

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.*

71 A Ramsay Street Toowoomba Qld 4350 Ph: 4635 9555 Fax: 4635 5742

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: <https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba/>

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 28 - 29 July, 2018

Readings: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

The gospel readings for the next five weeks are taken from John 6, a section of the gospel that focuses on food and related themes: on hungry people; on the need for food/bread; on food/bread as metaphors for life. Bread has been the staple food for millennia in bible lands. To be without bread is to lack the very basics of existence, and that is how it is for so many in our world. Even the impoverished in the so-called "first world" know what it is like to be without the means of subsistence in a world of plenty. The present cycle of readings confronts us with questions about our own lifestyle, our exploitation of earth's precious resources, and our capacity to make a positive change in the lives of those whose access to the fruits of our earth is much more limited than ours.

In John's account of the feeding of the 5000, the crowds keep following Jesus because they see the "signs" he works among the sick. The Johannine Jesus consistently tries to lead the people beyond a form of discipleship that is simply based on seeing the signs that he works. The inadequacy of the crowd's response on this occasion becomes clear towards the end of the reading.

Both place and time function powerfully in the story. The "mountain" place evokes the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. For the crowds, Jesus is the prophet like Moses who points to a way of satisfying hunger in the wilderness of life. The time is Passover, drawing into the narrative the passing over of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the desert and ultimately of the land where they could worship their God. This story is about the liberation that God brings through the agency of Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates that the answer to the suffering of the people, their liberation, is to be found in their care for each other. If they simply take the time to sit down together, discover the riches in their midst, give thanks, and distribute what they have, they may find they have more than they need. They must gather up the fragments, the "more-than-enough", so that nothing will be lost and others might benefit from their sharing.

Although the people partially understand Jesus' identity and teaching, their ultimate response is misdirected, even violent: they want to take him by force and make him king. He leaves them and returns to the mountain alone. We so often seek spectacular solutions to our problems. It may be that we too need to sit down together, on the grass or wherever, and discover the wealth we have at our disposal to satisfy the hunger in our world. That is what it means to be a Eucharistic people.

(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: 30/07 – 05/08/2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
6.00pm.....PPC Agenda
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
Friday 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
John 6:24-35



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 next 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.

Spring Clean Garage Sale September 8:

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 phone: 0408 345 022.

Coach Trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO October 20:

A coach trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO is booked 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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2018-2023

Copies of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Action Plan June 2018– June 2023 are available near the foyer noticeboard. Both can be accessed online via our website: http://stthomasmores.org.au/?page_id=515

Parish Secretary Position:

A three-day position (21 hours) as Parish Secretary is available 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. Please arrive at 9.00 am for a 9.30 am start. Finish is no later than 2.30 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME. No cost involved but please bring lunch to share. Please contact Sr. Elaine via: Email: emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au Phone: (07) 4632 4277 Mobile: 0458 020 906 (15/11/18 at St Thomas More's)

Plenary Council 2020:

The first stage of listening and dialogue as part of the 2020 Plenary Council is underway. More information and a survey to fill out can be accessed via the following link:

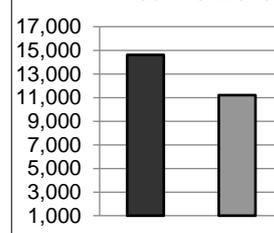
<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

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, Rita Sullivan, Jos Ayers, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Ros Morton, Megan Ford, Ted Wormwell, Vince Gainey, Mary Buttin

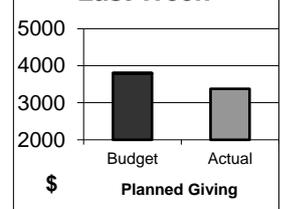
Anniversary: Marg Zellar

Year to Date



\$ Budget Actual
Planned Giving

Last Week



PLANNED GIVING

Some thoughts about the 2020 Plenary Council

Our Roman Catholic Church has, as an institution, devoted enormous energy for the past 1500 years into developing and protecting lots of specific ways of operating, many requirements, lots of privileges and powers. Many of them have come about, not through any clear direction from God nor indeed in accordance with the Scriptures [particularly the Gospels] but through the sponsorship, benevolence and political manoeuvring of worldly rulers. Our Church has clung to a way of being Church that developed after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity in the fourth century; a way that was mostly based on the structure and protocols, particularly the top-down method of governance, adopted from the collapsed Roman Empire.

