

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 Leader: a/h phone: 0407 804 461. Email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

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)

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 9 - 10 June, 2018

Readings: Genesis 3:9-15; 2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Name calling is an age-old device used to discredit enemies. Politicians are adept at finding labels with which to discredit their opponents. Sometimes the labels stick and often have the effect of destroying good people. In today's gospel, Jesus is subjected to the worst of all imaginable taunts or labels: he is said to be possessed by Beelzebub, the prince of demons. The story belongs within a trajectory of growing hostility towards him from the authorities.

Mark has presented Jesus as the Christ or Messiah, as God's Son who is authorised to usher in God's empire of reconciliation and peace. Jesus is the "stronger one" (1:7) who will destroy the powers of evil. He invites others to join him in his mission of healing, of proclaiming God's reign and of driving out demons. Those on the edge of Palestinian society flock to him for healing. The religious authorities, on the other hand, find themselves challenged, even threatened, by Jesus' growing popularity and his perceived challenge to their strict interpretation of aspects of the Mosaic Law. Such practices as dining with those considered to be "sinners" and permitting his hungry disciples to pluck grain on the Sabbath, for instance, are met with hostile responses from the religious authorities.

For Jesus, always the faithful Jew, the Law was established for humans, not humans for the Law and he is not afraid to say so. Early in his ministry, opposition has built to a point that traditional enemies, the Pharisees and the Herodians, join forces to find a way of destroying him. The surprise is that members of Jesus' biological family now get involved in the attempts to put a halt to his mission, even if their motives differ from those of the Jerusalem "scribes" who bring the charge of demon-possession. One factor to consider is that the family's honour is at stake. Another factor is the family's concern that Jesus and his disciples were failing to take care of themselves. The demands were such that "they could not even eat". Even if well-motivated, they want "to seize him" because they consider him to be "out of his mind". Jesus' biological family thus falls into the trap of taking responsibility for him instead of supporting him to pursue his dream.

Mark often places a story within a story. In this instance, the story within is the challenge from the scribes and of Jesus' powerful counter-challenge. The outer frame consists of the efforts of Jesus' biological family to save their honour by saving him from a crazy lifestyle and by his redefining of his "family" as those "who do the will of God". This complex story invites us to refrain from labelling those who threaten our status or authority. They may just happen to be agents of God's transforming grace for us and for our world.

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

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

Parish Diary: 11 - 17 June 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
1.00pm.....Music Planning
7.00pm.....Meditation
Friday 9.00am.....Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup
11.00am.....Meditation

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

IF A HOUSE IS DIVIDED
AGAINST ITSELF,
THAT HOUSE WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO STAND.



HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

First Communion:

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

Family Mass – Sunday 10 June, 8.30am:

As part of building and maintaining a strong relationship between Parish and School, we have arranged with the school to have one weekend Mass each Term this year where we invite and welcome families from the school community to join us, with children given the opportunity to participate in the different parts of the Mass. Our Mass for this Term and the second for the year will be at 8.30 am on Sunday 10 June. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that day, including those currently participating in the Sacramental Program.

Farewell to Joan and Arthur Bateman – 10 June 2017:

Recently we received word that Joan and Arthur Bateman are leaving the parish to move up to a retirement village in Yeppoon, particularly to be closer to members of their family. They are returning briefly to Toowoomba in mid-June before relocating permanently. We are proposing to farewell them at morning tea after Mass on Sunday June 10, thanking them for their service to this community, particularly through music and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Apologies for the short notice. You are welcome to bring a plate to share.

Dedication of our Church:

At both masses on the weekend of 16 and 17 June, we will honour St Thomas More and commemorate the anniversary of the dedication of our Church.

Sacrament of Penance Program:

The next Sacramental Program starts with a Parent Information Session on Wednesday 20 June – come at either 9.00 am or 7.00 pm - in the Parish Office. This group will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance this year and Confirmation and Communion in 2019. For further details, please contact Michael, our Parish Leader, by phone, 4635 9555, mobile, 0407 804 461, or by email, parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au Parents who have previously contacted Michael to be part of the Program will receive a direct communication.

School Mass on Friday 22 June:

The 9 am Mass on Friday 22 June will be celebrated in the Sports Centre at the school. Fr Michael O'Brien is celebrating Mass at the school for the feast of St Thomas More. On that day the school will farewell the Sisters of St Joseph and acknowledge Marlene Goodsell who is retiring at the end of the school term after decades of service to the school community. All parishioners are welcome to attend the School Mass.

Farewell to the Sisters of St Joseph:

On Sunday, 1 July 2018, the Sisters of St Joseph, both present and former residents of the Convent, will be joining us for the 8.30 am Mass. Bishop Robert McGuckin will celebrate mass. On that morning we will formally say our thanks and farewell as we acknowledge the 57 years of service of the Sisters to this community. We shall join together for morning tea after the Mass so that we all have a chance to say our thanks and bid them farewell. If you are able to do so, please bring a plate to share for morning tea.

