

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 22 - 23 September, 2018

Readings: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16 – 4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Most of us have to admit to being like the disciples whom Jesus was trying to bring from blindness and ignorance to insight and understanding. Like them, we are often afraid to ask for explanations when we fear that we may not be able to deal with the responses we receive. We so often choose to live in denial. No matter how strongly Jesus insists that the way of the gospel will lead to his violent death, his closest followers persist in their refusal to accept the inevitability of suffering in the life of one who so openly challenges abuses of power.

More focussed on personal recognition and status, the "twelve" engage in a childish argument about who is the greatest among them. They are inside "the house" in Capernaum, the home of Jesus. They are understandably silent when Jesus questions them about the discussion they had "on the way". They have much to learn and he needs their attention if they are to understand who he is and what it means to be his disciple. They need to learn that being first has nothing to do with seeking the limelight, with hierarchy or status, with power or adulation. It has everything to do with engaging in ministry without distinction or discrimination, with being "servant of all". Like us, they may also have much to learn from "the way" itself, the path they tread through the land.

An engaging scene follows this discussion. They are "inside the house", an open house where all are welcome. Jesus places a child in their midst. The child is unnamed. We might give this child a name so that she or he is a real person for us. Jesus seemingly gathers the twelve in a circle around him. Taking the child in his arms, he tries to show them that gospel leadership resides, not in privilege, but in the welcome offered to those whose voices are rarely heard and whose needs are frequently ignored.

Jesus, the suffering Messiah, actually identifies with a defenceless child, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me". His identification with the defenceless is as intimate as his identification with God, "the one who sent me". As a church, we might well hear today's gospel story as a call to respond with compassion and justice to those who have suffered the indignity and injustice of abuse in their childhood. We might hear it as an invitation to listen to the cry of our sisters and brothers who continue to seek the dignity and justice that belong to all of God's people. We might learn from the five high profile Australians, the "filthy rich and homeless", who lived for a time with the nation's most vulnerable and called us all to commit to ways of being that might enable all to live in dignity and hope.

(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: 24 - 30 September 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
6.00pm.....PPC Agenda
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 5.30pm.....Mass
6.00pm...Seasons of Creation
Wednesday 9.00amLiturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
Friday 9.00am.....Mass

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B Social Justice Sunday

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Numbers 11:25-29
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48



September 2018

24 September - Parish Pastoral Council - Agenda Meeting
30 September - Social Justice Sunday

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Please Note – No Mass:

There will be no 5.30pm Mass this coming Tuesday 25 September due to the Diocesan Inservice.

Priests Retirement Foundation Annual Appeal:

Envelopes for the Annual Appeal for the Priests Retirement Foundation in the Toowoomba are still available in the Church Foyer.

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. Please book and pay by 1 October.

Melbourne Cup Coordinator:



We are looking for a new coordinator/s for this exciting job. It would probably suit a couple or two individual people to join forces. We would like to fill this position as soon as possible as time passes so quickly. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist. If we are unable to find a new coordinator/s we will not be able to go ahead with the sweep this year. That would be such a shame as our sweep has been going for a long time and the prizes are great!!

Planned Giving Envelopes:

Envelopes not collected have been posted out this week.

Anointing Mass:

Will be held at St Thomas More's on **Thursday 27 September at 9.00am**. Please note the change of date. All welcome. Please think about anyone you may be able to assist with transport so that as many as possible may experience the blessings of this healing mass. Afterwards there will be a chance to meet up over a cup of tea provided by the Care and Concern Group.

Assistance to Drought-Affected Families:

+the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF) to receive and distribute funds in the event of Droughts/Natural Disasters. Anyone wishing to assist those impacted by the drought can make a deposit directly to our Parish Account: BSB: 064786. A/C No: 514006001. A/C Name: St Thomas More's. Reference: Drought + Your Name. We will identify this in our bank statements and forward the relevant amounts to the DDF for depositing in the dedicated account. Alternatively, donations could be put in an envelope marked drought, put on the weekend collection plate, and the parish will ensure they get to the DDF Account. Please note that donations to this fund are not tax deductible.