Throughout the past fifteen centuries there have been many challenges to this system of governance, this “top-down” way of being Church. The visionary charismatic founders of many religious orders, for example, lived and promoted simplicity, community discernment, inclusion of poor and marginalised people not only as receivers of the Good News but also as the voices of God bringing Good News. People like Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Dominic, Ignatius of Loyola, Catherine McAuley, Mary MacKillop and Edmund Rice are a prophetic part of our history. Many others like Martin Luther, Charles and John Wesley during the past five hundred years have called for and developed thousands of Christian expressions of faith in Jesus, simpler less hierarchical ways of living with that faith. Many millions of believers in Jesus and his way live out their faith within these “non-Catholic” traditions today. And, of course, from earliest Christian times believers in Jesus in the Middle East and much of modern day Eastern Europe and North Africa have continually “listened” to the voice of God in their culture and history and incorporated that into their way of being Church. The conversation between these ancient Churches and the “western” Church linked to Rome is continuing and important and dear to the heart of Pope Francis.

On 25 January 1959 – nearly 60 years ago – Pope John XXIII called for the Catholic Church across the world to prepare for an honest examination of the Church’s life and way of operating in the world. Nearly four years later, the first of the Vatican Council’s sessions opened. In calling for the Council, Pope John gently chided the prophets of doom within the Church and spoke of the world’s need for the medicine of mercy. Famously he asked us to open the doors of the Church to the world: to listen, to reflect, to respond in the light of the Gospel. It was a call to let in some fresh air and expel the stale!

With the approval and support of our current Pope Francis, the Australian bishops have called for the whole Australian Catholic Church to do likewise within the reality of Australia at this time, 2020 and beyond. The call is similar and genuine. We are to take stock of where we are as a Church in Australia, within the context of the society in which we actually live. How can we faithfully be the presence of Jesus within contemporary Australia? The first session of the Plenary Council is to take place in October 2020 in Adelaide. A second session is planned for May 2021 in Sydney.

Critical to the preparation for the Council is the speaking and listening, freely and honestly, about our experiences of God and Church, our hopes and dreams, our joys and disappointments, our healings and our hurts, our frustrations and our yearnings. There is a full-scale shift in the way of being Church that Pope Francis is looking for with all his heart. He wants a re-capturing of the spirit and way of living as sisters and brothers in Christ that marked the first centuries of Christian history. He calls us to take hold of the freedom and sense of ownership and responsibility that flows into each of us through Baptism.

We’re being presented with a wonderful, even critical, opportunity to LISTEN to the voice of God through the Scriptures, through experiences and events in our everyday lives. We’re being called to speak boldly and honestly to each other and to make our voices heard in preparation for 2020. We are ALL invited, implored really, to enter into an extended period of DISCERNING the way God wants the Church to be today in Australia. Discernment will emerge out of honest dialogue, listening and speaking patiently and courageously, everyone participating.

(The above reflection, written by Father Hal Ranger, was published in the St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Newsletter last weekend, 21 and 22 July 2018. It is reproduced here with permission from, and thanks to, Father Hal)

Whatever happened?.....