Sacramental Gifts:

South Street Newsagency has a new range of gifts available for Baptism, Confirmation and Communion and other religious gifts for all occasions. Includes statues, crosses and candles.

BAPTISMS: Louis Francis Prato son of Stephen and Millie Prato will be Baptised during Mass on Sunday 10 June. We welcome Louis to our Community.

Unit for Rent:

Two-bedroom unit for an elderly person or married couple at St Patrick's Community Village will soon be available for rent. Applications are to be made in writing to the Secretary, Board of Management, St Patrick's Cathedral, PO Box 7062, Toowoomba 4350 or may be dropped in at the Parish Office. Applications close on Monday 18 June 2018.

Mass in the Maronite Rite:

Father Fadi Salame from Brisbane will be celebrating Mass in the Maronite Rite on Sunday 17th June at 10.30am at St Anthony's Church in Memory Street Harristown. A special invitation is extended to any families from Lebanon, Iraq or Syria to attend. Other parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass. Please note we will not be having lunch after Mass this month. Please contact Gabrielle Saide on 46324778 (a.h.) if you require transport.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal:

The annual St Vincent de Paul winter appeal is now open. Appropriate envelopes are available in the Church foyer.

Plenary Council 2020:

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. Our Plenary Council 2020 is being held so that we can dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. The first stage of listening and dialogue has started now and continues through to Ash Wednesday 2019. The website is now live with resources to facilitate conversation and submit responses. There is also a fortnightly newsletter with regular updates on the process and resources. All of us are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" If you go online, there is a survey you can fill out. We hope to plan some group sessions over the next couple of months. If any group would like to get together to undertake the reflection and dialogue process together, please contact Michael, our Parish Leader who can assist you with resources. More information can be found at the website: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au There is a link to this page on our Parish website.

Jubilee Celebration of Episcopal Ordination - Bishop Bill Morris at St Patrick's Cathedral:

Date: 26/6/18 **Time:** 11:00am Mass

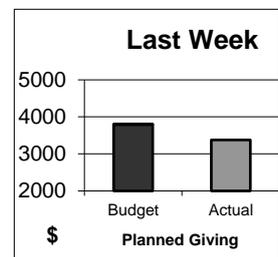
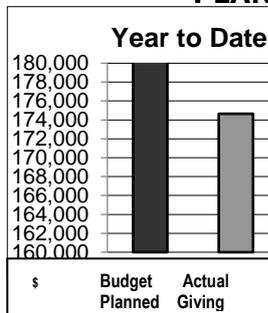
Bishop Robert McGuckin invites members of the diocesan community to come together for a Mass to celebrate this significant event within the life of the Diocese. Members of diocesan organisations and parish and school communities are invited to attend a Mass to recognise Bishop Bill Morris' 25 years of ordination as Bishop. Following the Mass there will be a private function for invited guests. Parishes are encouraged to promote this invitation through their bulletins and notices.

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, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie McGrane, Christene Andrews, Brendan Moore, Rita Sullivan, Jos Ayers, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner.

Anniversary: Beryl Lobo.

PLANNED GIVING



One of the great challenges in life is being able to see the 'big picture'. This is true for each of us, whether we are searching for the big picture as conveyed by religion, science or any other field of human endeavour.

We are challenged because we become distracted by the minutiae, the details, which by themselves are usually not significant. It is only when the pieces begin to make a whole that we come to appreciate a particular truth. The many experiences of Victor Frankl in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany led him to declare a truth he had discovered: "the salvation of [humanity] is through love and in love".

Failing to see or accept the big picture is a condition that is currently affecting many organisations in our world. Four particular organisations stand out as having significant problems in this regard. These organisations are as diverse as they are large: the film industry; the banking sector in Australia; the Australian Catholic Church; and Cricket Australia. Each has been exposed, and accused, not for one isolated decision or action, but rather for allowing and growing a culture inimical to the organisation's values and mission.

The film industry has been shown to have a large number of powerful men who have engaged in the sexual abuse and exploitation of women. Those men saw such exploitation as an entitlement, a kind of payment for favours granted to star in a movie. A culture of silence on behalf of women, but also of male stars, supported this exploitation. Eventually the women spoke out against such behaviour and the #MeToo campaign began to reveal the dominant culture – the 'big picture'.

The "big four banks" in Australia have a long and sad history of exploiting their customers in a variety of ways. They did so because they thought they could "get away with it". The forensic work of the current Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry is revealing the breadth and depth of the exploitation. Again, the culture has been the target of many comments by the Commission – a culture of dishonesty, exploitation, cover-up, buck-passing on blame, and the intent to deceive and deprive customers.

