

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/>

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 29-30 September, 2018

Social Justice Sunday

Readings: Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Sometimes we act and speak as though we have the monopoly on access to the power of God although we have no such monopoly. In today's gospel Jesus seems to be telling his disciples that God works through people of good will, irrespective of whether they are on the edge ("not one of us") or at the centre of the kin-dom of God movement. Much the same message is found in the first reading from the Book of Numbers which has Joshua, assistant to Moses, trying to exclude two men from prophesying on somewhat tenuous grounds.

Moses does not take Joshua's advice. On the contrary, he prays that the Spirit of God might "rest on" and, by implication, work through all of God's people. Both the gospel passage and the reading from Numbers seem to be warning against attempts to control or domesticate the Spirit of God. The second part of the gospel reading (9:42-48) brings a dramatic change of mood as it takes up the issue of scandalising the "little ones". The reference to "little ones" marks a return to the scene in the latter part of last week's gospel reading where Jesus takes a little child in his arms and instructs his disciples.

The horror of harming the little ones is dramatised in a series of sayings that challenge the most vivid imagination. These sayings are hardly intended to be taken literally. Cutting off offending limbs only deals with the symptoms. It may, however, offer some solace to those little ones who have suffered "scandal" or worse to know that there is no stronger condemnation in the gospels than that reserved for those who bring harm to children and to vulnerable others. We are impelled to do everything in our power to heal the hurts of the past and to create conditions that ensure the protection and safety of our children.

The provision of secure and affordable housing for vulnerable families is one response to this gospel challenge. Today is Social Justice Sunday in Australian Catholic communities. In their choice of title for the 2018-2019 Social Justice Statement, the Australian bishops remind us that everyone needs a place to call home. The escalating cost of housing and of rental properties has accelerated the problem of homelessness. Homelessness, they insist, "is a challenge for all levels of society: for government, for Church and community, and for us as individuals. Each one of us can make a difference and, when we join with others, we can be a real force for change...." To take up the challenge of addressing homelessness is to accept the invitation of Pope Francis to live the eighth work of mercy. It involves imagination and industry. It means visualising new possibilities and engaging in simple daily gestures that have the potential to bring life to the "little ones" of this world.

(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: 1 - 7 October 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
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
Thursday 10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer
Friday 9.00am.....Mass

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16



September/October 2018

30 September – Social Justice Sunday
8 October – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
27/28 October – Family Sunday
29 October – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

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:



Good news, we have new Coordinators for the Melbourne Cup. Raffle books are now being organised and will be placed in the Church Foyer in a couple of weeks' time for you to pick up. If there is any of you out there would like to assist in selling tickets, please contact the Parish Office.

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 this weekend. 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. Social Justice Statements are now available in Church Foyer.

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.

Emmaus Prayer Group:

The Emmaus Prayer Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Parish Office meeting room. If you are interested in joining this group there are information sheets available in the Church Foyer.

Open Door Ladies Social Group:

If you are interested in joining our weekly morning teas, we would like to invite you to join us in St Thomas More's Parish Office each Wednesday morning for coffee, delicious morning tea and a chat, commencing at 10.00am. We have lots of fun and when the fifth Wednesday of the month occurs (about four times a year) we go out to different venues for lunch. For further information please contact the Parish Office or just turn up on Wednesday morning.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Memorial Service – World Day of Pregnancy and Infant Loss – 15 October at 7.30pm – Our Lady of Lourdes

All families affected by pregnancy or infant loss, regardless of the passage of time, are warmly welcomed to a memorial service led by the Toowoomba Hospital Pastoral Care Service and hosted by the Our Lady of Lourdes Ecumenism Group

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:

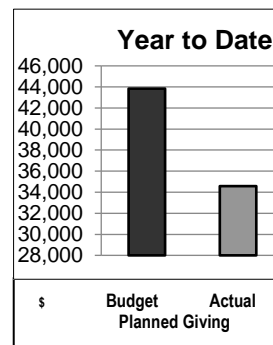
On Tuesday 9 October from 10.00am to 2.00pm at Baillie Henderson Hospital, there will be an Art Exhibition, Music, Activities, Food and Information Stalls. This is a FREE Event and all are welcome. There will also be a free Brekky (bacon and sausage sizzle) on Monday 8 October at the Village Green in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

Toowoomba Festival of Praise:

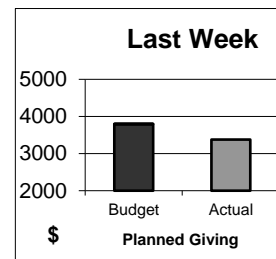
On Saturday 13 October at 2.30pm at the Toowoomba North Church of Christ, Progress Court, Harlaxton there will be an afternoon of Sacred Choral Music presented by the Brisbane and Toowoomba Male Voice Choirs. Free admission. Please see Noticeboard in Church Foyer for further information. There are also flyers available.

