

# 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/>

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 23 - 24 February, 2019

Readings: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38

This classic gospel message is addressed to those who listen. To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit only possible for those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate.

The recipients of this gospel, the members of Luke's late first century communities, were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (*hesed*) and womb-compassion (*rah'amim*). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (*mishpat*) and right relationship (*sedeqah*) between people and nations, ever ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice and wrongdoing. The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion remains the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship.

Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. Sadly, the major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and exacerbate division. There is ample evidence that hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of the world. And yet the only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is the way of compassion and love. God-like compassion requires that we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine our tenaciously held opinions, try to see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace that is grounded in love.

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

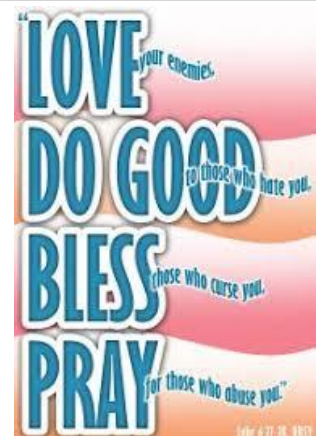
Parish Leader: .....Michael Bermingham  
Priest Director:..... Michael O'Brien  
Pastoral Council: ..... Terry Carter  
Finance Committee: .....Tim Davis  
Secretary: .....Donna Pugh  
Secretary: .....Jenny Bartkus  
School Principal:.....Michael Cash  
APRE:..... Lee ann Weekes  
School Board.....(To be advised)  
Parish Safeguards Contacts:  
Maree Keating – 0435 173 882  
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

### Parish Diary: 25/02 – 03/03/2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass  
6.00pm.....PPC Agenda  
7.00pm.....St V de P  
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education  
5.30pm.....Mass  
Tue to Sat 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's  
Wednesday 9.00am...Liturgy of the Word  
10.00am.....Open Door  
Friday 9.00am.....Mass  
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

### 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday  
8.30am Sunday  
Readings: Sirach 27:4-7  
1 Corinthians 15:54-58  
Luke 6:39-45



## February/March 2019

25 February - Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting  
4 March - Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
6 March - Ash Wednesday  
16 March - St Paddy's Day Celebration after 6.00pm Mass

### HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

#### Family Mass - Saturday 2 March at 6.00pm:

This year we will continue to build and maintain a strong relationship between Parish and School, as we arrange a number of weekends through the year when we invite and welcome families from the school community to join us for Mass, with children given the opportunity to participate in the different parts of the Mass. Our first Mass for this year is at 6.00 pm on Saturday 2 March. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that night. We will share wine and cheese after Mass. Donations of cheese platters and other finger foods on the night are most welcome.

#### Ash Wednesday Mass:

Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated at **9.30am** on Wednesday 6 March with the blessing and distribution of the ashes.

#### Lenten Program 2019:

The Lenten Programs for this year will commence on dates listed below. The Book for the program is "Trust" and is still available from the Parish Office. If you are not a member of a Lenten Group and wish to join a group, please contact Michael for details or add your name to the list of your choice in the Church foyer. The cost for the book is \$8.00. Group times are as follows:

**Tuesday:** 7.00pm at 25 Piggott Drive - Jacinta Twidale commencing Tuesday 5 March.

**Tuesday:** 7.00pm at 13 Maple Street - Jim and Fay Stein commencing Tuesday 5 March.

**Wednesday:** 5.30pm in the Church - Michael Bermingham - commencing Wednesday 6 March.

**Thursday:** 10.30am - Parish Office Meeting Room - Emmaus Group commencing Thursday 7 March.

**Friday: 9.30am** - Parish Meeting Room - Bev Walls - commencing Friday 8 March.

#### Date Claimer:

On Saturday 16 March we will be holding a St Paddy's night celebration in the hall after 6.00pm mass. More details to follow.

#### Planned Giving envelopes:

Your planned giving envelopes are in the foyer for you to collect.

#### Little Black Books:

The Little Black Books for Lent are now available in the Church Foyer. Cost is \$5.