The Catholic Church in Australia has emerged from more than five years of a similar kind of forensic examination. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse came to the conclusion that the Church had allowed a "toxic culture" to develop unchecked, and that such a culture was largely to blame for the repeated offences of so many priests and members of religious institutions. The culture was often described as "clericalism" – a combination of excessive privilege, use of power, lack of transparency and accountability, and a belief that the Church was above the law of the land.

Cricket Australia in recent times has joined this sorry group of organisations. Brought into the spotlight by the ball-tampering (cheating) incident in South Africa, we soon came to learn that that incident owed its occurrence to a culture that had been growing for years: sledging, which is not sportsmanship; bullying and intimidation of players; poor accountability for certain behaviours contrary to the values of sport; and a willingness to cover-up where possible.

Four diverse organisations. Four problem cultures. Four similar 'big pictures'.

Royal Commissions and other structures of inquiry have completed, or will soon complete, their work with respect to these organisations. The response from the organisations is interesting and similar: a prominent film director was encouraged to seek treatment for his aberrant behaviours; the CEO of a big bank stood down; the captain and vice-captain of the Australian cricket team were suspended for 12 months; some Catholic priests were suspended from ministry and new child protection and safe-guarding policies implemented.

But what of the cultures which are at the heart of each organisation's problems? None of the organisations appears to have addressed the heart of the matter – its culture. Culture is sometimes described as "the way we do things around here". It implies a complex web of actions and interactions, values, norms, rewards and punishments, assumptions and intentions. Much of the culture is not subject to written record, but rather acquired by osmosis by living within the culture. Further, because cultures tend to preserve the status quo, they often resist attempts to change them.

This being so, it is rare to see cultural change of the kind demanded of the organisations mentioned above. Most members of a culture find it too difficult or even impossible to think of cultural change. Such change requires detailed and difficult work over a long period. It's much easier to sack a few offenders, institute a new policy or two, or throw up a smoke screen to distract the questioners.

So what can we do to foster cultural change when it's needed?

The first thing is to become familiar with the culture you want to see changed. Meet with others and talk about your experiences. Being courageous to speak and to be heard is important. Organise an expert to conduct a workshop or two on culture and how to change it. Don't leave it to others. Have your say with the local bank manager or a member of the [financial services royal commission](#). Join the #MeToo campaign or [learn more about it](#). Put your views to [Cricket Australia](#) if you support cricket and its future in sport. Seek to influence the [Plenary Council of the Australian Catholic Church](#) before it allows its agenda to lose sight of the most important challenge of all – to change the culture.

And finally, draw inspiration from the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr: "The ultimate measure of a [people] is not where [they] stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where [they] stand in times of challenge and controversy".

(The above article by Gary Everett was first published in the April 2018 edition of The Good Oil, the e-magazine of the Good Samaritan Sisters www.goodsams.org.au)

Gathering: Gather Us in:

M Haugen

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness, vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame,
Call to us now, and we shall awaken.
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion,
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

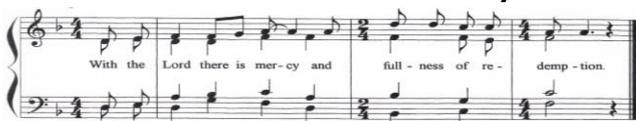
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Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
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.
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.
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. Amen

Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy

C Smith



With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.
My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

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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:

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Preparation of the gifts:

Lord, we come to your table
Lord, we hear your word
Lord, you are our bread of life
And we the Body of Christ.

Acclamation:

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

Communion: Jesus, You Are Bread for Us

C Walker

Jesus, you are bread for us.

Jesus, you are life for us.

In your gift of Eucharist, we find love.

When we feel we need a friend, you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

When we feel that we need love you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

When we feel that things aren't fair you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

In communion we believe you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

Gathered in God's family you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

When we help our families you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

When we help the hungry ones you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

When we help the thirsty ones you are there with us, Jesus.
Thank you for the friend you are. Thank you for the love we share.

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Thanksgiving: As Gentle As Silence

E White

Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence
Of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see God has given to me,
And the giving is gentle as silence.

Ev'ry day, ev'ry hour, ev'ry moment
Has been blessed by the strength of God's love.
At the turn of each tide
God is there at my side,
With a touch that is gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned
From your presence,
And I've walked other paths, other ways.
But I've called on your name in the dark of my shame,
And your mercy was gentle as silence.

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Recessional: Though the Mountains May Fall

D Schutte

**Though the mountains may fall
And the hills turn to dust,
Yet the love of the Lord will stand
As a shelter for all who will call on his name
Sing the praise and the glory of God.**

Should you turn and forsake him,
He will gently call your name.
Should you wander away from him,
He will always take you back.

Go to him when you're weary;
He will give you eagle's wings.
You will run, never tire,
For your God will be your strength.

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