Social Justice Sunday:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 September. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land. The Statement challenges us all to confront Australia's growing rate of homelessness and unaffordable housing. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Family Sunday – 27/28 October 2018:

On the last weekend in October, we will celebrate Family Sunday, an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all families in our Parish and to highlight the contribution of the Family Groups to the life of our Parish community. Any couples celebrating a 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70th anniversary (80th and 90th anniversaries will receive extra special acknowledgement) are asked to give their names to the Parish Office (Phone 4635 9555) so that we can particularly acknowledge you on this day.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Plenary Council 2020 Diocesan Inservice:

The next diocesan Inservice will be held on Wednesday 26 September at the James Byrne Centre at Highfields. The day will focus on the Plenary Council 2020. Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Council Facilitator) will be the guest. The day will include a listening and dialogue session as well as an opportunity to learn about running the process at a local level. Registrations are due by 19 September. Forms are available at the Parish Office or you can register online via the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=419432&> Please consider attending.

Horizons Cover Photo Competition:

Calling all budding photographers! We are looking for an image to use for the cover of November Issue of Horizons to close out the Year of Youth. Photos should capture what the Year of Youth theme, "Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy", has meant for you. The competition is open to primary and secondary students in the Toowoomba Diocese.

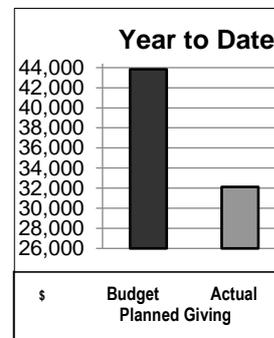
Mental Health Week 2018 Free Event:

On Tuesday 9 October from 10.00am to 2.00pm at Baillie Henderson Hospital, there will be an Art Exhibition, Music, Activities, Food and Information Stalls. This is a FREE Event and all are welcome. There will also be a free Brekky (bacon and sausage sizzle) on Monday 8 October at the Village Green in Toowoomba's CBD from 7.00am.

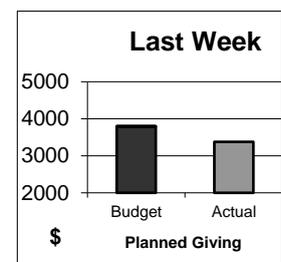
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill: 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, Mary Buttin, Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau

Anniversaries: Frank Cooper



PLANNED GIVING



We need a missionary rather than a perfect church

Fr Noel Connolly SSC Aug 15, 2018

As I travel around Australia promoting the Plenary Council I encounter both scepticism and hope. The most frequent question is “will the bishops listen?” At the same time there is a reservoir of hope in people. They love the church and want to be a part of its future. They want to talk and they want to be listened to. My hope is that we can build a church in which lay men and especially women can play their rightful role in the ministry and governance of the church, and where we can learn to trust one another, bishops and all the people of God.

But in recent weeks I have been giving more thought to the question posed for the Council, “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?” The question refers to Australia not to the church. The Plenary Council is not just for our church but for our country. Even if we were to come up with a transformed church, if the country does not benefit we will have “failed”. We will have failed because we will have failed to be church.

Pope Francis keeps reminding us to stop being preoccupied with ourselves and to go out into the streets as missionary disciples prepared to get dirty and bruised. There we will find renewal and transformation. We must remember that the goal of mission is not primarily about the expansion or perfection of the church but the revelation of God’s love and the realisation of God’s liberating plan for the universe. It is a plan for a “Kingdom” larger than the church.

This revolution in understanding mission came at Vatican II when the bishops realised that mission flows directly from the nature of God, a loving community of three persons whose love gives birth to the universe much the same as parents’ love gives birth to children. And like parents, the Trinity continues to love creation wanting to draw it into their life. It is God’s mission. Mission is God’s project and we are not the main actors. The church is neither the starting point nor the end point but rather the servant and sacrament of God’s mission. The three persons of the Trinity are constantly creating, healing, reconciling, transforming and uniting the world. We are invited to participate in God’s life in the world.

The majority of “Kingdom good” done in the world today will not be done by Catholics or even Christians. It will be done by people of good will, including our secular brother and sister Australians.

