – 21 and 22 April:

This weekend, Fr Peter Dorfield is celebrating both Masses. This is a chance to say our thanks and farewells before Fr Peter steps down as Administrator at St Pat's and our Priest Director. To honour the occasion, we have wine and cheese after Mass on Saturday night. and a cuppa after Mass on Sunday morning.

Date Claimer – Pot Luck Dinner and Parish Dance:

Please reserve Friday 1 June in your calendars for a Pot Luck Dinner and Parish Dance under the guidance of accomplished dance instructor and music director, Peter Vernon. The evening will commence at 7 pm and will cater for all ages. More details to follow.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

World Day of Prayer for Vocations:

This weekend, the 4th Sunday of Easter, is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis this year has focused on the forthcoming Synod of Bishops to discuss the theme of young people and in particular the relationship between young people, faith and vocation. Copies of the Pope's message are available in the Church foyer near the noticeboard. Vocations Contacts for the Diocese are Father Jamie Collins (Roma) and Father Gonzalo Duran (Chinchilla).

St Mary's College – Anzac Day Service

St Mary's College Toowoomba cordially invites Old Boys who are returned and ex-servicemen to participate in the College ANZAC Day Commemoration Service on Tuesday 24/4/18. To register your interest and to be included in the March of Veterans please contact Mrs Lucia Armstrong at the College on 4631 7333 or email: armstrong@stmaryscollege.com

St Joseph's College Enrolments:

Enrolment interviews for students wishing to enter Year 7 in 2020 will commence during Semester 2, 2018. If you are considering applying to St Joseph's for enrolment in Year 7, 2020 please complete an Enrolment Application Form and forward to the College. Enrolments for 2020 will be finalised by the end of Semester 2, 2018. If you intend enrolling your child at St Joseph's for 2020, you are urged to do so as soon as possible.

St Joseph's College Open Day 2020 will be conducted on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 commencing at 8.30am and concluding at 12.00pm. To request an enrolment package, please contact the Enrolment Officer on: Phone 4631 8525 or by email: enrolments@sjc.qld.edu.au For more information about St Joseph's College please visit our website: www.sjc.qld.edu.au

Cent Sale:

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are holding their MOTHER'S DAY Cent Sale on SATURDAY MAY 5. It will be held at ALL SEASONS FUNCTION HALL, cnr North and Tor Sts TOOWOOMBA. Doors will open at 12.30pm for a 1.30pm start. For an entry fee of \$5 each will receive a Free Sheet of Tickets, Lucky Door Entry and a Buffet Afternoon Tea. Excellent gifts for Mother's Day are among the prizes. All Proceeds go to Charity. For further information contact the Sisters on 4632 1818.

Downlands Open Day:

Downlands College Open Day is on Sunday 20 May 10.00am – 2.00pm. All welcome to attend.

St Saviours Open Evening:

Open Evening will be held on Tuesday 15 May from 3.00pm to 6.00pm. All welcome.

Palms Australia:

Palms Australia is looking for volunteers from all walks of life to share their skills with communities in Africa, Asia and The Pacific. The next information session is on Saturday 5 May at the Toowoomba City Library Community Meeting Room 2, commencing at 10.30am until 12.00 noon. RSVP www.palms.org.au/volunteer

SPRED FUNDRAISER: STEEL MAGNOLIAS

DATE: 3/5/18

TIME: 7:00am

LOCATION: Repertory Theatre, Toowoomba

RSVP: SPRED on 07 4632 8427 or spred@twb.catholic.org.au

COST: \$20 per ticket

Join the SPRED community for a night of laughs at the SPRED Repertory Theatre fundraising event to be held on Thursday, 3rd May 2018. This year's production is 'Steel Magnolias'.

Bus Trip Mariam Valley:

Saturday 19th May. Bus departs Neil St., outside St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7:30 am. Cost \$25. For bookings contact Theresa on 4564 9805, Mob. 0434 528 904.

