

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)

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year B, 2 – 3 June, 2018

Readings: Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

The Gospel for today reminds us that we are in a "covenant" relationship with our God. We renew that covenant in every celebration of the Eucharist. The Israelites of old sealed their covenant with God in animal sacrifice, a practice we may wish to critique, and in the celebration of a meal (Exodus 24:1-12). The blood of the slain animal was sprinkled on the altar and on the people. The people knew that blood signified life: if blood spilled out then life spilled out. The altar signified God. The sprinkling of the blood denoted their shared life with God. They were called to be holy as God is holy. The symbolism of the Jewish covenant ritual informs today's Gospel story of Jesus' final Passover meal with his disciples. Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread broken and shared becomes his body broken and "given" for them. The sharing of the cup of wine becomes their sharing in the life of Jesus "to be poured out for many". Bread and wine in this context have taken on a new meaning.

While all analogies fall short, we might begin to understand this mystery by considering the Eureka flag. The flag is constructed of fabric and thread. It is housed in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka and protected with the utmost care. Because of its associations with the Eureka rebellion and what Eureka stands for in Australian history and folklore, it carries the story that informs its creation as well as all the goodness of its fabric and thread. It has acquired multiple levels of meaning.

Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread and wine of the Eucharist likewise signify something entirely new along with all the goodness of their materiality. They are Life for us, the shared life of the Risen Christ. We are called to bring that life to others, to give life for the sake of the many. Reading the passage in the context of Mark's gospel provides some insight into how we might do this. The eleven preceding verses recount stories of contrasting responses to Jesus as he faces his final days: temple authorities plot to destroy him; an unnamed woman "breaks" an alabaster jar and "pours" the healing perfume on his head, thus anointing his body "for burial" through eucharistic action; Jesus declares that what she has done will be told "in remembrance of her"; a close friend seeks to betray him.

Betrayal and rejection are ever present possibilities even in Eucharistic communities. We are all too aware of this as we endeavour to address the consequences of child sexual abuse in our communities. We need to learn from the other possibility presented to us in this context, namely that of pouring out the healing perfume of compassion and love on our fractured Earth communities.

(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: 4 – 10 June 2018

Monday: 7.45am.....Men's Group
9.00am.....Mass
9.30am...Catholic Ladies Group
7.00pm.....St V de P
7.00pm.....Pastoral Council
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass
7.30pm...Family Group Leaders
Wednesday 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
7.00pm.....Meditation
Thursday 10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer
Friday 9.30am.....Anointing Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup
11.00am.....Meditation

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday

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



June 2018

4 June – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
8 June – Anointing Mass at 9.30 am

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

Anointing Mass:

Will be held at St Thomas More's on Friday 8 June at 9.30am. **Please note the change of time.** All welcome. Please think about anyone you may be able to assist with transport so that as many as possible may experience the blessings of this healing mass. Afterwards please stay to meet up over a cup of tea provided by the Parish Care and Concern Group.

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:

During the week 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 currently in Yeppoon but will be 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.

Sacramental Gifts:

Gifts for children receiving the Sacraments are often hard to find. South Street Newsagency now has a new range of beautiful gifts available. It is a range of gifts for Baptism, Confirmation and Communion and other religious gifts for all occasions. It includes statues, crosses and candles.

Caring for Each Other:

As a community of faith, we are called to be aware of those around us in the community. If you notice that a regular Mass attender has not been here for a while, if you know of someone who may be going through a tough time, if you know of someone who is on their own and could benefit from a visit, if you have heard that someone from the community is in hospital, if you notice someone who seems new to the community, please advise the Parish Leader, talk to a member of the Parish Council or contact the Parish Office. We have groups in the Parish such as Care and Concern and our local St Vincent de Paul Conference who may be able to assist.

New to the Parish:

If you are new to the parish, please put your details in the book provided in the foyer and you will be provided with information regarding the groups and activities you may wish to be part of. If you want to be part of our Thanksgiving Program, please contact the Parish Office 46359555.

Open Door Ladies Social Group:

If you are interested in joining our weekly morning teas, we would like to invite you to join us in St Thomas More's Parish Office each Wednesday morning for coffee, delicious morning tea and a chat, commencing at 10.00am. For further information please contact the Parish Office or just turn up on Wednesday morning.

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

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.

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. The first stage of listening and dialogue starts 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?" More information can be found at the website: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

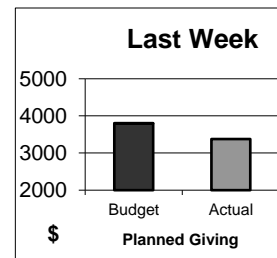
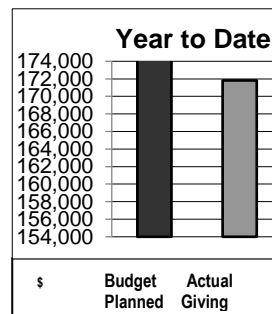
Those who are ill: Brodie Slater, Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Michael Kelly, Mark Butlin, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Leo McCormack, Scott Murphy, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie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

Recently Deceased: John Heeney.