#### St Vincent's Hospital Cancer Care Committee Annual Morning Tea:

St Vincent's Hospital Cancer Care Committee wish to invite parishioners to their annual morning tea on Saturday 16th March from 9am. The morning tea will be held at St Ursula's College Dining Hall. Admission is \$40 and tickets are available from Lesley Knight 0419 652 034 or Jessie Cutler 0431 908 688.

#### SVDP - Drakes Supermarket:

If you would like to participate in the Community Dollars at Drakes, High Street we have a supply of tags available from the office. Each time your tag is scanned points go to SVDP who benefit in the way of \$\$\$\$ from this activity.

### AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### Diamond Jubilee Mass - Sr Miriam Lorenz:

All are welcome to join with the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver and Bishop Robert McGuckin in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Sr Miriam Lorenz. Mass will be celebrated at 9.00am on 24 February at St Patrick's Cathedral.

#### Centenary Celebrations:

The following Churches are celebrating their centenary over the next couple of months:

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Chinchilla Centenary - 1 & 2 March 2019. See flyer on noticeboard.

Deuchar Church Centenary - 23 March 2019 at 11:00am For more details, please contact Monique Bryson on 0487 848 280, Greg Collins on 0408 673 763 or Narelle Henry on 0428 674 724 St Monica's Parish, Oakey Centenary - 12 May 2019 at 9:00am. Enquiries call Parish Office on 4691 1043

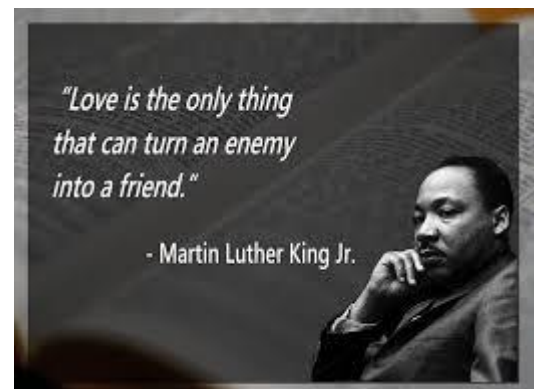
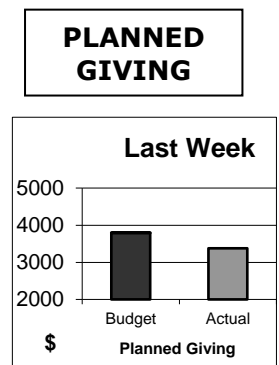
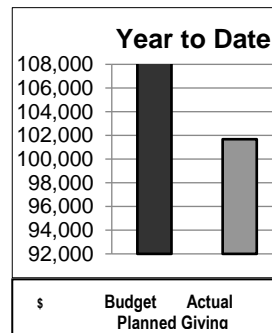
#### World Day of Prayer:

Services will be held at Middle Ridge Uniting Church, 264 Stenner Street and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 23 Glenvale Road on Friday 1st March 10am. The service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia with a theme 'Come—Everything is Ready.' World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical service held in churches throughout the world on this same day. Please join us for the service with refreshments to follow.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

**Those who are ill:** Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Michael Kelly, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Scott Murphy, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie McGrane, Christene Andrews, Rita Sullivan, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Hedy Marshall, Megan Ford, Mary Buttin, Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Fred Berge, Peter Webster, Ros Morton.

**Anniversaries:** Patrick Erbacher; Rev Msgr John Bergin; Rev Fr Michael Hayes; Rev Fr Michael Cronin; Rev Fr Brian O'Dwyer, Fiona Darmody



### **A Follow Up to a Previous Page 3 Article**

On the weekend of 26 and 27 January this year I published an article by Dr Mark Copland, who was formerly with the Diocesan Social Justice Commission, on Page 3 of the Parish Newsletter. The article entitled: *Call for a Change of Heart* had previously been published in The Chronicle. The article was reflecting on the push for a change of date for Australia Day, particularly mindful of the impact of white settlement on the first peoples of this land.