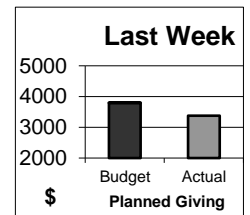
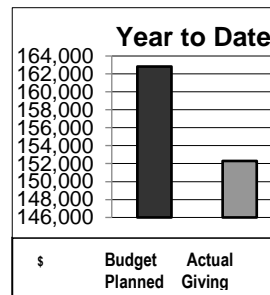
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill: Brodie Slater, Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Michael Kelly, Mark Butlin, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Leo McCormack, Scott Murphy, Rosemarie Graham, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie McGrane, Christene Andrews, Col Ward, Bev Parle, Brendan Moore, John Heeney.

Recently Deceased: Raymond Baulch

RECENT BAPTISMS:

On Sunday 15 April, **Tamzin Ailsa Robertson**, daughter of Jason and Jordanna Robertson



(The following article, sourced from the website: Vatican Insider, is a reflection on the recent assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania held in Port Moresby. It is a particularly timely reflection as we honour International Mother Earth Day on 22 April.) (Text in bold print is as published in the original article on 12/04/18)

It was 1676 when the Dominican missionary Vittorio Riccio wrote from Manila to the Congregation "De Propaganda Fide" proposing himself to lead an evangelization mission in the further East lands, in the Pacific Ocean. In his letter - which dates back 94 years before Captain James Cook's explorations - he told of a boundless land, where "you can walk for two years before you see the sea". It was Australia, a land that the missionary had drawn on a map, the first ever in the history of Oceania. The coloured map, which remains one of the most precious treasures in the historical archive of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, tells the story of the Catholic mission in that vast land.

It took over a century, up until the early nineteenth century, for the Vatican Congregation to divide the continent into the first apostolic Vicariates. Those small churches have made their way: as Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of the Vatican State, recalled, speaking yesterday at the assembly of the Federation of **Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO)**, in progress in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 11 to 18 April.

Oceania covers one third of the Earth's surface, yet it only has 38.7 million inhabitants, 26% of whom are Catholics (10 million). Indigenous peoples are usually divided into three main ethnic groups: Melanesians, Polynesians and Micronesians, scattered over the three largest islands (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea) and over the several thousand smaller islands (10-25 thousand depending on the cataloguing criteria used), separated by huge stretches of water.

In the diverse and delicate social and cultural context of Oceania, the Catholic Church has been present since a relatively recent time. Pacific evangelization has been characterized by obstacles imposed by immense geographical distances, cultural differences of local people and countless languages. Until the mid-seventeenth century, there can be no talk of a systematic evangelization of the population **and only in 1968 did the bishops of Oceania meet in the Pacific Episcopal Conference.** Since 1992, the Federation of Bishops' Conferences of Oceania has coordinated - with a necessary approach of "communion of local communities", each with its own identity - the four existing Episcopal Conferences (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Pacific Islands).

On the hopes, expectations, concerns and prospects for evangelization in Oceania, the bishops are currently at a conference in the capital of Papua New Guinea, in the assembly that is held every four years. **The main focus was on the encyclical Laudato si', and the consequences of climate change on the countries such as Oceania and on the possible response of the Churches.**

Among the various interventions of scientists and theologians, **Cardinal Pietro Parolin addressed the 80 bishops present as follows: "We all share a common house that we call planet earth and, if on the one hand it seems obvious, this entails ethical implications for all on the use of the resources of land and sea".**

The cardinal spoke of "unsustainable development, industrial exploitation and abuse of the land", **hoping for a "radical conversion of attitudes towards the gift of God's creation"**. In particular, he called on policy makers, but also noted that "everyone must put into practice a responsible lifestyle". The Secretary of State also urged the participants **to do everything possible to combat the "globalization of indifference"**: "In today's world borders cannot be places behind which one hides from global responsibility," he noted. And, remembering he was sent by Pope Francis, he said: **"The Holy Father asked me to assure you of his closeness and his prayers for your country. Let us hope we can share in these days a good experience of the love of God"**.