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



PLANNED GIVING



**Message from Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen DD OFMConv
Bishop of Parramatta and Chairman, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
For the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Social Justice Statement for 2018/19**

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, I present the 2018–2019 Social Justice Statement, *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*.

The Statement reflects the deep concern of Australia's Bishops at the growing problem of homelessness and insecure housing in Australian society. All over our nation, a ruthless housing market leaves people struggling to find secure and affordable housing, whether they live in cities or in regional areas. That struggle has a corrosive effect on family life, on employment, on study and on our capacity to contribute to and benefit from our society. At its worst, the struggle leaves the vulnerable in our society homeless – sleeping on the street, in cars or in doorways, or hoping for a space on someone's couch or floor. The last Census showed the number of homeless Australians had increased to more than 116,000 people.

The document begins with Jesus' famous parable of the Good Samaritan – as challenging to us today as it was to his hearers. We are reminded that we have the same experience as the Samaritan: we see people in the street who are in need of help, wounded by violence, misfortune or poverty. We face the same choice: do we walk past or do we stop and help?

Behind the people on the streets is another legion – those who are battling to keep the roof over their heads, wondering if they can make the next rent or mortgage payment. Often, these are people who are employed but whose income is barely enough – or not enough – to keep themselves and their families housed and fed.

The Bishops emphasise that housing is a human right, asserted by documents like the UN Declaration of Human Rights and by the teachings of our Church. Housing, the Bishops say, is 'an essential entitlement for all people to meet their basic needs, flourish in community and have their inherent human dignity affirmed and upheld by others'.

That human right and the call of the Church has been reinforced by the words and example of Pope Francis, who has made it a priority to reach out to the disadvantaged and marginalised of Rome, including homeless people.

We pray that Australia will hear the challenges that this Statement offers: to confront an economy that has allowed housing to become out of the reach of so many; to reach out, like the Samaritan, to the wounded and helpless; and to call on our governments to make hard decisions that will allow everyone in our communities to find secure accommodation. The Statement's concluding sentence is a message for all of us: 'Everyone deserves a place to call home'.

With every blessing

**Invitation to join the Season of Creation
2018 theme: *Walking Together***

To celebrate the Season of Creation, the short time of reflection will conclude on Tuesday evening.

Date: Tuesday - October 2nd.

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

Each week will have a different theme:

(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: All Are Welcome

M Haugan

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children
Tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and vision,
Rocks of faith and vault of grace,
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;

Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space,
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone,
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bears the image of God's face,
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard,
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
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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 Precepts of the Lord Give Joy. C Smith



Response: The precepts of the lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
It gives wisdom to the simple.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
Great reward is in their keeping.
But can we discern all our errors?
From hidden faults, acquit us.

From presumption restrain your servant
And let it not rule me.
Then I shall be blameless, and clean from grave sin.

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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:

Lord, hear our prayer

Acclamation:

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

Communion: The Beatitudes P. Kearney

Blessed are the poor in spirit
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven,
Blessed are the gentle for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they, that hunger and thirst after justice.
Blessed are they that suffer gladly for justice sake.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted,
Blessed are the clean of heart
For they shall see God.

Blessed are you when they revile and harm you,
And speak all evil
Against you untruly for my sake.

Blessed are the merciful
For mercy they will find,
Blessed are the peace makers
For they shall be called God's children.

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Thanksgiving:

No Hymn – Quiet Reflection

Recessional: Send Down the Fire M Haugan

**Send down the fire of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit,
Breathe life in your people,
And we shall be people of God.**

Call us to be your compassion,
Teach us the song of your love;
Give us hearts that sing,
Give us deeds that ring.
Make us ring with the song of your love.

Call us to learn of your mercy,
Teach us the way of your peace;
Give us hearts that feel,
Give us hands that heal.
Make us walk in the way of your peace.
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