God is present wherever men and women strive for justice, peace, freedom and reconciliation between peoples, cultures and religions. Our task is not only to strive for the Kingdom, but also to seek out, uncover, encourage, celebrate and build on the Spirit’s activity in Australia. To recognise this good requires humility, closeness, listening and discernment. The very things Pope Francis stresses.

We have much to gain from secular Australia. We can learn a lot about transparency, accountability, participation, the involvement of women, consultation and so forth.

In going out we may also be refreshed by what we learn of God and of the Gospel because we can be confident that God is present and working even in secular and plural Australia. We have much to give and to learn. “We are challenged to be people of depth, attentive to what is happening around us and spiritually alert.” According to Pope Francis those things are more likely to convert and renew us than a forensic examination and reform of the church.

(Fr Noel Connolly SSC is a lecturer in Missiology at both the Broken Bay Institute and the Catholic Institute of Sydney. He is also a member of the Adult Formation Team with Catholic Mission Australia and has recently been appointed by the Australian Bishops to the Facilitation Team for the Plenary Council 2020. This article was first published in the Columban eBulletin in August 2018)

Invitation to join the Season of Creation

2018 theme: *Walking Together*

To celebrate the Season of Creation, the short time of reflection will continue on the next Two Tuesday evenings.

Dates: Tuesday - September 25th and October 2nd.

Time: 6.00 pm for about 20 mins (following the 5.30 pm Mass)

Each week will have a different theme:
(Sept 25th – Soil), (Oct 2nd – Air).

On 1st September 2016, Pope Francis introduced the idea of the 8th Work of Mercy, Care for our Common Home, as both a spiritual and a corporal work of mercy. Through the four reflection sessions, we can see how to exercise this work of mercy. All are welcome.

Gathering: A New Heart for A New World T Watts/M O'Brien

**Create a new heart, holy Lord,
Beckon our lives through your word,
Open our eyes to your call,
United as one for your world.
Heighten our minds to your thoughts,
Heal us of pride and of hurt,
May we go forth in your name,
We pray our hearts change.**

The heart of the cross, lowly and poor, calls us on.
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth.

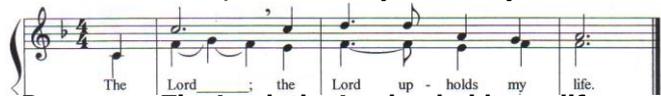
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Gloria:

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, the Lord upholds my life. C Smith



Response: The Lord, the Lord upholds my life. C Smith

O God, save me by your name;
By your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
And listen to the words of my mouth.

For the proud have risen up against me,
And ruthless foes seek my life.
They have no regard for God, but I shall call on his name.

But I have my God for my help. The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
And praise your name for it is good.

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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:

Defender of the poor, Hear us.

Acclamation:

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

Preparation of the gifts:

Lord, we come to your table
Lord, we hear your word
Lord, you are our bread of life
And we the Body of Christ.

**Communion: One Body in Christ M Mangan
When we eat this bread, when we drink this cup,
We are one Body in Christ. Through his dying
and his rising, we are one Body in Christ.**

He came that we might have life,
That we might have life to the full.
He is the shepherd who laid down his life
So we would have life to the full.

He came to set prisoners free, to bring Good News to the poor.
He came to give sight to all who are blind
And justice and freedom for all.

Now we are his body on earth. We are his hands and his feet.
We have been called to be Jesus each day
To everyone that we meet.

Though many, we are one body,
One body in Christ and in faith.
The gifts that we have we are given to share,
For the good of the world each day.

He lives in us as we live in him,
Without him we cannot have life.
We are the branches and he is the vine,
Without him we cannot have life.

Together we come to the table.
Together we share in new life.
Through living this mystery now may we become
One body, one spirit in Christ.

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Thanksgiving: Prayer of St. Francis: S Temple

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord.
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

**Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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Recessional: Sing To The Mountains R Dufford

**Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made.
Let all the earth rejoice.**

I will give thanks to you, my Lord.
You have answered my plea.
You have saved my soul from death.
You are my strength and my song.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us be glad and rejoice.
He has turned all death to life.
Sing of the glory of God.

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