

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 Council Email: parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Website: www.stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba/>

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 6 – 7 October, 2018

Readings: Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16

The question of gender inclusivity in decision-making has been much in the news of late. The maleness of political and church institutions has been highlighted in my country as a serious contributor to the disorder that finds expression in both bullying and abuse. Since the creation of patriarchy in the Bronze Age, some 3000 years ago, lack of gender inclusivity has posed a challenge, particularly for those who find themselves excluded.

The “test” question about divorce that the Pharisees put to Jesus is very strange in a first century Jewish context, as is the reference to women divorcing their husbands. While there is no evidence that anyone in Jewish circles questioned the legality of divorce, there is plenty of evidence for lively debate concerning the grounds on which a Jewish man could divorce his wife: adultery; inferior cooking; even diminished beauty! There were various schools of thought. Jewish law, unlike Roman law, however, did not permit women to initiate divorce proceedings on any grounds at all. From the perspective of the Markan Jesus, Moses only *permitted* divorce as a concession to “hardness of heart”: it was not so from the beginning. The ideal, he insists, is expressed in the Garden Story of Genesis, the story of “one flesh”, of partnership, of equality and mutuality, of enduring commitment in marriage. The Hebrew word *‘ezer* which is translated as “helper” in the first reading from Genesis is used in the Psalms of God’s relationship to Israel. It does not denote inferiority of women to men as is sometimes suggested. A better translation might be “companion”.

Human limitation is just as much a reality now as it was in the ancient world. We strive for the ideal but fall far short of it in so many ways. When this happens in marriage, the consequences can be more far-reaching than in other aspects of our lives. The parties involved become the “little ones” whose lives are shattered and disoriented. The embrace of the community is needed in a particular way for everyone affected by divorce, especially the children. When parents part company, the best interests and needs of the children are sometimes forgotten. Too often, those who have experienced the trauma of divorce feel alienated from the worshipping community, and this at a time when they need the courage to face a different future from the one they had envisaged.

The story about marital commitment leads immediately into a story about Jesus taking the children in his arms and blessing them, despite the disciples’ attempts to send them away. Children are important persons who are never to be excluded from the inner circles of love and compassion. We might hear today’s gospel as a call to be inclusive in all our relationships and to remember the children no matter what happens.

(Reflection by Sister of Mercy, Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, Theologian and Biblical Scholar)

Parish Leader:.....Michael Bermingham
Priest Director:..... Michael O'Brien
Pastoral Council:..... Terry Carter
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: 8 - 14 October 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
9.15am.....Men's Group
7.00pm..Parish Pastoral Council
7.00pm.....St V de P

Tuesday to 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's
Saturday

Tuesday: 9.00am.....Faith Education
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass
6.00pm.....Seasons of Creation
7.00pm.....School Board

Wednesday 9.00amLiturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door

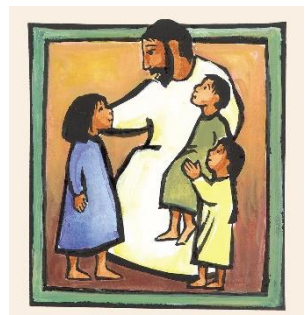
Thursday 8.30am.....Mass at St Vincent's

Friday 9.00am.....Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday

Readings: Wisdom 7:7-11
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30



October 2018

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:

We have extended the booking date to next Friday, 12 October. We still have lots of seats to fill. Come along, bring a friend. Some good deals have been negotiated. Talk to Michael or call the Parish Office.



Melbourne Cup:



Melbourne Cup Tickets are now available for pickup in the Church Foyer. Please return to Parish Office when sold (or unsold). Books can be also be left in the slot outside the office door.

Assistance to Drought-Affected Families:

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. Parish Staff will ensure that these donations and any put on the plate at weekends are sent to the DDF. Please note that donations to this fund are not tax deductible.

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.

Baptisms:

On Sunday 7 October, we welcome into our Church Community **Edith Olive Kluck** daughter of James and Terese Kluck, **Clancy Anne Capewell** daughter of Liam and Judith Capewell and **James Scott Wainwright** son of Adam and Kaitlyn Wainwright.

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, please 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.

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

Mission Sunday:

Our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal on 20/21 October. This year we are invited to consider how we can answer Pope Francis' call to be a part of mission and how we can support mission globally.

Social Justice Commission:

Dr Mark Copland is moving on after 16 years leading the diocesan Social Justice Commission. We thank Mark for his outstanding work and wish him well in his new position as Mission Executive at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

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.

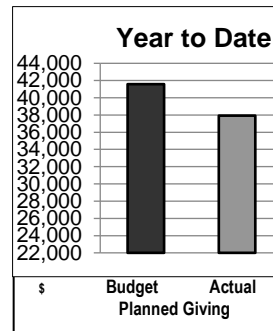
Variety Garage Sale:

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are holding a Variety Garage Sale at 71 Margaret St Toowoomba on Saturday 27 October 6.30am - 12.00noon. All Funds go to Charity. Contact No. 4632 1818.

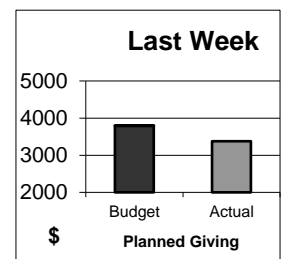
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

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, 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: Carmel Stephens, Lorna Stephens, Marie Boulus



PLANNED GIVING



Will they listen? Will anything change? by Fr Noel Connolly SSC, Plenary Council Facilitation Team

A couple of months ago, I was invited to give a presentation on the Plenary Council at a Spirituality in the Pub session. I prepared what I thought was a good talk, but a couple of minutes into my presentation, something – perhaps the Spirit – moved me to stop and ask my audience “What do you think?”

