

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)

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 7 - 8 July, 2018

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

Readings: Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

Most of us have known the experience of feeling powerless in the face of rejection, especially when it is rejection from those who are closest to us, from those who might normally be expected to understand and affirm us. Mark presents such rejection as the experience of Jesus. Earlier in the gospel (3:20-21), we find that Jesus is misunderstood by his family who consider him to be out of his mind. Members of his family try to take responsibility for him, to take hold of him and to save him from himself. When they come to take him away, he leaves them outside and continues to teach those gathered around him about a new sort of kinship, kinship that is based on doing God's will.

In today's gospel reading (6:1-6), we find that the neighbours and friends of Jesus' family have trouble coping with him. They admit that his teaching demonstrates considerable wisdom. They also acknowledge his extraordinary power as a healer. From their perspective, however, something does not add up. After all, he is basically just one of them, "the craftsman".

Jesus' hometown people do not simply puzzle over his extraordinary powers. They are actually "scandalised" by him. He experiences their response as rejection and tells them how he feels. In so doing, he identifies himself with the rejected prophets of old. The townspeople's lack of faith renders Jesus, the prophet in their midst, powerless: he is simply unable to perform any mighty deeds among them. There is a hint in the text, however, that some few do have faith: "he cured a few sick people." He cures these people "by laying his hands on them". We have seen, in the request of the man with leprosy (1:41) and the action of the crowds (3:10,) the people's well-founded faith in the healing power of touch, of bodily encounter. Touch is once more the agent of healing.

At times, we may be like Jesus, bringing the wisdom and power of God to our families or local communities, only to meet with rejection. Sometimes, we may be like the few who come in faith and experience a healing touch. At other times, we may replicate the behaviour of the opponents of Jesus and discount the achievements of those who excel or whose message challenges us or our lifestyle. To refuse to listen to a prophetic message because the messenger fails to meet our preconceived ideas about prophets may have something to do with a lack of faith. It may actually stymie the power of God. Finally, the emphasis on healing in this reading invites us to pause and consider the intrinsic value of all, human and other-than-human, so often denigrated and devalued by attitudes that dichotomise the material and the spiritual with dire consequences for the Earth community.

(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: 9 – 15 July 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass
Wednesday 9.00am....Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
Friday 9.00am..... Mass

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Amos 7:12-15
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:7-13



July 2018

7/8 July – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday
30 July – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday:

We are celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday this weekend. 8 July also marks the beginning of NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Celebration) which runs from 8 to 15 July. A calendar of local events for NAIDOC is posted on the Parish Noticeboard in the Church Foyer.

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

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

Catholic Mission Church Appeal:

Envelopes are still available in the Church Foyer for the Catholic Mission Appeal. As mentioned at Masses last 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

DATE CLAIMER: Spring Clean Garage Sale:

To celebrate the beginning of spring we shall have a Parish Spring Clean Garage Sale on Saturday September 1 in the hall (and outside if necessary) as a fundraiser for the parish. As you are preparing for spring and cleaning up at home, you may find items that you no longer need. Bring them along to be sold on the day. You may be looking for new things at the beginning of spring – if so, come along and find a treasure on the day. More details to follow over the coming weeks. Contact the Parish Office or Peter McDonald on email: pmduck@netspace.net.au or by phone: 0408 345 022.

DATE CLAIMER:

Coach Trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO:

A coach trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO is planned for Saturday October 20, leaving St Thomas More's at 8 am **and returning** by about 4 pm. Cost is \$40 per person. A great opportunity for some early Christmas Shopping. Please let the Parish Office or our Parish Leader know if you are interested to come along.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY:

The weekend of 25 and 26 August this year is when we celebrate Migrant and Refugee Sunday. It is an opportunity to highlight the diversity within our community as we commemorate our family origins from countries across the world. We plan to include opportunities in the liturgy as well as social opportunities after both Masses to showcase our diverse cultural backgrounds. More details to follow. Please discuss with our Parish Leader.

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?" *Fill in the survey. Get a group together to talk about the future of the Church in Australia (Brochures available from the Parish Office). If we want to have a say about the future of our Church, we need our voices to be heard.* 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.

Sea Sunday:

Next weekend, 14 and 15 July, (a week later than the official date) we will commemorate Sea Sunday which focuses on the Apostleship of the Sea, the Catholic Church's Missionary work to Seafarers whether they be on merchant, passenger, war or fishing vessels. Information will be provided for those who might like to donate to this ministry.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2018-2023

Copies of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan June 2018– June 2023 are available near the noticeboard in the Church foyer. The plan can also be accessed on the Diocesan website: www.twb.catholic.org.au.

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.

CAN YOU HELP TO COVER BOOKS FOR NEW DIOCESAN RESOURCE?