During 2017, through the initiative of our Parish Social Justice Group, we began to explore the possibility of a sister parish relationship with a parish in Timor Leste (possibly more familiar as it was previously known as East Timor). Towards the end of 2017 a small group gathered in the Parish Office to listen to, and dialogue with, a chap named Michael Stevens, who is part of the St William’s Parish in Grovely in Brisbane’s North West and who shared about the sister parish arrangement that their parish has established with the parish of St

John de Brito at Liquiça, west of Dili, the capital of Timor Leste. In 2010 a group of parishioners from the three Brisbane parishes formed the Timor Leste Companions (TLC) who, through ongoing contact and mutual visits, have built strong bonds between the communities here and in Timor Leste. Since that time we have continued to communicate with Michael and on a recent visit to Timor Leste he identified some options for us to explore as a possible sister parish. The aim of the sister-parish partnership is to mutually enrich faith life as well as to provide material support to the parish in Timor Leste in response to needs identified by that community. The Social Justice Group are committed to progressing this initiative and we would be keen to hear from other members of the Parish Community who may be interested to be part of what promises to be an enriching journey. There will be opportunities to hear more about this in the coming months. If you are interested, please talk to our Parish Leader or to any other members of the Parish Social Justice Group.

Gathering: Table of Plenty

D Schutte

**Come to the feast of heaven and earth!
Come to the table of plenty!
God will provide for all that we need,
Here at the table of plenty.**

O, come and sit at my table, where saints and sinners are friends.
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely, to share the cup of my love.

O, come and eat without money; come to drink without price.
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit,
With faith and fullness of life.

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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 Hand of the Lord

C Smith



**Response: The hand of the Lord feeds us;
He answers all our needs**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O Lord.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
And you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
And grant the desires of all who live.

You are just in all your ways and loving in all your deeds.
You are close to all who call you,
Who call on you from their hearts.

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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:

God of Abundance, sustain us.

Acclamation:

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

Communion: Wonderful Feast

M Haugen

**We come as your guests to this wonderful feast,
Your table is set for the great and the least;
The cup of your suff'ring is blessing outpoured,
Your body is bread for the world.**

Hungry, we come, empty once more,
Feed us the bread of life, food that endures;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world
To nourish the hungry and poor.

Broken, we come, shattered by sin,
Mend us and give us a new heart within;

Then send us, O Lord, into the world
To bind up those broken by sin.

Weary, we come, worn and distressed,
Welcome us, gather us onto your breast;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world to offer the weary your rest.

Wounded, we come, suff'rings remain.
Heal our diseases, make us whole again;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world
To those bearing illness and pain.

Captive, we come, prideful and blind,
Free us from powers that snare humankind;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world
The captives to free and unbind.

Grieving, we come, those we held dear,
Tenderly hold us and dry ev'ry tear;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world
As comfort when death draws so near.

Exiled, we come, wand'ring alone,
Bind us as one in your body, our home;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world
To shelter the lost and the lone.

Grateful, we come, taking our place,
Inside the mercy of your wide embrace;
Then send us, O Lord, into the world
To set your great table of grace.

Joyful, we go, praise will not cease,
Bless us and keep us and give us your peace;
Now send us, O Lord, into the world to tell of your wonderful feast.

Final Refrain:

**We rise from your table sent into the world
To live as a blessing, your mercy outpoured,
To welcome all people, the great and the least,
As guests at your wonderful feast.**

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Thanksgiving: I'll Be Always Loving You T Watts

I am here with you by your side,
Sheltering your heart from the night.

**Wherever you go, whatever you do,
I'll be always loving you.
I will be your God, your comforter.
I will hold you close in my heart.**

Let me love the world through your heart.
Let me heal your wounds with my touch.

**Wherever you go, whatever you do,
I'll be always loving you.
I will be your God, your comforter.
I will hold you close in my heart.**

Let me see the world through your eyes.
Let forgiveness shine through your smile.

**Wherever you go, whatever you do,
I'll be always loving you.**

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Recessional: The Fullness of God F Andersen

Deep in Christ I pray you know the power he can give!
May your hidden self grow strong!
And may you live strong in faith and built on love
Until you know how high and long,
How wide and deep the fullness of God!

May the God of Jesus Christ, the Father we serve
Fill your mind that you may see,
Deep in your heart, what hope his call
Now holds for you, His promise true:
To fill your heart with power to live the fullness of God!

Know the way you learnt from Christ, to live life anew!
Let your heart be drawn to him;
Let Christ renew the hope in you to grow into
Goodness and truth!

And living so, you'll come to know the fullness of God!
And living so, you'll come to know the fullness of God!

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