

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/>

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C: 6 – 7 April, 2019

Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philipians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

Historian Gerda Lerner has demonstrated that patriarchy emerged some 3000 years ago with the emergence of weapons of war and the consequent gender division of labour. By the first century CE, when the gospels were written, every woman in the Roman world knew what that she was the possession of a man, initially of her father, and then of her husband or successive husbands. Slaves, both men and women, were the property of and sexually available to the head of the patriarchal household. Even free women had fewer choices than men in regard to such matters as choice of life partners and social contact outside the family. In the context of Second Temple Judaism, a woman's sexual liaison with another man was a sin against her husband who was also her proprietor. Her shame was of less consequence than her husband's loss of status and honour.

We are told nothing of the precise circumstances of the woman said to be "taken in adultery". She could not have been "taken" alone: there is a man somewhere in the wings who is at least as guilty as the woman. But only the woman is "brought" to Jesus in the public arena, a spectacle for the assembled crowd. Ironically, the lawyers have little interest in the woman or her fate. Their interest is in Jesus. They want to test him and catch him out on his attitude to and enactment of the Mosaic law. In other words, Jesus is the one on trial in this public setting, and the woman is no more than a dispensable object in the process, a means to a sinister end.

The woman's life is of little concern to her accusers. They ask Jesus for a legal opinion on her case. Should the full force of the law be exercised? Should she be stoned to death? Jesus does not dignify their manipulation with a response. Rather, he takes away their power over the woman by bending down and writing with his finger on the ground. What does he write? We can never have an answer to that question. They keep asking him to provide a ruling.

Jesus subverts their ploy by confronting them with their own sinfulness: "let the one without sin cast the first stone". They move off one by one and the woman is finally accorded the dignity of responding for herself. She is freed from the burden of condemnation. She can move forward with a strong sense of her worth and the knowledge that she matters in the scheme of things. As we bring today's gospel into dialogue with stories of violence against women, such as the horrifying stories of Yazidi women returning to their homes after years of captivity in Syria as the sex slaves of ISIS operatives, we might commit ourselves anew to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

(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.....Karen Tobin
Parish Safeguards Contacts:
Maree Keating – 0435 173 882
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 8 - 14 April 2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass
7.00pm.....Lenten Groups
Tue to Sat 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday 10.00am.....Open Door
5.30pm.....Lenten Group
7.00pm.....Choir Practice
Thursday 10.00am.....Lenten Group
Friday 9.00am.....Anointing Mass
9.30am.....Lenten Group

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14 – 23:56



April 2019

12 April 9.00am – Anointing Mass

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Rosters for Holy Week

Sign-up sheet for the Holy Week Roster is in the Church Foyer this weekend for readers, altar servers and communion ministers. Please add your name to the list if you are interested and available on these days.

Lenten Program 2019:

The Lenten Program Groups for this year are continuing. 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. 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 – Madonna Wills – commencing Friday 8 March.

Pope Francis' Lenten Message:

Copies of Pope Francis' Lenten Message are now available. They can be found near the Noticeboard in the Church Foyer.

Ministry Group Meetings:

Over the next few weekends, Michael would like to meet with Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers and Ministers of Communion to the Sick. It is an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the important role that you all play in the life of the parish community. Meetings will happen after Mass on Saturday nights and Sunday morning and will aim to go no longer than 15 to 20 minutes. All involved in these ministries are asked to attend. Proposed schedule is as follows:

Ministers of Communion to the Sick

Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 April

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14 April.

Anointing Mass:

Will be held at St Thomas More's on Friday 12 April at 9.00am. 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.

Holy Week:

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper – 6 pm

Good Friday – Stations of the Cross – 10 am

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 3 pm

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil – 6 pm

Easter Sunday – Mass – 8.30 am

Confirmation and First Communion:

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at St Thomas More's on Tuesday 28 May 2019 at 7.00pm. First Communion will be celebrated at both Masses on the weekend of 20 and 21 July 2019. Children need to have received the Sacrament of Penance before joining the sacramental program for Confirmation and First Communion. Full details can be found on the parish website via this link: http://stthomasmores.org.au/?page_id=54 Also, if anyone would like to join the sacramental team for this program, your support would be warmly welcomed. Any queries, please contact Michael on 0407 804 461 or by email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au.