The Spirituality Library Outreach has about two hundred spirituality books that need to be covered before they can be made available for borrowing throughout the diocese. Sr. Elaine would be grateful to hear from anyone willing and able to help with this project – commitment could be either ongoing or limited to a few spare hours. The work will take place either on a Tuesday or Thursday at the Catholic Education Resource Centre (now situated on the Cathedral premises in the building previously used for TRAMS). A roster to move the project along will be drawn up after negotiation with the Resource Centre and with volunteers. If you are able and willing to help, please leave your name, parish and contact details:

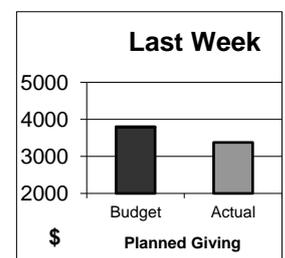
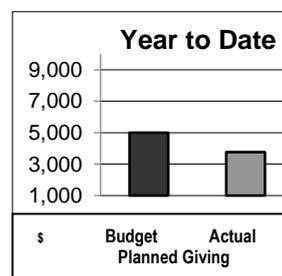
Sr. Elaine Morzone T: (07) 46327619 or M: 0458 020 906 emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au

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, Rita Sullivan, Jos Ayers, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Ros Morton, Megan Ford, Ted Wormwell.

Recently Deceased: Moya Borghardt

PLANNED GIVING



BECAUSE OF YOU MY FAITH IS STRONG (by Erica Bernard)

'Because of Her, we can' is this year's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday theme. So, I find myself reflecting on what that means to me, as an Aboriginal Catholic woman.

While sitting at the grotto of Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral in Broome with my Mimi Cissy, (my grand father's sister) I asked her what should I write, she sat there for a moment and said well it should all start with her, pointing to Our Lady. On this day, we were getting ready to pray to her for the loss of a family member and as always in my home town of Broome every family gather to say the rosary when someone dies, for an anniversary or when someone needs our prayers. This led me to see how Our Lady is reflected in my mothers, grandmothers, aunties, sisters, cousins, daughters and nieces, all the woman in my life.

It brings to mind the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son through the power of the Holy Spirit and he shall be called Jesus Christ (Luke 1:26-38). For her to bear a child that will grow into a man that will die for me. Which brings to mind a story I have heard a few times about a group of women in a remote community wanting a statue of Our Lady and coming to the consensus that they chose the Pieta, Michelangelo's statue of the Blessed Mother with the broken body of her son which lay across her lap, nursed in her arms. The amount of tragic circumstances that many of our mothers/ grandmothers go through in losing a child is so evident in my family and communities on a daily basis, but as I look at my mothers, aunties, grandmothers and wonder what is it that holds them together, I see their devotion of love and prayer to Our Lady and to her son Jesus, and through prayer is where they connect and get their strength to keep going, keep living. For every day that I will rise I'll pray that the Lord will grace me with his presence to do God's will, to set an example through my actions in what I do and all that I am for my children and my people. And that 'Because of her...'

Mary Our Mother, I know 'I can...'

(Broome resident Erica Bernard sees a lot of similarities in her Catholic faith and her Yawuru/Gidja spirituality. Erica is the Community Liaison Officer for the Broome Catholic Education Office and below she shares how Our Lady is reflected in the many strong women in her life.)

DID YOU KNOW?

- As at 30 June 2017, there were 761,300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia (3% of the total population).
- Most Indigenous Australians (79%) live in non-remote areas. 1 in 5 live in remote and very remote areas (compared to less than 1 in 50 non-Indigenous Australians).
- The median age for Indigenous Australians is 21.8 years versus 37.6 years for non-Indigenous Australians.
- Nationally, in 2015, around 42% of all Indigenous children in their first year of full-time schooling were categorised as developmentally vulnerable on one or more of the five key areas of early childhood development (or domains), compared with 21% of all non-Indigenous children.
- The proportion of Indigenous people aged 20-24 who had attained a Year 12 or equivalent level of education has increased significantly, from 45% in 2008 to 62% in 2014-2015 (compared with 86% of non-Indigenous Australians).
- In 2015-16, Indigenous children aged 0-17 received child protection services at a rate around 7 times that for non-Indigenous children, and they were 10 times as likely to be in out-of-home care.
- While Indigenous Australians aged 10-17 account for less than 6% of all Australians of that age, on an average day in 2015-16: 48% of young people under youth justice supervision were Indigenous and more than half (59%) of young people in youth detention were Indigenous.
- As at 30 June 2016, over one-quarter (27%) of the total Australian prison population was Indigenous— meaning that the Indigenous age-standardised imprisonment rate was 13 times that for non-Indigenous Australians.
- Compared with other households, Indigenous households are:
 - half as likely to own their own home
 - more than twice as likely to rent (public or private)
 - more than 3 times as likely to live in overcrowded dwellings
 - more than 7 times as likely to live in social housing.

(Information sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, an agency of the Australian Government which produces high-quality reports and other information products, on key health and welfare issues in Australia, that are used to improve the delivery of health and welfare for Australians.)

Gathering: This Day God Gives Me G Chapman

This day God gives me strength of high heaven
Sun and moon shining, flamed in my hearth,
Flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
Deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.

This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
Might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,
Your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

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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: Our Eyes are fixed on the Lord

C Smith



Response: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord; pleading for his mercy.

To you have I lifted my eyes,
You who dwell in the heavens:
My eyes, like the eyes of slaves
On the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
On the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes are on the Lord, our God
Till he shows us his mercy.

Have mercy on us Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed our soul is too full with the scorn of the rich,
With the disdain of the proud.

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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 hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim
your Death O Lord, 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: Quiet Reflection

Recessional: This Day God Gives Me

G Chapman

God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels from heaven, drive from me always,
All that would harm me, stand by me still.

Rising I thank you, Mighty and strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
Firmly confessing Three-ness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

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