One man started with question: “Will the bishops listen?” It was quickly obvious that he was not alone. There was a great deal of scepticism in the room. So my “beautiful talk” remained on the lectern and we had 90 minutes of sharing.

Criticising bishops is a Catholic sport. It doesn't require entrance fees or any special equipment. We have been enjoying it for decades. But unfortunately, because of the Royal Commission, clericalism, the laity's sense of being excluded from ministry and governance and a growing feeling of distrust in institutions across society, we have now reached a serious level of distrust in the Church.

Within a few decades we have moved from uncritical respect to deep criticism. I believe a central function of the Plenary Council 2020 is to help us learn to trust one another.

That is why the process for the first year of preparing for the Plenary Council is devoted to Listening and Dialogue Encounters. Some of my friends suggested that we need social analysis and professional theological reflection etc.

These may be needed before the Council is over, but at the moment we need to share our stories, our questions, our doubts, our concerns and our spiritualities. Many people want to speak and to be listened to. If we don't learn to respect and trust one another, all the other changes will be in vain.

In his message for World Communications Day 2014, Pope Francis quotes Pope Benedict from the previous year's message: “Effective Christian witness is not about bombarding people with religious messages, but about our willingness to be available to others “by patiently and respectfully engaging their questions and their doubts as they advance in their search for the truth and the meaning of human existence.”

Francis goes on to say: “To dialogue means to believe that the ‘other’ has something worthwhile to say, and to entertain his or her point of view and perspective. Engaging in dialogue does not mean renouncing our own ideas and traditions, but the claim that they alone are valid or absolute.”

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, in calling for the Plenary Council and responding to the Royal Commission, has always stressed that it is a question of culture.

“You can talk strategy and structure all you like, but if it doesn't change the culture, you're really adopting a cosmetic approach,” he has said.

You do not change culture through analysis or papers, but through developing new practices and processes and getting to respect one another.

Pope Benedict, shortly before he resigned, warned us that “the laity should not be considered as collaborators with the clergy, but as the people truly co-responsible for the life of the Church”.

Many lay people are freed and invigorated when they feel we clerics are genuinely listening and are inviting them to participate in an adult way. They love their Church and want to be involved and have their say. They have theological and pastoral insights that don't occur to us, the clerics.

Pope Francis calls for a synodal Church in which people, bishops and the Bishop of Rome are all listening to each other and to the Spirit, realising that everyone has something to learn.

The Plenary Council provides us with an opportunity and a process to draw close to one another, to share our faith, our insights and our questions. If we can all learn to share vulnerably and fully – people priests and bishops – that will help us to become a listening Church and help develop a culture of relatedness, freedom, co-responsibility and hope.

That will be a different Church and real cultural change.

(Don't forget to check the Plenary Council website: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/> and add your voice)

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 9th at 6.00 pm for about 20 mins (following the 5.30 pm Mass)

The Theme for October 9th is 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: Creator and Poet

S Sears

Father and mother, creator and poet,
Speaking your wisdom in forest and glade:
Telling your glory in ocean and river
Pouring your pleasure on all you have made.

Spirit, you danced at the dawn of creation,
Rising, rejoicing on jubilant wings.
Yours is the rhythm of cycle and season,
Yours is the heartbeat of all living things.

Lord, you have made us of stardust and spirit,
Etching your image on ev'ry cell.
We are your lovesong, your poem and rhythm,
All co-creators, your story to tell.

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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: May the Lord Bless Us

C Smith



Response: May the Lord bless us, all the days of our lives.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive gathered around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed those who fear the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

May the Lord be gracious to you all the days of your life.
May you see your children's children, and may peace be on Israel.

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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:

Keep us in your love, O God

Acclamation:

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

Preparation of Gifts: We Bring These Gifts:

Michael Mangan

**We bring these gifts, these gifts of bread and wine,
Grain from the fields, fruit of the vine.**

May they be holy in your sight.

To you, O God, we bring these gifts.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
You have given us this bread.
Fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
It will become the Bread of Life.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
You have given us this wine.
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become the Cup of Life.

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Communion: Love Is His Word

L Connaughton

Love is his word, love is his way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again,
Love, only love, is his way.

**Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
Better than splendour and wealth.**

Love is his way, love is his mark,
Sharing his last Pass-over feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
Love, only love, is his mark.

Love is his mark, love is his sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy.
'This is my body, this is my blood,'
Love, only love, is his sign.

Love is his sign, love is his news,
'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.'
Love, only love, is his news.

Love is his news, love is his name,
We are his own, chosen and called,
Family, brethren, cousins and kin,
Love, only love, is his name.

Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another, I have loved you.'
Love, only love, is his law.

Love is his law, love is his word:
Love of the Lord, Father and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one.
Love, only love, is his word.

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Thanksgiving: Morning has Broken

Eleanor Farjeon

Morning has broken, like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Spring in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

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Recessional: Now Thank We All Our God

J Crüger/N Danket

Now thank we all our God, with hearts, and hands, and voices.
Who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O great and bounteous God through all our life be near us!
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in your grace and guide us when perplexed.
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest, who reigns in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom heav'n and earth adore.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

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