Music Practice for Holy Week:

Next Music practice for Holy Week will be on Wednesday 10 April at 7pm in the Church. All singers welcome.

Musicians wanted:

With a small band of dedicated musicians to draw on for our weekend Masses and special events such as Anointing Masses, 2nd Rites of Penance and Funerals, we are always looking for new people to join the roster, so that the workload can be shared. If you are interested or would like to discuss further, please talk to Michael, our Parish Leader.

Containers for Change:

If you happen to be taking containers to be recycled at one of the Containers for Change sites around town and you are wondering what to do with the proceeds, we now have a number which you can put into the machine and the funds will come to the Parish account. The number is: C10147818.

Unit for Rent:

1 Bedroom unit, handy Southtown. Security, remote lock up garage. Nonsmoker, no pets. Suit pensioner. Bond & references required. \$200 per week. Please call 4635 0445 or mobile 0418 773 097

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Maronite Rite Mass:

Fr Fadi Salame from Brisbane will celebrate Mass in the Maronite Rite at St Anthony's Church, Memory Street Harristown on Sunday 7th April at 11.00am. A special invitation is extended to any families from Iraq or Syria to attend. Other parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass. A light finger food lunch will be held in Parish Community Centre after Mass. Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch. Please contact Gabrielle Saide on 4632 4778 (a.h.) if you require transport.

Chrism Mass – Open invitation to the Diocese:

Bishop Robert McGuckin warmly invites all parishioners within the Toowoomba Diocese to the Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 15/4/19, 5:30pm.

Missionary Sisters – Repertory Fundraiser:

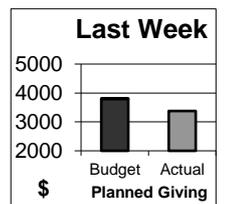
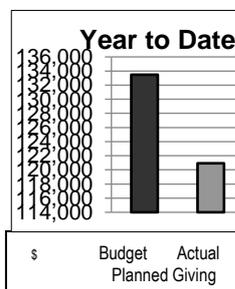
The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are hosting a fundraiser at the Repertory Theatre on TUESDAY MAY 14. The play is entitled "Crossing Delancey" Arrive at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. A delicious supper is included. TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW. They can be purchased by contacting The Sisters on 46321818 or Helen on 0416055976. All proceeds go to charity. This is a story of a modern young woman, Izzy and her matchmaking grandmother, Bubbie. This delightful play takes a look at the clash between traditional Jewish - American immigrant culture and the modern aspirations of the next generation.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill: Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, , 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, Mary Buttin, Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Fred Berge, Peter Webster, Ros Morton.

Anniversaries: Rev Msgr Leslie Schuhkraft

PLANNED GIVING



On Wednesday 27 March, the Bishop, Priests and Other Leaders from the Diocese gathered at the James Byrne Centre for an Inservice Day led by Father Ormond Rush. Our Priest Director, Father Michael O'Brien has provided the following reflection on the Inservice Day for our consideration:

**Synodality – a way of relating - a way of being church.
A reflection from Fr. Orm Rush's Inservice Input**

Pope Francis has a vision for the church · This vision finds its deepest source in recent times, in understanding the spirit of Vatican II · It is an invitation to be the people of God who listen to each other and discern the movement of the Spirit as a response to the signs of the times · It is a vision that calls us to be a church whereby everyone is able to speak boldly and is respected by those who listen humbly ·

For Pope Francis, it is a recovering of the true understanding of the *"Sensus Fidelium"* – the "people of God" · Pope Francis says, *"In all the baptised, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelisation....As part of his mysterious love for humanity, God furnishes the totality of the faithful with an instinct of faith – sensus fidei – which helps them to discern what is truly of God."* ·

