

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.*

71 A Ramsay Street Toowoomba Qld 4350 Ph: 4635 9555 Fax: 4635 5742

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)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 16 - 17 June, 2018

Readings: Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

The first of the parables in today's gospel reading has no parallel in the other gospels. It compares God's kingdom to a trusting sower who scatters the seed by day, sleeps by night, and simply observes the "earth produce of itself" until it is time to harvest the grain. The sower's actions of scattering, sleeping, rising, and going in with his sickle are paralleled by his "not-knowing how" the seed is transformed into grain. We may, in our times, have a more sophisticated, more scientific understanding of the process of growth. We have no less reason to stand in awe at the wonder of it all.

In an era of urbanization, supermarket chains, and online shopping even for groceries, we can easily lose sight of the source of food and the miracle of food production. This little parable might serve as a reminder of the goodness of the Earth and of the God who sustains our planetary home. It might inspire us to contemplate the myriad ways in which the Earth speaks to us of God and God's empire or kingdom.

At another level, we might ask about the identity of the sower. We might question how the sower's actions and attitudes provide an image of God's reign. Is it in the sower's trusting that all will be well while "not-knowing"? Is it in the observation that the grain is ripe for the harvest? Is it in the prompt action to bring in the harvest? Parables are meant to tease their hearers/readers. They are open-ended and challenging.

The second parable appears in all three synoptic gospels. Matthew and Luke both parallel the mustard seed parable with a parable about a woman mixing yeast into flour. Mark, in contrast, juxtaposes his mustard seed parable with that of the trusting sower. Mustard seeds were tiny, although they were not the smallest of seeds and have never been known to become the largest of shrubs. The idea that God's reign provides shelter for the birds to make their nests is a challenging one at a time when so many species are becoming extinct precisely because their habitats are being destroyed by human activity.

Some scholars have pointed out that the mustard seed was a weed. To compare God's reign with a weed may have brought a smile or two. It would certainly have exercised the minds of Jesus' audience. Maybe Jesus' disciples were in need of encouragement even in the early stages of the Galilean ministry. Maybe the curious and hostile were in need of a reminder to take this movement seriously, for extraordinary things can come from the most inauspicious beginnings. Opposition to Jesus had surfaced at the outset. Mark's community may also have been experiencing opposition and feeling the need for the wisdom that comes from a carefully crafted and perfectly timed story.

(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 Barkus
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: 18 - 24 June 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass
Wednesday 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word
9.00am.Parent Session Penance
10.00am.....Open Door
7.00pm.Parent Session Penance
7.00pm.....Meditation
Thursday 10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer
7.00pm.....Social Justice
Friday 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup
11.00am.....Meditation

Nativity of John the Baptist - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80



June 2018

23/24 June – First Communion

25 June – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting

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

Dedication of our Church:

At both masses this weekend, we are honouring St Thomas More and commemorating 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

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 range of gifts available for Baptism, Confirmation and Communion and other religious gifts for all occasions. Includes statues, crosses and candles.

BAPTISMS: Willow Ruby-Rose Callaghan daughter of Reagan Callaghan and Sarah Deoberitz and **Emily Judith Crichton** daughter of Joseph and Katie Crichton will be baptised after mass this Sunday 17 June. We welcome Willow and Emily to our Community.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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.

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.

Launch of Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2018-2023

Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan June 2018– June 2023 will be launched in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop Robert McGuckin on Sunday 24 June 2018 at the 9 am Mass. It is the outcome of a process of consultation, analysis and facilitated conversation over the past year. Posters will be on display in all Churches and Mass Centres giving an outline and a full copy of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan will be available from the parish or on the Diocesan Website www.twb.catholic.org.au.

Plenary Council 2020:

The first stage of listening and dialogue as part of the 2020 Plenary Council has started now and continues through to Ash Wednesday 2019. All of us are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" Details of the first group sessions are on Page 3. 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 and a survey to fill out can be found at the website: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au There is a link to this page on our Parish website.

Catholic Mission Church Appeal:

Our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal next weekend. This year we are invited to participate in Jesus' life-giving mission, supporting teachers, students and quality schooling as a pathway to building peace and a future for thousands of children in Myanmar today. Donations will assist the Church to continue teacher training and the education of children. Please come prepared next weekend and give generously. You can also phone on Freecall: 1800 257 296 or visit the website: www.catholicmission.org.au/Myanmar

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.