The themes of the meeting of the bishops of Oceania are summarized in its title: **"Care of our Common Home of Oceania: A sea of possibilities"**. The Churches feel challenged by issues such as the care of the oceanic ecosystem and the protection of human rights threatened by intensive exploitation. And they feel urged by social phenomena such as migration and the reception of refugees, which have prompted Catholic communities in nations such as Australia and Papua New Guinea to promote solutions that foster integration, acceptance, respect for human dignity.

As the Archbishop of Port Moresby, John Ribat, first Cardinal of Papua New Guinea, explained, **"in Oceania, even if we are not responsible for climate change on earth, we are strongly affected by it"**. Negative effects include rising sea levels, ocean acidification, rain in unusual times, all of which seriously damage the fishing and farming communities of the region. "In some cases, entire nations are threatened by the undeniable rise of sea levels. **For example, this concerns the Carteret Islands, the Fead Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Mortlock Islands, the Nukumanu Islands, the Tokelau Islands and Tuvalu"**, the cardinal recalls.

The Church shares the expectations of the indigenous peoples of Oceania: "Affected by continuous flooding and drought, the populations have significantly reduced the productive capacity of the land and the natives are often forced to flee", he notes, feeding a migratory phenomenon that is little known internationally, which affects the inhabitants of the continent. In this context, he stressed, "the community of Christians in Oceania is vibrant in faith. We are a young, lively and dynamic community at the pastoral and social level".

Vatican Insider is a project run by the daily newspaper "La Stampa". The website provides comprehensive information on the Vatican, the activities of the Pope and the Holy See, the Catholic Church's presence on the international scene and on religious issues. It is an independent multimedia tool, produced in three languages: Italian, English and Spanish. It is distributed through the website www.VaticanInsider.com

Gathering: New People, New Life

H Beha

Let's lift our hearts and voices in praise of our God,
The family of Christ united as one.
New people, new life: a symbol of his love,
The church assembled to proclaim
The work of Christ begun.

**We are People of God.
We are a holy Nation,
A Royal Priesthood,
A Chosen Race.**

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Gloria:

M Russell

**Glorify to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will. (Repeat)**

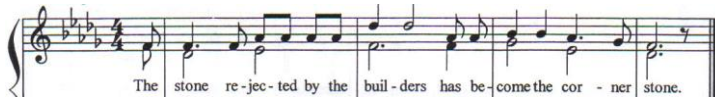
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. (R)

Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us. (R)

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

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Psalm: The Stone Rejected by the Builders. C Smith



**Refrain: The stone rejected by the builders
has become the corner stone.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in people;
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in rulers.

I will thank you for you have given answer
And you are my Saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord is the one who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end.
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Verse before the Gospel: Alleluia

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the Faithful:

Good Shepherd, lead us in your ways.

Acclamation:

When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your
Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion: Gift of Finest Wheat

Robert E Kreutz

**You satisfy the hungry heart,
With gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
The bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;
So when you call your fam'ly Lord,
We follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you,
Our praise and gratitude;
That you should count us worthy Lord,
To share this heav'nly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ out-poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord?

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world can not contain,
Comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity.

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Thanksgiving: Shepherd Me, O God M Haugen

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.**

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want.
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love.
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul.
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth.
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil for you are at my side,
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

You have set me a banquet of love
In the face of hatred,
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
All the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.
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Recessional: New People, New Life

H Beha

A sacramental people, gifted by His grace,
He calls us to be holy, a witness to His way.
New people, new life, be Christ to each other.
The gift of Eucharist is our strength:
The hope for each new day.

**We are People of God.
We are a holy Nation,
A Royal Priesthood,
A Chosen Race.**

We are the Church: a ministry of love,
The Father's chosen image of Jesus, the Son.
New people, new life, rejoice in your God.
Celebrate your priesthood through the Risen One.
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