

# 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](mailto:parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au)

Parish Council Email: [parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.stthomasmores.org.au](http://www.stthomasmores.org.au)

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

## The Ascension of the Lord, Year B, 12 - 13 May, 2018 Mothers Day

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13; Mark 16:15-20

### Even to this day, being on someone's right is a place of honour.

A teacher asked her class of nine-year-olds to draw a picture of the Ascension. Not surprisingly most of them did a fairly conventional portrait of Jesus rising up into the clouds. One of her students, David, who was a particularly gifted artist, had Jesus blasting off into the sky. Down the side of Jesus' white garment was the word, "Nasa".

When David displayed his picture to the class, he provided all the sound effects that he imagined must have accompanied Christ's Ascension. He concluded his presentation by saying, without a hint of irony, "...the Ascension must have been a real blast"! All the other kids said in chorus, "Awesome".

None of us can blame David for marrying our modern culture with an ancient story. In fact if some of us are honest, David's 'space shuttle Jesus' is not far from what we might think as well.

The Ascension stories, however, are not primarily interested in how or when Jesus got back to Heaven. John and Paul never mention it at all. Mark and Matthew have it happening on the same day as the Resurrection and Luke has it occurring 40 days after Easter on the same day as Pentecost. The one thing on which all the New Testament writers agree is where in Heaven Jesus went and where he is presently – at God's right hand.

Even to this day, being on someone's right is a place of honour. Imagine being invited to Buckingham Palace or the White House and finding that you have been placed on the right hand of the Queen or the President. In the Old Testament, being on the right hand of David, Samuel or Elijah was to be the anointed and favoured one, the true son or daughter. And it survives in popular culture too.

In telling us, then, that Jesus is now at God's right hand, the gospels use shorthand to state that God affirms everything Jesus said and did on earth, and that he therefore is the One for us to follow. However, in the gospels Jesus goes one step further and teaches us that where he is, so shall we be, that he is going to prepare a place for us, and that, in and through him, we will have life and have it to the full.

The Feast of the Ascension is the day, each year, when we remember and we celebrate that, just as Jesus was welcomed to God's right hand, so, too, we may be welcomed to the symbolic right hand of Jesus. This is his promise, this is our faith and this is the hope we are called to proclaim to the world.

And let us be clear about the invitation. There is nothing we have ever done, are doing or will do, that will get our name removed from the guest list to the feast of Christ's Kingdom. The challenge is accepting that we have a standing invitation and to live lives worthy of the love that got us invited in the first place.

*(From an article by Richard Leonard SJ, originally published in The Tablet – an international weekly Catholic Review published in London)*

Parish Leader:.....Michael Bermingham  
Priest Director:.....Michael O'Brien  
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: 14 - 20 May 2018

Monday: 8.30am.....Men's Group  
9.00am.....Mass  
9.30am.....Catholic Ladies Group  
2.00pm.....Care and Concern  
3.00pm.....Consolation Team  
7.00pm.....Pastoral Council  
7.00pm.....St V de P

Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education  
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group  
5.30pm.....Mass

Wednesday 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word  
10.00am.....Open Door  
1.00pm.....Music Planning  
7.00pm.....Revenue Committee  
7.00pm.....Meditation

Thursday 10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer  
7.00pm.....Social Justice

Friday 9.00am.....Mass  
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup  
11.00am.....Meditation

### Pentecost Sunday - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday  
8.30am Sunday

Readings: Acts 2:1-11  
Galatians 5:16-25  
John 15:26-27, 16:12-15



## May 2018

13 May – Mother's Day  
14 May – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
14 May – Care & Concern/ Consolation Meetings  
16 May – Parish Revenue Development Committee  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. All are welcome 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](http://www.sjc.qld.edu.au)

#### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

##### Ecumenical Liturgy

Parishioners are invited to attend an Ecumenical Liturgy at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Monday night 14th May at 7pm for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

#### Downlands College Past Students Association:

Downlands Past Students are warmly invited to the Gryphon Call to be held at the Irish Club Hotel Celtic Bar in Russell Street on Friday 25 May from 5.30 – 7.30pm. See Flyer on Church notice board for further information.

#### 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 Marian 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.)

This week on the Journey Catholic Radio: our Gospel 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 Pirola 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](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

#### Plenary Council 2020:

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It has been more than 80 years since the Catholic Church in Australia held a Plenary Council. A Plenary Council is the highest formal gathering of all local churches in a country. Our Plenary Council 2020 is being held so that we can dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. It is being held in 2020 in order to give the Catholic community in Australia time to listen, dialogue and discern with one another and, guided by the Holy Spirit, about the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia. All of us are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" The official launch of the Plenary Council will be next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, 20 May 2018. Further details will be provided when available, particularly about proposed consultation processes across the Australian Church. More information can be found at the website: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

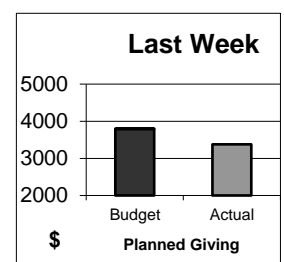
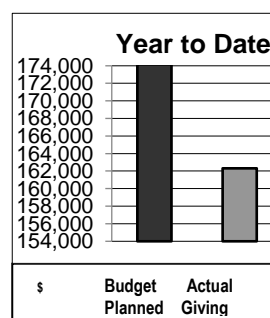
**Those who are ill:** Brodie Slater, Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Michael Kelly, Mark Butlin, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Leo McCormack, Scott Murphy, Rosemarie Graham, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice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

**Anniversaries:** Michael Wills, Fay Wills, Leo Wiedman.

#### RECENT BAPTISMS:

On Sunday 6 May, during 8.30am Mass, Father Peter Schultz baptised **Oliver Patrick Fry and Matilda Eve Golding.**

### PLANNED GIVING



# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 13 - 20 May 2018

## The Search for 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 a 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.