Cent Sale::

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are holding their WINTER Cent Sale on WEDNESDAY JULY 4. It will be held at All Seasons Function Hall, cnr North and Tor Sts Toowoomba. Doors will open at 8.30amr a 9.30am start. For an entry fee of \$5 each will receive a Free Sheet of Tickets, Lucky Door Entry and a Buffet Morning Tea. Great prizes are on offer with impressive fruit and meat trays among the multi-draw prizes. Many cheap winter goods are available from the trading table - also homemade produce is on offer. All Proceeds go to Charity. For further information contact the Sisters on 46321818.

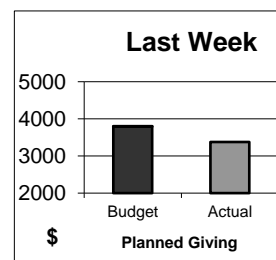
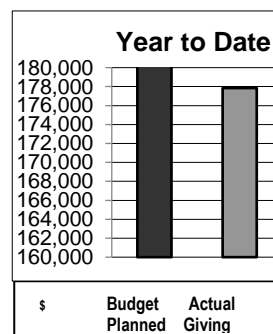
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

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.

Recently Deceased: Kitty Delany.

Anniversary: Bill Darmody, Edgar Perry.

PLANNED GIVING



\$ Budget Actual
Planned Giving



Leadership In Our Parish

Our Parish Pastoral Council plays a vital role in ensuring the on-going vibrancy of our community as we live the mission of Jesus.

This year three members are needed to join the six others who are continuing.

A person on the Pastoral Council is nominated by a member of the Parish and needs to be a baptised Catholic who attends St Thomas More's and who is willing to be recognised within our community and to be approachable.

She/He needs to:

- ❖ have a basic understanding of current Church teaching and some knowledge of the values and direction of our parish.
- ❖ be aware that accepting to be on the Council is to participate in and be open to on-going learning.
- ❖ be willing to participate in discussions and to contribute personal insights.
- ❖ be open to new ideas and not allow one's personal allegiances to block judgement.
- ❖ be accepting of the role as people who work together as team members.
- ❖ be aware of the big picture and broad issues in setting parish vision.

To be able to accept nomination, it is important that participation does not take from family life. Family support is vital.

The commitment is to at least one meeting per month (with the exception of January) over a period of two years (with an option to extend for a third year). Some ministries require more time and on occasion sub-committees are formed.

More information about the Parish Council is available on the Parish website at the following page: http://stthomasmores.org.au/?page_id=45

An **Information Evening** for anyone who is interested to know more or who is considering nomination will be held on Monday, 25 June at 7.00pm. The model and operation of the Pastoral Council and the commitment required will be presented.

Please speak with Pastoral Council Members – past and present – or the Parish Leader for more information.

The 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 Plenary Council organisers have provided resources that can be used for group listening and dialogue sessions. It is envisaged that a number of such sessions will be conducted during the consultation period.

To get the process underway, you are invited to a listening and dialogue session to be held on Thursday 28 June. There will be a 9 am Session on that day and a 7 pm Session. Please come to the one that suits you as the process will be the same at both sessions. Sessions will be held in the Church and facilitated by Michael, our Parish Leader.

The question we will consider: *What do you think God is asking of us (the Church) in Australia at this time?*

All are welcome!



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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Christ Be Our Light

B Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

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Gloria:

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

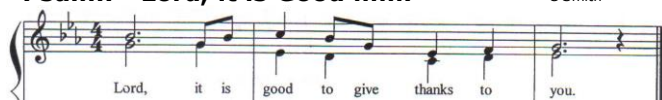
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. (R)

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. (R)
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Psalm: Lord, it is Good

C Smith



Response: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
To make music to your name, O Most High,
To proclaim your love in the morning
And your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
And grow like a Lebanon Cedar.
Planted in the house of the Lord
They will flourish in the courts of our God.

They are still bearing fruit when they are old,
They are still full of sap, still green
To proclaim that the Lord is just.

In Him, my Rock, there is no wrong.

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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:

Teach us to love as you have loved.

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: Seed, Scattered and Sown

D Feiten/E Gunnison/R Miller

**Seed, scattered and sown, Wheat, gathered and grown,
Bread, broken and shared as one, The Living Bread of God
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
One cup that is shared by all; The Living Cup, the Living
Bread of God.**

Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out poured?

The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life.

As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one.

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Thanksgiving: For the Beauty of the Earth

C Kocher

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For your church, that evermore lifts its holy hands above,
Off'ring up on ev'ry shore A pure sacrifice of love:

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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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