

# 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 Website: [www.stthomasmores.org.au](http://www.stthomasmores.org.au) Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba/>

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 11 - 12 August, 2018

Readings: 1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2; John 6:41-51

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a Jew, as was John, the author of the gospel. It may seem strange, therefore, that John has the "Jews" complaining about Jesus. It is indeed strange, and it has caused many a reader to wonder. John seems to use the designation "Jew" as a code word for the opponents of Jesus. These opponents are almost exclusively Jewish leaders rather than the ordinary people who followed Jesus. The designation does not include all the Jewish leaders of course: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea stand out as leaders who came to believe in Jesus as the Christ and to take risks on account of their faith.

The complaint of the "Jews" relates to Jesus' claim, "I am the bread that came down from heaven". Jesus shares the world view or cosmology of his contemporaries: God is in the heavens above, so that anything or anyone coming from God in that view comes *down from heaven*. The problem for his adversaries is that Jesus is one of them: they know his father Joseph and his forebears, so how can he be making such a claim? They make the mistake of thinking that this is all there is to know about his origins. "Don't complain" is Jesus' response to them. He proceeds to tell them that there are dimensions of his being of which they know nothing. Yet they need to know, as do we. It is God who draws us to Jesus. Like the opponents of Jesus, we need to listen and to learn, to be taught by God. We need bread in order to live and we also need the bread of God's teaching.

Jesus makes a future promise: the bread he offers is different from the bread the Israelites ate in the desert, in that those who eat of it will live forever. Furthermore, the bread that he will give for the life of the world is his flesh. This leads to further misunderstanding and the opportunity for Jesus to teach at another level. The eucharistic overtones in today's reading are subtle but nonetheless present, as they were in the feeding story.

John is writing some seventy years after the death of Jesus for communities that gathered every week for the breaking of the bread in remembrance of him and of all that he enacted. Like the early Christians, we reflect on the meaning of eucharist. We recognise and honour the materiality of the bread and of the flesh that Jesus shares with all living creatures. At the same time we are invited to reflect on the symbolic or metaphorical resonances of both bread and flesh in the context of the claims of the Johannine Jesus. The question for us then becomes: "How do we live into this extraordinary mystery as we face the demands of our endangered planet?"

(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: 13 - 19 August 2018**

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass  
2.00pm.....Care and Concern  
3.00pm.....Consolation Team  
7.00pm.....St V de P  
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education  
3.30pm.....Liturgy Group  
5.30pm.....Mass  
7.00pm.....School Board  
Wednesday 9.00am.....Mass  
10.00am.....Open Door  
Thursday 10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer  
7.00pm.....Social Justice  
Friday 9.00am..... Mass  
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

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

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday  
8.30am Sunday  
Readings: Proverbs 9:1-6  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58



## August 2018

13 August – Care and Concern/Consolation Team Meetings  
20 August – Finance Committee Meeting

### HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

#### Feast of the Assumption:

There will be a 9.00am Mass on Wednesday 15 August to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.

#### Parish Leader Survey:

The current contract for our Parish Leader, Michael Birmingham, is up for renewal in early March 2019, and as part of the process, the Parish Pastoral Council invite and encourage groups and individuals to respond to a short survey to provide feedback on his performance in the role of leader of our Parish Community. There are hard copies of the survey available in the Church foyer and the survey can also be accessed via the following links: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HHT6ZKF> (weblink) or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPZ693T> (Facebook link) The survey will be open until the end of August.

#### Spring Clean Garage Sale September 8:

We are getting closer to our Parish Spring Clean Garage Sale on Saturday September 8 in the hall (and outside if necessary). This is a fundraising event for the parish. Items for the sale can be dropped off the afternoon before the sale. Please talk to Michael if you need to drop things off earlier or if you need things collected. Plants for our plant sale are already growing, but donations of pots and potting mix are needed. Don't forget that we are also welcoming donations of cakes and baked goods for the cake stall on the day. Volunteers to assist in setting up and to help on the day will also be needed. Peter McDonald is working on a list of tasks. For any queries, please contact Michael by email: [parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au) or phone 0407 804 461 or Peter McDonald on email: [pmcduck@netspace.net.au](mailto: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. 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. All ideas are welcome. Please discuss with our Parish Leader or with members of the Parish Council. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

#### Family Mass – Saturday 8 September at 6.00pm:

As part of building and maintaining a strong relationship between Parish and School, we have arranged with the school to have one weekend Mass each Term this year where we invite and welcome families from the school community to join us, with children given the opportunity to participate in the different parts of the Mass. Our Mass for this Term and the third for the year will be at 6.00 pm on Saturday 8 September. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that night, including those currently participating in the Sacramental Program.

### AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### 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/>

#### Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2018-2023

Copies of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and Action Plan June 2018– June 2023 are available near the foyer noticeboard.

### A Message from Bishop McGuckin:

*Bishop McGuckin has asked for the following to be inserted in our Newsletter to raise awareness that the Senate has decided to debate the Restoring Territory Rights (Assisted Suicide Legislation) Bill 2015 which will allow territories the right to make laws on euthanasia. The debate is scheduled to take place in the middle of August:*

Write to senators to oppose euthanasia. The Senate will soon vote on a Bill which would allow territories to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide. Please contact your senators TODAY and ask them to protect vulnerable people by voting against the Bill. Visit the HOPE website to send your message <http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/sign>

#### More to mission than meats the eye!

Right now, a Butcher is needed in Madang, Papua New Guinea Meat this challenge: contact Christine on 02 9560 5333. For more opportunities, visit: [www.palms.org.au/volunteer](http://www.palms.org.au/volunteer) Can't commit just yet? Check out [www.palms.org.au/encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/encounters)

#### SPRED INFORMATION EVENING:

Where Faith and Friendship Meet

DATE: 10/9/18 TIME: 6:30pm

WHERE: SPRED Centre, 34 Hume Street Toowoomba Ph. 4632 8427

SPRED is having a friend to walk beside you in the everyday happenings of life, which is exactly where God is to be found. Could you be a friend to someone in SPRED? Come along to an information evening to find out more.

#### 9.00am Mass – Saturday 1 September:

Mass will be celebrated here at St Thomas More's at 9am on Saturday 1 September for the Solemn Feast Day of Mary of the Southern Cross, Patron of the Toowoomba Diocese. The title of Mary of the Southern Cross is one that acknowledges that God has ever been watching over this Great Southern Land of the Holy Spirit and that the sign of hope, so visible across our diocese at night, has hung in our sky since before any person walked this ancient land. Mary was one of the few who stood before the Cross of Christ and is therefore well qualified to be honoured with the title of Mary of the Southern Cross. September 1st was chosen because it is the anniversary of the taking possession of the Cathedral by our first bishop, James Byrne.



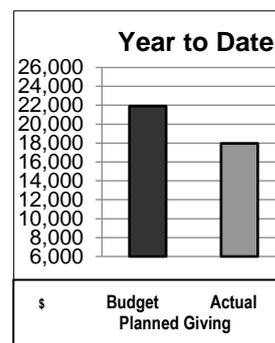
#### Bus Trip to Marian Valley:

Next trip is on Saturday the 8th September. Bus departs from Neil St. outside the Cathedral at 7:30 am. Cost \$25. For bookings contact Theresa on 0434 528 904, 4564 9805.

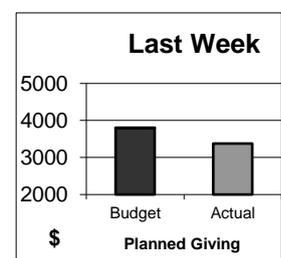
### PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

**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

**Recently Deceased:** Dudley Lisle



### PLANNED GIVING





**The theme for International Youth Day 2018 is *Safe Spaces for Youth*. (12th August 2018)**

Youth need safe spaces where they can come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs and interests, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves. While there are many types of spaces, safe spaces ensure the dignity and safety of youth. Safe spaces such as civic spaces enable youth to engage in governance issues; public spaces afford youth the opportunity to participate in sports and other leisure activities in the community; digital spaces help youth interact virtually across borders with everyone; and well-planned physical spaces can help accommodate the needs of diverse youth especially those vulnerable to marginalization or violence.