To listen humbly and speak boldly reminds us again of the voice of Vatican II that wants the church to be an outwardly looking church, not a "self-reverential church", as Pope Francis says · Our very baptism gives us the ability to live this out · We are all baptised, Priest, Prophet and King · Before Vatican II it was only the Bishop who was perceived as having the prophetic and kingly role within the church · Vatican II recognised that this role exists due to our baptismal anointing · The Spirit will flow wherever the Spirit wishes and we have the gift of listening to that Spirit and helping discern the church's direction for the future · Pope Francis calls us to trust in that Spirit because the people of God have an *"infallibility in believing"*, so that we are to trust each other in believing in the work of the Holy Spirit ·

Pope Francis challenges us to reflect on what it would mean to be a Synodal Church · What would it look like if it wasn't just the Bishops making decisions · What if *"it wasn't just some to the Bishops some of the time, but all the church, all of the time"* · Speaking boldly and listening humbly is no easy task, but one that Pope Francis believes is the closest to the true understanding of what being faithful to the gospel and message of Christ is · *"A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realises that listening "is more than simply hearing". It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth" [Jn 14:17], in order to know what he [the Holy Spirit] "says to the Churches" [Rev 2:7] ·*

As we move ever steadily toward the Plenary Council 2020, we are having our own taste of synodality, where the first step has been an invitation to speak boldly and to listen humbly to each other · The "ball" is now with those who prepare the agenda and ultimately listen to each other at the two sessions of the Council, to show us what can happen when we enter honestly into listening and learning from one another · This experience may well be the beginnings of the future church ·

There is a great spirituality in an honest and respectful understanding of synodality · We continue to pray that this experience will pave the way for a new way of relating within the church – a way where everyone - the *Sensus Fidelium* have a bold voice!

God Bless your week, Father Michael



Fifth Sunday of Lent
7th April 2019



Salma featured in Project Compassion 2013. At the time she was pregnant with her first child, sick and terribly frightened. In distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children. Salma is committed to giving her children the education they need to provide them with the future she hoped for.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help reduce infant mortality rates in countries like Bangladesh and proved hope to pregnant women in remote communities for happy and healthy families.

Gathering: Grant To Us, O Lord.
Grant to us, O Lord, a heart renewed;
Recreate in us your own Spirit, Lord!

L Deiss

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord our God,
When I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel.

And for all their faults I will grant forgiveness:
Nevermore will I remember their sins.

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Penitential Rite:

M Mangan

Lord, You make a way for us, so we come back to you.
So we sing to you:

Lord, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

Christ, you give us water to quench our thirsty hearts.
So we sing to you:

Christ, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy on us.

Lord, you form your people to sing and praise your name.
So we sing to you:

Lord, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

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Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us

C Smith

Response: The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
To us it seemed a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
And on our lips were joyous songs.

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels
The Lord has worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed our hearts were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord from our bondage
As streams in dry land.
Those who sow in tears
Will reap with songs of joy..

They go out, full of tears,
They carry seed for sowing.
They come back, full of song,
Joyously carrying their sheaves.

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Verse before the Gospel:

All praise, all glory, all blessing, to our most high God
You alone deserve honour and praise, Holy loving God.

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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:

God of new life, hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and
Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion: Come as You Are

D Browne

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
Why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

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Thanksgiving: Tree of Life

M Haugen

Christ you lead and we shall follow,
Stumbling though our steps may be,
One with you in joy and sorrow,
We the river, you the sea.
We the river, you the sea.

Light of life beyond conceiving,
Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
Give new strength to our believing,
Give us faith to live your word.

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death:
Hold us close through each tomorrow,
Love as near as every breath.

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Recessional: Return to God

M Haugen

**Return to God with all your heart,
The source of grace and mercy.
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

Now the time of grace has come,
The day of salvation;
Come, learn now the way of our God.

If you break the chains of oppression,
If you set the pris'ner free;
If you share your bread with the hungry,
Give protection to the lost;
Give a shelter to the homeless,
Clothe the naked in your midst,
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.

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