

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

Parish Council Email: parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Website: www.stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Facebook Page: [@stmparishtwmba](https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba)

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 14 - 15 July, 2018

Readings: Amos 7:12-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

To be a disciple of Jesus is to experience a call. It is also to be sent on a mission in partnership with others, a mission invariably expressed in terms of preaching, teaching, healing, and/or driving out of demons or unclean spirits. In other words, it is to be authorised to do what Jesus did and to proclaim what he proclaimed. When we hear of Jesus casting out demons and telling his disciples to do likewise, we tend to think that whatever they did is something that belongs to another time and has little to do with our contemporary society.

In the cosmology of the time, there was a realm between the divine and the human that was inhabited by good and evil spirits (angels and demons). The divide between these realms was conceptualised as porous so that humans could be protected by the angels or "possessed" by the demons. While the cosmology of the twenty-first century has no "place" for such beings, the contemporary imagination allows space for a metaphorical engagement with the angelic and demonic. When we speak of "demons" now, we are talking about something recognisable in human experience, even if somewhat removed from the "demons" that beset the poor in the Roman imperial provinces of the first century.

Today's parents spend much of their time casting out the "demons" that beset their children, as do our friends when they sit and listen to the pain in our hearts and help us to let go of the "demons" that so often inhabit our psyches. Many health professionals are paid to heal the hurts as well as the cuts and burns. They drive out the demons of fear and hate and prejudice and of paralysing mental illness. Educators also, aware that learning occurs only when students are relatively free from fear and anxiety, know what it means to drive out the demons.

It is significant that Jesus instructs the disciples to travel light. They need the basics to live and to do their job, but if their mission is to be effective, they must be free from the anxiety that comes from excess. Psychologist and social critic John F. Schumacher suggests that societies with the most material goods tend to be the most anxious. "Mutual respect, community-mindedness, an eagerness to share, reverence for nature, thankfulness and love of life", it seems, are the major ingredients for a stress- or "demon"-free personal and community life. There would be no need to shake the dust from our feet for want of hospitality if that were the way we all chose to live. What's more, there would be enough for all on our planet, the human and other-and-human, to live in dignity and peace.

(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 Hltz
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: 16 - 22 July 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
10.00am.....Open Door
Thursday 10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer
7.00pm.....Social Justice
Friday 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Ephesians 2:13-18
Mark 6:30-34



HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

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.

Sea Sunday 2018:

This weekend, 14 and 15 July, 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.

If you wish to donate to this ministry, cheques can be sent to: Apostleship of the Sea, National Office, GPO Box 368, CANBERRA ACT 2601 or funds can be transferred electronically to: A/C: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, BSB: 062 784, A/C Number: 29 745 200, Reference: Sea Sunday Appeal 2018.

Penance Program:

We still welcome applications to join the program in Term 3 as well as people interested in joining the sacramental team. Please contact Michael, the Parish Leader on 0407 804 461 or parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au for further information.

DATE CLAIMER: Spring Clean Garage Sale:

To celebrate the beginning of spring we shall have a Parish Spring Clean Garage Sale on Saturday September 8 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. There will be opportunities for prayer, for song, for bringing up symbols of our cultural heritages. We are also thinking of finger foods for after Mass on Saturday night or morning tea delights for Sunday morning. Please discuss with our Parish Leader.

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?" *The latest newsletter from the Plenary Council Coordinators is asking us to tell our stories. The Plenary Council teams wants to share stories, images and video from around the country. Send content to plenarycouncil@catholic.org.au and let them know if you're happy for them to share it with the broader church community. One of our family groups are planning to meet to share their reflections and stories. We are also considering hosting a group for young people and young adults to reflect together and share their thoughts on the future of the Church. Remember that 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.*

Parish Secretary Position:

Expressions of interest are invited for anyone interested in a three day position (21 hours) as Parish Secretary at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Toowoomba. For further information please contact the Parish Office by phone on 4637 1500, by mail via Po Box 7062 TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350 or by email at admin@stpats.org.au. Applications close Friday, 10 August 2018.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2018-2023

Copies of our *Diocesan Pastoral Plan June 2018– June 2023* are still available near the noticeboard in the Church foyer. It seems that there is not currently a link to the plan on the Diocesan website.

CAN YOU HELP TO COVER BOOKS FOR NEW DIOCESAN RESOURCE?

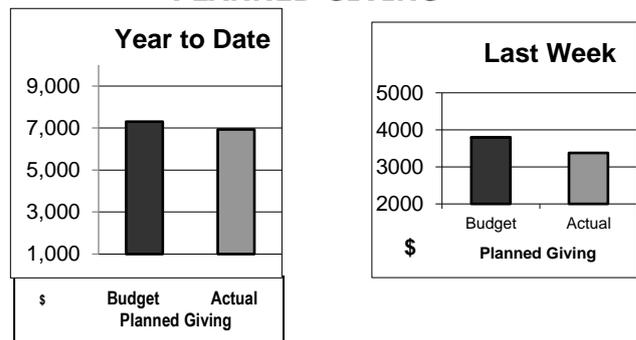
The Spirituality Library Outreach has about two hundred spirituality books that need to be covered before they can be made available for borrowing throughout the diocese. Sr. Elaine would be grateful to hear from anyone willing and able to help with this project – commitment could be either ongoing or 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.

PLANNED GIVING





Seafarers' Sunday

The Apostleship of the Sea is the Catholic Church's Missionary work to the Seafarers whether they be on merchant, passenger, war or fishing vessels. While the Church has always been interested in Seafarers since Christ first gathered his fishermen-disciples around him, the modern movement began in the 1890s with several isolated and independent beginnings.