Ensuring that safe spaces are inclusive, youth from diverse backgrounds especially those from outside the local community, need to be assured of respect and self-worth. In humanitarian or conflict prone settings for example, youth may lack the space to fully express themselves without feeling uncomfortable or unwelcome. Similarly, without the existence of safe space, youth from different race/ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or cultural background may feel intimidated to freely contribute to the community. When youth have safe spaces to engage, they can effectively contribute to development, including peace and social cohesion.

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), specifically [Goal 11](#), emphasizes the need for the provision of space towards inclusive and sustainable urbanization. Furthermore, the [New Urban Agenda \(NUA\)](#) reiterates the need for public spaces for youth to enable them to interact with family and have constructive inter-generational dialogue. Additionally, the [World Programme of Action for Youth \(WPAY\)](#) which is the UN framework for youth development, prioritizes the provision of “leisure activities” as essential to the psychological, cognitive and physical development of young people. As more and more youth grow in a technologically connected world, they aspire to engage deeper in political, civic and social matters, and the availability and accessibility of safe spaces becomes even more crucial to make this a reality.

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**PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF YOUTH:**

Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland.  
Inspire our entire faith community, as we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy in the lives and communities of the People of God.

Come Holy Spirit of Youth.  
Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ. Enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth. Guide us together, as we strive to offer God’s mercy to those who feel abandoned or outcast.

Come Holy Spirit of Faith.  
Empower our community to be courageous. Unite your people as witnesses of love. Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship, accompanying young people as we renew the Church together.

Come Holy Spirit of Vocation  
Stir within young people an awareness of God’s call. Reveal to us the graces of young people. Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices to build a civilization of love. Amen

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, friend of the young, pray for us.

## Gathering: Gather Your People

B Hurd

**Gather your people, O Lord.  
Gather your people, O Lord.  
One bread, one body, one spirit of love  
Gather your people, O Lord.**

Draw us forth to the table of life:  
Brothers and sisters,  
Each of us called  
To walk in your light.

We are parts of the body of Christ,  
Needing each other,  
Each of the gifts  
The Spirit provides.

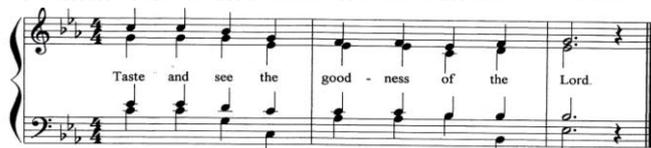
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## Gloria:

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: Taste and see the Goodness

C Smith



## Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise always on my lips;  
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
From all my terrors set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant,  
Let your faces not be abashed.  
When the poor cry out, the Lord hears them  
And rescues them from all their distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped  
Around those who revere him, to rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
They are happy who seek refuge in God.

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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:

Stay with us, O Lord.

### Acclamation:

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

## Communion: I Am the Bread Of Life

S Toolan

I am the bread of life  
You who come to me shall not hunger:  
You who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

**And I will raise you up,  
And I will raise you up,  
And I will raise you up on the last day.**

The bread that I will give  
Is my flesh for the life of the world,  
And you who eat of this bread,  
You shall live forever, you shall live forever.

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man  
And drink of his blood, and drink of his blood,  
You shall not have life within you.

I am the Resurrection. I am the life.  
You who believe in me,  
Even if you die, you shall live forever.

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,  
The Son of God,  
Who has come into the world

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## Thanksgiving: I Found the Treasure

D Schutte

Lord, to whom can I go?  
You alone speak the words of life.  
You alone on the earth or in heaven above  
Are my saviour and my Lord.

**I found the treasure in a field,  
That neither time nor death can steal.  
I will sell what I have, give all that I am,  
To hold this treasure as my own.**

Jesus, Lord of my life,  
I can ask for nothing more  
Than to see and believe that my life lies in you,  
In the kingdom of my Lord.

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## Recessional: 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.

The Lord has made salvation known  
Faithful to the promises of old.  
Let the ends of the earth,  
Let the sea and all it holds,  
Make music before our king!

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