**The theme for this year is “Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in its power” (cf Ex 15:6).**

The theme of this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity focuses on the history and contemporary challenges of the Caribbean nations. Today Caribbean Christians of many different traditions see the hand of God active in the ending of enslavement. It is a uniting experience of the saving action of God which brings freedom. For this reason the choice of the song of Moses and Miriam (Ex 15:1-21), as the motif of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 was considered a most appropriate one. It is a song of triumph over oppression. This theme has been taken up in a hymn, The Right Hand of God, written in a workshop of the Caribbean Conference of Churches in August 1981, which has become an “anthem” of the ecumenical movement in the region, translated into a number of different languages. Like the Israelites, the people of the Caribbean have a song of victory and freedom to sing and it is a song which unites them. However, contemporary challenges again threaten to enslave and again threaten the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. While human dignity is inalienable it is often obscured by both personal sin and social structures of sin. In our fallen world societal relationships too often lack the justice and compassion that honour human dignity. Poverty, violence, injustice, addiction to drugs and pornography, and the pain, grief and anguish which follow, are experiences that distort human dignity.

(For more information, please visit the website of The National Council of Churches in Australia: [www.ncca.org.au](http://www.ncca.org.au).)

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

- *Monday 14th May – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 2 Goodwood Street at 7.00pm.*
- *Tuesday 15th May – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 23 Glenvale Road at 7.00pm.*
- *Thursday 17th May – Lifeworks Uniting Church, 615 Boundary Street, Glenvale at 7.00pm.*
- *Friday 18th May – St. Luke’s Anglican Church, Corner Ruthven and Herries Streets, at 7.00pm.*

## Elements of the Mass Explained:

*(The following is the fourth 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.)*

### Who Celebrates the Liturgy?

Liturgy is celebrated by the presence and actions of the gathered faithful, with each person playing their part. By way of our baptism, every person in the assembly participates in celebrating a Mass, some with more visible roles than others. It is the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, its Head (Christ) and its members that celebrate. As members of his body we perform different functions. The priest-celebrant stands in the place of Christ to lead the prayer and worship to God on behalf of the assembly, with all the gathered faithful participating in various ways.

*(SC7; CCC1140; CCC1142)*

(Note: SC stands for Sacrosanctum Concilium – the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council; CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church)

## Gathering: Behold the Glory of God R O'Connor

***Behold the glory of God, the day-star arising!  
Christ Jesus shines on the earth with mercy enduring!***

Dance for joy all you angels of God,  
Let the pow'rs of heav'n exult.  
All creation join now in song:  
'Salvation is won!'

Lift your hands, off'ring thanks unto God,  
Raise a hymn of endless praise:  
Blessed be the Lord of our lives,  
Whose mercy endures.

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## Gloria:

Maggie Russell

**Glorify 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)

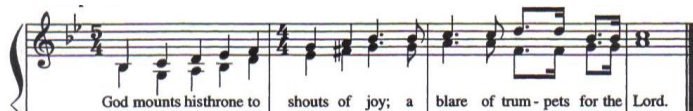
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.

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

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## Psalm: God Mounts his Throne

C Smith



**Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy;  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples clap your hands,  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, Most High, we must fear,  
Great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over all the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

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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:

Send us your Spirit, O God.

### Acclamation:

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

### Communion: Bread of Life

B Farrell

***Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother  
Feed us now, give us life,  
Lead us to one another.***

As we proclaim your death,  
As we recall your life,  
We remember your promise to return again.

The bread we break and share  
Was scattered once as grain:  
Just as now it is gathered, make your people one.

We eat this living bread,  
We drink this saving cup:  
Sign of hope in our broken world, source of lasting love.

Hold us in unity, in love for all to see;  
That the world may believe in you,  
God of all who live.

You are the bread of peace, you are the wine of joy,  
Broken now for your people,  
Poured in endless love.

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## Thanksgiving: I'll Be Always Loving You T Watts

I am here with you by your side,  
Sheltering your heart from the night.

***Wherever you go, whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.***

Let me love the world through your heart.  
Let me heal your wounds with my touch.

***Wherever you go, whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.***

***I will be your God, your comforter.  
I will hold you close in my heart.***

Let me see the world through your eyes.  
Let forgiveness shine through your smile.

***Wherever you go, whatever you do,  
I'll be always loving you.***

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## Recessional: Come Ring Out Our Joy to the Lord

K Bates

Come ring out our joy to the Lord  
Come ring out our hope in God's promises.  
Let more of God's people welcome the news.

***Come ring out loud, come ring out strong.  
Come live a new life in God.***

Come celebrate life with our Lord.  
Come show God our thanks for the promises.  
Let more of God's people, move to the song.

Come free hearts and give God your best.  
Come show God your joy in the promises.  
Let more of God's people follow God free.

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