Since publishing the article, I have been contacted by a member of our community, Dan McCabe, who has expressed concern that the article only expressed one point of view on the issue of Australia Day. Dan also suggested some articles that present other perspectives on this matter. I have contacted Dan and asked if I can publish some of the contents from his letter here. He has kindly given me his permission to do so. The following comments are offered for your consideration in what is sure to be an ongoing conversation in our country.

I quote:

*"In regard to other viewpoints, I refer you to an article in The Australian 04/02/19 (page 25) written by Chris Mitchell, an ambassador for the Australian Indigenous Foundation who takes issue with those 'on the left of politics' and the manner in which they argue for a change of date for Australia Day.*

*The concerns of Peter Gleeson on this subject in the Courier Mail, Sunday 03/02/19 (page 41) are relevant: if you are really interested in Indigenous issues, focus on 'the real issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse within Indigenous communities'. Now, there's a real social justice issue that the good folk of St Thomas More's might reflect upon if only the Parish Newsletter would bring it to their attention!*

*Gleeson really echoes the views of Jacinta Price, Indigenous Alice Springs Councillor, who, in her Australia Day article in The Australian, drew attention to real Indigenous issues, not the symbolism associated with change the date advocates.*

*Or, the Parish could consider the comments of Paul Murray in The Chronicle 09/02/19 where he argues that the togetherness of the people of Townsville after the disaster there stands in stark contrast to those people who 'try to tell us how bad Australia is'.*

*So, if we want a 'fair go' in this country, let's be fair in what's put before people for reflection."*

Michael Bermingham  
Parish Leader

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### **Looking to the future:**

My current contract as Parish Leader is due to end on March 1, 2019. Following a performance review undertaken in the latter part of 2018, the members of the Parish Pastoral Council together with our Priest Director, Fr Michael O'Brien, recommended to Bishop McGuckin that my contract be extended for another three years. Bishop McGuckin has now approved the contract extension effective March 2, 2019. Fr Michael will be celebrating our Masses next weekend, 2 and 3 March, and will take the opportunity at those Masses to renew my commission as Parish Leader for this community.

I look back over the past four years I have been working in this role and wonder where that time has gone. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve St Thomas More's parish community as Parish Leader over that time. Lots of times the learning curve has been very steep, but your ongoing positive and patient support and encouragement and, I am sure, lots of prayers, have blessed me with the strength and courage to work hard at responding to the call to service in this community. On my wall I have some quotes from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians: "the Lord said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'" and "for whenever I am weak, then I am strong". These words help to keep me grounded and to remind me that this is not my work, but God's work – even if it is hard at times to let go of the reins and put the journey in God's hands.

As I renew my commitment to serve this community for a few years more, I do so with deep gratitude for the trust that you have placed in me as Parish Leader and I look forward to continuing to journey with you through the various challenges and milestones that life presents to us all.

With thanks to you all  
Michael Bermingham  
Parish Leader

## Gathering: Micah's Theme

Anne Kelly IBVM

**Hear then what God asks of you:  
To live justly, to love tenderly,  
And to walk humbly with your God.**

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.

I am with you always, till the end of time.

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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 is kind and merciful

C Smith

#### Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
All my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
And never forget all his blessings.

It is He who forgives all your guilt,  
Who heals every one of your ills,  
Who redeems your life from the grave,  
Who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,  
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins,  
Nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the East is from the West  
So far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
So does the Lord have pity on those who fear him.

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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:

Merciful God hear our prayer.

#### Acclamation:

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

### Preparation of the gifts: We Bring These Gifts

**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.**

Michael Mangan

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 earth and work of human hands,  
it will become the Cup of Life.

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### Communion: Wonderful Feast

Marty Maugan

**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 this 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: Reflection

#### Recessional: Companions On the Journey

C Landry

**We are companions on the journey,  
Breaking bread and sharing life;  
And in the love we bear is the hope we share,  
For we believe in the love of our God.  
We believe in the love of our God.**

No longer strangers to each other,  
No longer strangers in God's house;  
We are fed and we are nourished  
By the strength of those who care  
By the strength of those who care.

We have been gifted with each other,  
And we are called by the Word of the Lord;  
To act with justice, to love tenderly,  
And to walk humbly with our God.  
To walk humbly with our God.

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