

# 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 Nativity of St John the Baptist, Year B, 23 - 24 June, 2018

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80

Today's gospel is a good news story. Most of us respond with joy to the birth of a child, especially when the odds are stacked against the parents conceiving. As the child grows to maturity, friends and family might look back and interpret later achievements in the light of childhood expectation and promise. Stories of birth and childhood are often told in the light of later events. The story of the birth of John the Baptizer is told with hindsight and against the background of Jewish expectations in the Second Temple period. The gospel writers reflect on the role John played in recognising the significance of Jesus of Nazareth and in pointing to Jesus as the unique agent and prophet of God's empire over against the Roman Empire.

Luke is the only gospel writer to reflect on John's "pre-history" and to hint that his birth belonged within the biblical tradition of the "wondrous" births of remarkable people. He interprets the birth of John as an expression of God's "great mercy". Luke narrates the childhood story of John in parallel and yet in appropriate relationship with the story of the child Jesus, whose identity and mission represent the ultimate revelation of Israel's God.

In announcing the birth of John the Baptizer, storyteller Luke uses the language of fulfilment: "the time came" [for Elizabeth to give birth] is literally "the time was fulfilled". The birth of this child is a time of the fulfilment of God's word, as previously announced by the angel Gabriel to his father Zechariah (Luke 1:13-17). Zechariah had been told not to fear, for his wife Elizabeth would give birth to a son and "you will name him John".

Joy and gladness would be the response to the birth of this child who was to be "filled with Holy Spirit even before his birth". John's destiny was "to make ready a people". Jesus, the one for whom John is "preparing the way" will later refer to him as "a prophet" and "more than a prophet" (Luke 7:27). Zechariah, who refuses to believe that he and Elizabeth will have a child in their advanced years, is told that he will be mute "until the day these things occur" (1:17. "These things" encompass the birth of the child, the joy-filled response of the faith community and the naming of the child eight days after birth. John's name, meaning "YHWH (the God of Israel) has shown grace", foreshadows the extraordinary mark that this child, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, will make on his world and consequently on ours. Like John, we are called to "make ready a people", to prepare the way. For Australian Catholics, commitment to creative participation in the forthcoming Plenary Council preparations might be a fitting way to celebrate this feast.

(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: 25/06 – 01/07/2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass  
6.00pm.....PPC Agenda  
7.00pm.....Pastoral Council Info  
7.00pm.....St V de P  
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education  
5.30pm.....Mass  
Wednesday 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word  
10.00am.....Open Door  
7.00pm.....Revenue Committee  
Thursday 9.00am..Plenary Council Meeting  
7.00pm..Plenary Council Meeting  
Friday 9.00am..... Mass

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday  
8.30am Sunday  
Readings: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24  
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15  
Mark 5:21-43



**HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH**

**Catholic Mission Church Appeal:**

Our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal this 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 give generously. You can also phone on Freecall: 1800 257 296 or visit the website: [www.catholicmission.org.au/Myanmar](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/Myanmar)

**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.

**TRC Presentation on Waste Management:**

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.

**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. 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](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.

**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.

**Transport Available:**

Anyone who has no transport to attend weekend Mass can be assisted. Telephone the Parish Office (4635 955) to make your needs known and a Care and Concern member will follow up to arrange suitable transport.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Plenary Council 2020:**

The first stage of listening and dialogue as part of the 2020 Plenary Council is underway. All of us are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" *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.* More information and a survey to fill out can be found at the website: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) There is a link to this page on our Parish website.

**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](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au).

**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.

**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 8.30am 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.

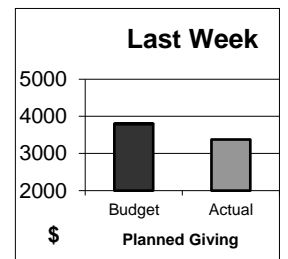
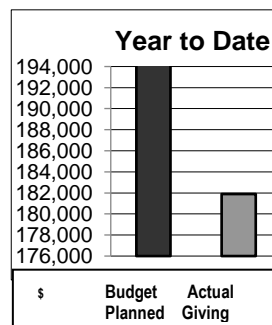
**PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**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:** Therese Henry, Rita O'Donohue.

**Anniversary:** Teresa Garrone, Patricia Erbacher

**PLANNED GIVING**



## Catholic Church Mission Appeal 2018

Healing a nation  
through  
education



After six decades of internal conflict and political struggles, Myanmar (formerly Burma) is moving towards a new age of democracy. Led by Cardinal Charles Maung Bo S.D.B., the Catholic Church has prioritised education as the key stepping stone to peace.

Ten years ago, Cardinal Bo initiated a teacher-training centre, Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (PSIE), to help support education across the country, with the goal to help heal and build a prosperous Myanmar.

The Church in Myanmar has placed education as its top priority; through providing schools with teachers who are well-trained with child-centred education, as well as supporting the construction and renovation of schools, children in even the most remote parts of Myanmar will have better access to quality education.

In Hakha, a remote town in the mountainous region north of Myanmar, St John's School is a newly established school that services over 50 local children in preschool to year one. The teachers at St John's provide holistic education to the children through interactive

learning with education resources and child-centred methodologies. Three of the teachers at St John's have been trained through the Church's teacher-training program at the Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (PSIE) in Yangon, and have been posted to this school to help local children learn in a modern way that maximises their potential.

PSIE provides young women and men with the training and skills they need to reach out to communities like Hakha, and support the education of children so that they have a brighter future. Your support through Catholic Mission can enable PSIE to continue training teachers and help improve education across the country. You can also help St John's School add grades to ensure continuity of education, and become economically sustainable.

Below are ways your gift can help support the work of the Church in Myanmar. Your kind donation today will not only benefit communities in Myanmar, but also communities in other developing countries around the world. Thank you for your commitment and support of this work of global mission. Your generosity makes a real difference.

**\$50** can cover the cost of training one teacher at Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education for three days.

**\$100** can contribute towards the cost of educational resources for remote schools supported by the work of the Church in Myanmar.

(Donation Envelopes are available in the Church foyer. More information is available at [www.catholicmission.org.au/Myanmar](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/Myanmar) )