

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 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)

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 21 - 22 July, 2018

Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:13-18; Mark 6:30-34

In every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and recreation. With so much pain and suffering in our world, the demands of living a gospel way of life can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today's gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.

The apostles have been busy—preaching, healing and driving out the “demons” as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities and are invited to take time to rest and recuperate. “Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while” is the invitation that Jesus extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel travelled for forty years. For the contemporary reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert, on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth's surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other.

The “rest” that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is “moved with compassion”. The Greek verb for being moved with compassion suggests a “gut” reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are “like sheep without a shepherd”, and he is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. “You give them something to eat” is his instruction to those who would turn the people away.

Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or “shepherds” who will “practice justice and righteousness in the land”, as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness entail.

As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus' disciples are well-meaning, though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect, however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the “shepherd”, and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement of peoples and of other-than-human species.

(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: 23 - 29 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
7.00pm.....PRDC
Friday 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: 2 Kings 4:42-44
Ephesians 4:1-6
John 6:1-15



July/August 2018

30 July – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting
6 August – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
13 August – Care and Concern/Consolation Team Meetings
20 August – Finance Committee Meeting

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.

Wine and Cheese Evening 4 August:

The next Wine and Cheese Evening will be held on Saturday 4 August after 6.00pm Mass. This is a great opportunity to meet with fellow worshippers after the Saturday evening Mass. Offers of platters (large or small) for the evening are most welcome.

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.

Spring Clean Garage Sale September 8:

See detailed information on the opposite page.

Coach Trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO October 20:

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. All ideas are welcome. Please discuss with our Parish Leader or with members of the Parish Council.

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.

Baptisms: On Sunday 22 July, we welcome into our Church Community **Ashleigh Joy McNamara** daughter of Bede McNamara and Candice Reibel.

Sofie Kate Dolley and Mack Jensen Dolley, daughter and son of Scott and Melanie Dolley.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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. There is also now an Action Plan to accompany the Pastoral Plan. Both can be accessed online via the diocesan website: <http://www.twb.catholic.org.au/diocesan-pastoral-plan/> or our parish website: http://stthomasmores.org.au/?page_id=515

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.

Spiritual Enrichment Day in Toowoomba, 4 August.

Sr. Elaine will offer this year's Spiritual Enrichment Day on the theme "Invited into a Journey of Deepening Consciousness" on four different occasions at different venues for those who live in Toowoomba. The first of these will be on Saturday 4 August at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. You are invited to arrive at 9.00 am for a 9.30 am start. The session will finish no later than 2.30 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME. There is no cost involved but you are asked to bring lunch to share. For any queries contact Sr. Elaine via: Email: emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au Phone: (07) 4632 4277 Mobile: 0458 020 906 (Scheduled at St Thomas More's on 15 November 2018)

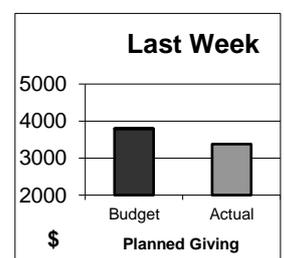
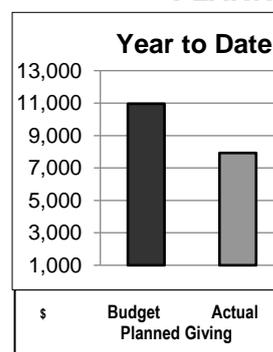
Plenary Council 2020:

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. Mary Otto (Diocesan RCIA Coordinator), with assistance from Ingrid McTaggart (Diocesan Communications Officer), has now been appointed by Bishop Robert McGuckin as the Toowoomba Diocese's Coordinator for the Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue Process. 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.*

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: Marie Mahoney

PLANNED GIVING



Reduce Reuse Recycle

On Thursday 5 July a small group of parishioners met with Dianne Pasfield, Senior Water and Waste Educator from the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC), to discuss managing waste. Each Council area in Australia has different procedures about waste and recycling so it's important to know the local rules about what can and can't be recycled and which bin to use.

This meeting was timely as from 1 July this year, we have all had to deal with the removal of single use plastic bags in Queensland. This is a response in part to the growing volume of waste plastic objects clogging up our waterways. It appears that within 12 years there will be more plastic objects by weight than fish living in our oceans unless action is taken.

Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, stressed our common responsibility to care for our environment. Unfortunately, Australia is ranked 5th highest for generating the most municipal waste in the world.

So, what can we do to help solve the waste problems confronting our world?

1. **Reduce** our consumption of consumer goods. Think before we buy.
2. **Reuse** existing goods instead of replacing them.
3. **Recycle** items that are of no further use to us. From this weekend St Thomas More's recommences providing a bin for battery recycling.
4. **Collect** TRC's 3 wheelie bin bookmarks from the church foyer and always place the correct items only in the red, yellow and green bins so that our recycling system is not contaminated.
5. **Watch** the *War on Waste* on ABC TV commencing Tuesday 24 July at 8.30 to learn more about the problems and possible solutions.
6. **Support** local not for profit op shops. Put reusable items in the St Vincent de Paul bin or take larger items to the shop in Ruthven Street. Give used books to the Lifeline Bookshop at the Range Shopping Centre.
7. **Spring Clean** and collect unneeded items for St Thomas More's Spring Clean Garage Sale on Saturday 8 September (more details below).

(Thanks to Deborah and Mark Tranter who prepared the above material following the presentation by Dianne on 5 July.)

Subsequent to the presentation on July 5, Dianne provided further information from Toowoomba Regional Council about the disposal of batteries:

"While alkaline batteries can be safely disposed of with normal household waste, there are a large range of batteries that contain harmful chemicals like heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium which can escape into the environment. This contamination can be dangerous for the environment and for human health. There is also the issue of batteries causing fires. We have had to deal with fires caused from batteries in the waste collection trucks and also at the Waste Management Centre.

Button batteries contain toxic chemicals and should never be disposed of in general waste. As a result of the confusion as to which batteries can be safely placed in general waste and which cannot, we discourage any batteries being placed in the General Waste bin."

Spring Clean Garage Sale 8 September 2018

We are holding a Parish Spring Clean Garage Sale on Saturday September 8 in the hall (and outside if necessary). This is a fundraising event for the parish, so you are invited, as you prepare for spring and have a clean up at home, to donate any items that you no longer need to the Parish to be sold on the day. Any items not sold on the day will be donated to the Society of St Vincent de Paul or to Lifeline. As part of the day, we are planning to include a plant sale so would welcome the donations of plants. If you prefer, you can donate pots or potting mix so that we can organise for some plants to be potted for selling on the day. The day will also include a cake stall, with donations of cakes and other baked goodies invited. The sale will be advertised to the broader community and we are looking forward to a great day. Contact the Parish Office by phone 4635 9555 or email: parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au or Peter McDonald on email: pmcduck@netspace.net.au or by phone: 0408 345 022.

Gathering: Save Us, O Lord

R Dufford

**Save us, O Lord; carry us back.
Rouse your power and come. Rescue your people;
Show us your face. Bring us back.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us.
Return and we shall be saved.
Arise, O Lord; hear our cries,
O Lord: Bring us back!

How long will you hide from your people?
We long to see your face.
Give ear to us. Draw near to us,
Lord God of hosts!

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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: The Lord is my Shepherd

B Boniwell

The Lord is my Shepherd
And I want to follow
Wherever he leads me,
Wherever he goes.
Over the mountains,
The waters and by-ways,
Valleys and highways,
He's waiting for me.

**I want to go to meet him there,
To lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my Shepherd
And I want to follow
Wherever he leads me,
Wherever he goes.**

And while on the journey
To where we are going,
He promised to be there
To help us along.
And over the mountains
We'll walk on together
To know all the wonders
He's given to me.

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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:

Shepherding God, hear us.

Acclamation:

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

Communion: Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?

M Herry

**Lord, to whom shall we go?
You are our bread, broken and shared.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
Yours are the words of life.**

Our fathers ate, yet their hunger remained.
Their hearts were not satisfied.

O Lord, you feed us with the finest of wheat,
Our pledge of eternal life.

The bread you give is the living bread,
Your flesh for the life of the world.

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my steps,
A light for my path of life.

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Thanksgiving: Quiet Reflection

Recessional: City of God

D Schutte

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light,
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

**Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
Has turned the night into day!**

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free.

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