

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 Email: parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Council Email: parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Website: www.stthomasmores.org.au

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B, 5 – 6 May, 2018

Readings: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

The constitutions of my religious institute remind me that “the tender mercy of our God has given us one another”. The implications of this profoundly beautiful truth are spelt out thus: “In our communities, we try to live in the friendship of Christ’s disciples [Jn 15:15]. To so live calls forth relationships of equality, a real acceptance of ourselves and others, a forgetfulness of anything that does not make love its message.” Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is at the heart of a gospel way of living. It is the commission at the heart of today’s reading and seems to be exactly what Pope Francis wants to say to all believers in his new Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exultate* (Rejoice and be Glad).

As we listen to the proclamation of the gospel, we might attend to the repetition of “joy”, the three-fold repetition of “friends” and the nine-fold repetition of “love”. We might attend to the way in which the pronouns I/my/me and you/your function in the passage. We may also notice the reference to “commands” and “commandments”.

We tend not to associate “commands” with friendship and love because those we count as our friends are not usually in the habit of commanding or ordering us to do what they want. We derive little joy from being told what to do. And yet, there is no resiling from the juxtaposition of these terms. God, imaged in the gospel passage as “Father”, loves Jesus. Jesus remains or abides in God’s love so deeply that this love flows on to his friends. They are to love one another as Jesus has loved them. This is his commandment or commission to them, and by extension to us. It directs them/us to live for each other and put their lives/our lives on the line for one another. It means being faithful to the teaching of Jesus as he has been faithful to God’s commandments.

Remaining in the love of God or of Jesus and doing what God or Jesus commands seem to be one and the same thing. In other words, love is not just an emotion: it is always expressed in action that is in tune with and for the sake of the other. The disciples need no further explanation. Jesus’ whole life and his courage in the face of impending death have shown them what it means to love one another.

Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is not some abstract goal. Too often we affirm the goodness of our selfless companions on the journey only when we come to lay them to rest. As we approach the end of the Easter season, we might give thanks for the love of our friends, for their witness to holiness and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

(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: 7- 13 May 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass
7.00pm.....School Board
Wednesday 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
12.30pm.....Music Planning
7.00pm.....Meditation
Friday 9.00am.....Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup
11.00am.....Meditation

The Ascension of the Lord - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 4:1-13
Mark 16:15-20



May 2018

7 May – Parish Office Closed – Public Holiday
13 May – Mother's Day
14 May – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
14 May – Care & Concern/ Consolation Meetings
21 May – Finance Meeting
28 May – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting
29 May – Sacrament of Confirmation

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Confirmation and First Communion:

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

Pot Luck Dinner and Parish Dance – Friday 1 June 2018:

On Friday 1 June we are holding 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 with dinner and will cater for all ages. A variety of dances will be offered as well as some dance demonstrations. Please advise the Parish Office if you intend to come or if you would like to reserve a table for a group. Any queries can be directed to Peter McDonald on mobile: 0408 345 022 or email: pmcduck@netspace.net.au

Updating your will? Have you ever considered a Bequest to St Thomas More's Parish?

The work of St Thomas More's Parish relies on the personal and financial generosity of many people. Each of us will revisit and update our wills from time to time as life circumstances change. Next time you are reviewing your will and talking with your solicitor, you might consider leaving a bequest to the Parish. A Form of Wording, for Bequests to the Parish, is available from the Parish Office.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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.

To request an enrolment package, please contact the Enrolment Officer on: Phone 4631 8525 or by email: enrolments@sjc.qld.edu.au

St Joseph's College Open Day 2020 will be conducted on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 commencing at 8.30am and concluding at 12.00pm.

Features of the Open Day include:

Principal's address to parents at 9.00am; Displays of resources and student work; staff on hand to answer any enquiries; Enrolment packages available. We look forward to welcoming you on 22nd May.

For further information, please phone St Joseph's College on 46 31 8500 or visit the 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.

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.

The Journey Catholic Radio Program:

(Airs 13 May 2018. Just a reminder, that all Journey Catholic Radio information is always a week in advance.)

This week on the Journey Catholic Radio, our Gospel this week is from Mark 16:15-20, proclaiming "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" The Wisdom from the Abbey comes to us from Sr Hilda, Pete Gilmore talks to us about tuning in the radio in his Living the Gospel God spot and Frances Pirolos reminds us of Gratitude in her Smart Loving segment. With the support of our amazing musicians we create a show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was begun in 1908. In the northern hemisphere, this is traditionally celebrated in January, but for us in the southern hemisphere, where January is time of vacation, churches have chosen another time of year to mark the week. The week around Pentecost, a symbolic time for the unity of the Church, was first proposed by the Faith and Order movement in 1926.

In Australia the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from 13-20 May in the week between Ascension and Pentecost.

Ecumenical Prayer Services will be held at the following times at various locations around Toowoomba in celebration of Christian Unity. All are invited to attend:

- Monday 14th May – Our Lady of Lourdes 7.00pm.
- Tuesday 15th May – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 7.00pm.
- Thursday 17th May – Lifeworks Uniting Church 7.00pm.
- Friday 18th May – St. Luke's Anglican Church 7.00pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

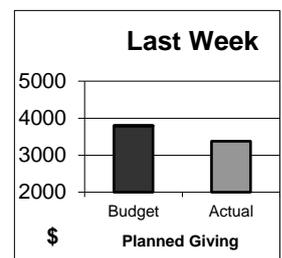
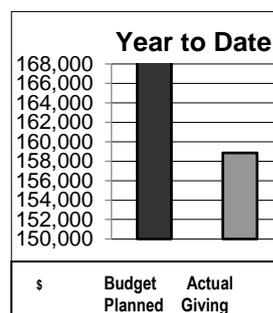
Those who are ill: Brodie Slater, Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Michael Kelly, Mark Butlin, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Leo McCormack, Scott Murphy, Rosemarie Graham, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice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

Recently Deceased: Bev Parle.