The purpose of the Apostleship of the Sea is to care for the Spiritual, Social, and Material welfare of all Seafarers without distinction of colour, race or creed:

SPIRITUAL – Inspired by our Catholic faith and respecting the beliefs and practices of all seafarers, we nourish their spiritual lives by being Christ for them and finding Christ in them.

SOCIAL – Concerned for the social well-being of seafarers, we provide internet and telecommunications facilities, to allow them to keep in contact with their families, and recreational activities promoting their mental and physical health.

MATERIAL – Committed to social justice for all and believing in the dignity of the human person, we support seafarers in their right to fair remuneration, appropriate onboard accommodation, safe working conditions and non-discriminatory treatment by advocacy and working with other organisations.

As a missionary work, it serves ALL seafarers. The annual Sea Sunday Appeal provides much-needed funding for this Catholic ministry – to seafarers of all faiths and none – in ports across the country.

Community spirit gives Sara wheels



"IT'S an answer to prayer," a Brisbane mother-of-six said when her family took delivery of a special mobility vehicle during the week. Mehret Mehari had been hoping and praying for this vehicle since her youngest child Sara, 13, was released from hospital after a backyard accident had left the schoolgirl with severe disability. Sustaining brain injury in the accident in September 2016, Sara has been unable to walk, talk or eat.

Mehret and her husband Meskel knew, that with the cost of special taxis being so expensive, they would need a mobility vehicle to take Sara to medical

appointments, school, church or anywhere else with the rest of the family, but that was out of their reach.

Parishes in Toowoomba and Brisbane, and the St Vincent de Paul Society came to their aid. St Thomas More's Parish in Toowoomba initiated an appeal to raise money to buy the vehicle because the Meharis had been much-loved parishioners there. Originally from Eritrea, the family lived in the parish for three years after migrating from Sudan in 2013.

The St Vincent de Paul Society of Brisbane Northern Suburbs came on board, and parishioners at the Meharis' Brisbane parish at Bracken Ridge and the Brisbane Eritrean community chipped in. From October to the end of December last year, they raised the \$37,000 needed, with one donor giving \$10,000.

"I'm so happy," Mehret said on the day the vehicle arrived. "This is special for Sara. I want to say thank you. I say thank you to everyone (who supported the appeal)."

When asked what would be the first trip in the car, Mehret smiled and said, "to the church to get Fr Gerry (Hefferan, Bracken Ridge parish priest) to bless the car for Sara". And next? "Then maybe to the shops – we haven't been able to do that," she said. "And maybe the movies," one of Sara's older sisters Zina said. "She's not had a chance to go to the movies. It also will be easier to go to hospital appointments, when you want to go." Mehret said she would also look forward to taking Sara to the beach. "In summer time we were trying to take her to the beach but sometimes it's hard," she said. She said Sara liked the beach but it cost \$42 to \$45 one way for the 4.5km trip to Shorncliffe. "I hope we will be able to go to Toowoomba soon too," Mehret said.

Friends from St Thomas More's Parish Mary and Peter Taylor and Madonna Wills made a special trip from Toowoomba to be with the Meharis when the mobility vehicle was delivered. They have been supporting the family since Sara's tragic accident and have regularly visited since the Meharis moved to Brisbane.

The St Vincent de Paul Society's Brisbane Northern Suburbs Regional Council president Don Gore was also there for the vehicle handover. "It was satisfying to be able to help a family in desperate need after a tragic accident," Mr Gore said. "It's been a long journey but we got there."

(The above article by Peter Bugden dated July 6 2018 was originally published in The Catholic Leader last weekend)

Gathering: All the Ends Of The Earth

R Dufford

**All the ends of the earth
All you creatures of the sea,
Lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord,
For the Lord of the earth, the master of the sea,
Has come with justice for the world.**

Break into song at the deeds of the Lord,
The wonders God has done in every age.

Heaven and earth shall rejoice in God's might;
Every heart every nation call him Lord.

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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: Lord Show us your Mercy

C Smith



**Refrain: Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
A voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
And his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
Justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
And justice look down from the heavens.

The Lord will make us prosper
And our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
And peace shall follow his steps.

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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:

Listen to Your people, O God.

Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim
your Death O Lord, until you come again.

Communion: As Grains Of Wheat

L Rosania

As grains of wheat are gathered in,
We've come together;
From lives apart,
We bring our hearts to make one whole.

**For many are we,
And broken we've come
But we shall become one.**

Each grain must fall and give itself:
It first is broken,
Then, joined with others,
Makes one body and one bread.

From many fields the harvest comes
To feed the hungry;
The world cries out
To taste the goodness of the Lord.

Your harvest, Lord, is gathered in;
We stand before you
To be your bread,
To be your body in the world.

**For many are we,
And broken we've come,
But we shall become one.
We shall be one.**

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Thanksgiving: Song for The Journey

E Marshall

All of our life we will travel a journey,
Called into love by the heart of the Son.
Believing his way, we will walk with him only,
For he is our joy, our peace, our true delight.

**With you, Lord, we'll know the way,
For you are the light of our day.
You are strength in our need.
Forgiveness and freedom:
Let us trust in the Lord.**

Happiness shared as we travel our journey,
Invites us to live in the heart of the Son.
Together we walk as we follow him only,
For he is our joy, our peace, our true delight.

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Recessional: Joyful in Hope:

M Herry

Joyful in hope, your people pray.
Joyful in hope, we're on our way.
Though the road may not be clear,
We believe, Lord, you are near,
In the smile and open heart of a friend.

Joyful in hope, your people pray.
Joyful in hope, we're on our way.
There's sunshine after rain,
There's laughter after pain,
And I am with you always, so rise again.

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