RECENT BAPTISMS:

On Sunday 27 May, at 11 am, Father Hal Ranger baptised **Magnolia Carol Ryan**, daughter of Michael and Elissa Ryan.

PLANNED GIVING



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – JUNE 5, 2018

“Beat Plastic Pollution”, the theme for World Environment Day 2018, is a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. The theme invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife – and our own health. While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become over reliant on single-use or disposable plastic – with severe environmental consequences.

Global Plastic Pollution by the Numbers:

- Up to 5 trillion plastic bags used each year and 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean each year.
- 17 million barrels of oil used on plastic production each year.
- 1 million plastic bottles bought every minute and 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastics each year.
- 100 years for plastic to degrade in the environment and 90% of bottled water found to contain plastic particles.
- 83% of tap water found to contain plastic particles.
- 50% of consumer plastics are single use and 10% of all human-generated waste is plastic.

Calls to Action:

- Governments must lead, enacting strong policies that push for a more circular model of design and production of plastics. This World Environment Day, the United Nations is calling on every government to enact robust legislation to curb the production and use of unnecessary single-use plastics.
- The private sector must innovate, adopting business models that reduce the downstream impact of their products. This World Environment Day, the United Nations is calling on every plastic manufacturer to take responsibility for the pollution that their products are causing today, and make immediate investments in sustainable designs for tomorrow.
- Citizens must act as both consumers and informed citizens, demanding sustainable products and embracing sensible consumption habits in their own lives. This World Environment Day, The United Nations is calling on every plastic consumer to exercise their buying power by refusing single-use plastics.

On Thursday, July 5 at 11 am Dianne Pasfield, Snr Water and Waste Educator, Toowoomba Regional Council has agreed to come to St Thomas More's to talk to us about Waste Management which includes what can go in our bins and what happens to the waste after that, with a particular focus on recycling. This time won't suit everyone, so, if this goes well, we might look to invite Dianne back for an evening meeting at some future date.

On World Environment Day we are again reminded to revisit the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* of Pope Francis – an invitation and a challenge to care for our environment. Below are a couple of paragraphs from the encyclical which is full of many refreshing reflections:

10. I do not want to write this Encyclical without turning to that attractive and compelling figure, whose name I took as my guide and inspiration when I was elected Bishop of Rome. I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

11. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them “to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason”. His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. His disciple Saint Bonaventure tells us that, “from a reflection on the primary source of all things, filled with even more abundant piety, he would call creatures, no matter how small, by the name of ‘brother’ or ‘sister’”. Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behaviour. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

14. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet... We require a new and universal solidarity. As the bishops of Southern Africa have stated: “Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation”. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.

Gathering: To Be Your Bread

D Haas

**To be your bread now, be your wine now, Lord,
Come and change us to be a sign of your love.
Blest and broken, poured and flowing,
Gift that you gave us, to be your body once again.**

We come to your table with our lives as they are.
Heal us Lord, for we are broken, make us one again.

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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: I Will Take the Cup....

C Smith



**Refrain: I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.**

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise.
I will call on the name of the Lord.

O Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
Your servant Lord, your servant am I
You have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all his people.

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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:

Nurturing God, hear us

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: The Body of Christ

B Boniwell

**This is the body of Christ,
Blessed and broken for us,
Blessed and given for us.
This is the body of Christ,**

This is the bread of my love.
How I long to fill you with my life.

Drink from the cup of my blood.
Let my Spirit heal you deep within.

If you would live in my love,
Hold my word, my promise in your heart.

Gathered as one in my name,
Take my joy, my freedom to the world.

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Thanksgiving: The Eucharist Song

F Andersen

This is My Body, take now and share!
Deep in the memory of My own prayer.

This is My Blood, come drink and live!
In all completeness this power I give.

You are My People, My chosen friends!
Come share the Spirit My Father sends.

And hold with-in you, in constant hope,
My peaceful presence, gift of My heart!

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Recessional: Companions on the Journey

C Landry

**We are companions on the journey,
Breaking bread and sharing life;
And in the love we bear is the hope we share,
For we believe in the love of our God.
We believe in the love of our God.**

No longer strangers to each other,
No longer strangers in God's house;
We are fed and we are nourished
By the strength of those who care
By the strength of those who care.

We have been gifted with each other,
And we are called by the Word of the Lord;
To act with justice, to love tenderly,
And to walk humbly with our God.
To walk humbly with our God.

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