Anniversary: Carmel Caldwell.

RECENT BAPTISMS:

On Sunday 29 April, **Charles Francis McGovern**, son of Bart and Jacinta McGovern, brother to James and Lila.



On 9 April 2018, Pope Francis published *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and Be Glad),
an Apostolic Exhortation on
“THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY’S WORLD”

The following are some brief extracts from the *Introduction* and from *Chapter One: The Call to Holiness*, together with the closing paragraphs of the document. The full document can be accessed via the following link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

2. What follows is not meant to be a treatise on holiness, containing definitions and distinctions helpful for understanding this important subject, or a discussion of the various means of sanctification. My modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us “to be holy and blameless before him in love” (Eph 1:4).

10. ... with this Exhortation I would like to insist primarily on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us, the call that he also addresses, personally, to you: “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev 11:44; cf. 1 Pet 1:16). The **Second Vatican Council** stated this clearly: “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect”.

11. “Each in his or her own way” the Council says. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Cor 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness. Indeed, when the great mystic, Saint John of the Cross, wrote his *Spiritual Canticle*, he preferred to avoid hard and fast rules for all. He explained that his verses were composed so that everyone could benefit from them “in his or her own way”.^[12] For God’s life is communicated “to some in one way and to others in another”.^[13]

12. Within these various forms, I would stress too that the “genius of woman” is seen in feminine styles of holiness, which are an essential means of reflecting God’s holiness in this world. Indeed, in times when women tended to be most ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigour and important reforms in the Church. We can mention Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Saint Bridget, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. But I think too of all those unknown or forgotten women who, each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness.

13. This should excite and encourage us to give our all and to embrace that unique plan that God willed for each of us from eternity: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jer 1:5).

176. I would like these reflections to be crowned by Mary, because she lived the Beatitudes of Jesus as none other. She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us. Our converse with her consoles, frees and sanctifies us. Mary our Mother does not need a flood of words. She does not need us to tell her what is happening in our lives. All we need do is whisper, time and time again: “Hail Mary...”

177. It is my hope that these pages will prove helpful by enabling the whole Church to devote herself anew to promoting the desire for holiness. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God’s greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us.

Elements of the Mass Explained:

(The following is the third in a series of brief explanations of various elements of the Mass courtesy of John Briffa, Diocesan Liturgy Officer, to help us grow in our understanding of the Eucharist.)

What is the purpose of the Entrance Hymn?

The purpose of the Entrance Hymn is to draw together a group of individuals into a ‘community of the faithful’ by way of uniting people in one voice. When people sing together they become one in voice and have one focus. All liturgies begin with an Introductory Rite which contains three basic elements, Entrance, Greeting and Collect (Opening Prayer). The purpose of each element is to unify those gathered to become one in Spirit, in the name of Christ. Jesus said, “When two or more are gathered in my name, I am there with you” (*Mt 18:20*). The gathering as one reveals the presence of Christ in the assembly of the people. (*GIRM46,47*)

(Note: GIRM - General Instruction of the Roman Missal)

Gathering: We Are Called

D Haas

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

**We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God!**

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love!

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Gloria:

M Russell

**Glory 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.

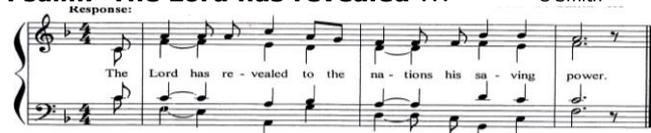
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. (R)

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Psalm: The Lord has revealed ...

C Smith

Response:



The Lord has re - vealed to the na - tions his sa - ving power.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
For he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
Have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
He has shown justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
For the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
The salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
Ring out your joy.

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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:

Make your home within us, O God.

Acclamation:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

Communion: Love Is His Word

L Connaughton

Love is his word, love is his way, feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again, Love, only love, is his way.

**Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
Better than splendour and wealth.**

Love is his way, love is his mark, sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve, Love, only love, is his mark.

Love is his mark, love is his sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy.
'This is my body, this is my blood,' Love, only love, is his sign.

Love is his sign, love is his news, 'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.'
Love, only love, is his news.

Love is his news, love is his name,
We are his own, chosen and called,
Family, brethren, cousins and kin, Love, only love, is his name.

Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another, I have loved you.' Love, only love, is his law.

Love is his law, love is his word:
Love of the Lord, Father and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one. Love, only love, is his word.

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Thanksgiving: So If You Love Me

M Herry fms

So if you love me, keep my commandments,
and I through the Spirit, will dwell with you.
Then will the Father send you the Spirit,
to teach and remind you of all I have said.

Spirit of Jesus gift of the Father,
fill the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

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Recessional: Deep In The Spirit

F Andersen

**If the Spirit of God lives in you,
Sing to the Lord!
Praise him for this goodness!
Deep in the Spirit your song!**

Deep in Christ I live! Faith in him my prayer!
When my soul is torn and dry,
faith to sense Him there!

Spirit in my heart, sing for me my prayer!
Deep within my heart I know:
You are always there!

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