

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 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/>

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year C: 13 - 14 April, 2019

Readings: Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Jesus of Nazareth is executed in Jerusalem when the city is filled with pilgrims who are there to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover. A year after his execution, when his friends and family gather once more for Passover, they find new meaning in the celebration of the feast. Every Passover from now on will mark the anniversary of the death of Jesus and will be celebrated through the lens of their experience of his life and death. They share their memories of the one they loved so deeply and reflect on the meaning of his life and death in the light of their wisdom traditions. Every element of the Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of God's people from slavery, will echo with resonances of the life and death of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. It is not surprising, then, that these final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of the Jesus' story to be committed to writing. Neither is it surprising that each of the canonical gospels includes an account of Jesus' suffering and death and that each approaches the events from its own particular perspective.

There are several unique features in Luke's account. The most remarkable to my mind is Jesus' readiness to forgive his executioners even while they continue to mock him. Another is his capacity to reach out to others: to "turn towards" the women of Jerusalem, to receive their compassionate mourning, and to express his own concern for them. In line with his overall intention to demonstrate that Christianity is no threat to the Roman Empire, Luke repeatedly points to the innocence of Jesus. In Luke's gospel, Jesus is the rejected prophet who trusts utterly in God and into whose hands he entrusts his spirit. He dies with the same sort of dignity that has characterised his life.

It is easy to let our own hurt find expression in criticism or mistreatment of others whom we fail to understand. It is also easy to retaliate in the face of unjust accusation and insult. It takes more courage than most of us can muster to name unjust treatment for what it is, to truly forgive, to retain our peace of mind in such circumstances, and to trust in the power of God to break through the ignorance that engenders violence. Palestinian activist Lucy Nusseibeh, founder and director of Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (MEND) and the members of the Israeli Coalition of Women for a Just Peace have learned that lesson and are showing others the way of non-violence. As we enter into the mysteries of Holy Week, we might pray for the grace to act, like these Palestinian and Israeli women, with the dignity of the Lukan Jesus and thus circumvent the cycles of violence in our own contexts.

(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: 15 - 21 April 2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
5.30pm...Chrism Mass St Pat's
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 5.30pm.....Mass
Wednesday: 9.00am.....Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
7.00pm.....Choir Practice
Thursday 6.00pm..Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday: 10.00am.....Stations of the Cross
3.00pm...Celebration of the Passion
Saturday: 6.00pm.....Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8.30am.....Easter Sunday Mass

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday – Easter Vigil
8.30am Sunday – Easter Day

Blessed is the
one who comes
in the name
of the **LORD**.



April 2019

15 April - Chrism Mass – St Patricks Cathedral 5.30pm

25 April – Office Closed – Anzac Day

29 April – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

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

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.

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:

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14 April.

Music Practice for Holy Week:

Final music practice for Holy Week will be on Wednesday 17 April at 7.00pm in the Church. All singers welcome.

Pope Francis' Lenten Message:

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

Easter Message from Bishop Robert:

Copies of Bishop Rob's Easter message are available in the Church Foyer.

Enrolment for Confirmation and First Communion:

Enrolment of the children for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion will take place at both Masses on the weekend of 27 and 28 April. This is an opportunity for the community to welcome the children and their families and to offer them our support and prayers as the children complete their initiation into the Church Community. The celebration of 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. Any queries, please contact Michael on 0407 804 461 or by email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

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

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.

Holy Week – St Patrick's Cathedral:

Holy Thursday- Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7.30pm

Good Friday- Stations of the Cross – 10.00am

Good Friday- Celebration of the Passion – 3.00pm

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil – 7.00pm

Easter Sunday – Mass – 7.00am, 9.00am and 5.30pm

Stations of the Cross:

Date: Good Friday, 19/4/19 Time: 7:30am

Location: Starting at St Patrick's Cathedral

The Social Justice Commission welcome all to join this prayerful 4km walk from the Cathedral steps throughout the Toowoomba CBD. Participants will reflect on and pray the traditional Stations of the Cross at sites of significance. Issues reflected upon will include mental health, the death penalty, refugees, Australia's First Peoples, domestic violence and the destruction of the environment.

Cent Sale:

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are holding their MOTHERS' DAY CENT SALE on WEDNESDAY MAY 1st. It will be held at ALL SEASONS FUNCTION HALL, cnr North and Tor Sts TOOWOOMBA. Doors will open at 8.30am for a 9.30 start. Entry fee - \$5, Buffet morning Tea, Lucky Door, Great Prizes. All Proceeds go to Charity. For further information contact the Sisters on 46321818.

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.

Position Vacant:

Expressions of interest are sought for the part-time position of Office Assistant at Holy Name Roman Catholic Parish, Toowoomba. The successful applicant will ideally be experienced in Parish Administration and pastoral coordination, along with well-developed office acumen. They will be experienced in using Microsoft suite of programs, and computerised bookkeeping. In addition, they will be an excellent communicator and be able to demonstrate an ability to build relationships and collaborate effectively with parishioners within the parish. Full role description will be discussed at interview. To apply, please register your interest with a CV, a cover letter and a statement addressing the selection criteria, at almamater1@rocketmail.com. Application deadline is 29th April 2019.

Project Compassion:

Project Compassion envelopes and boxes are available in the Church foyer. Please return any envelopes by the first Sunday after Easter.

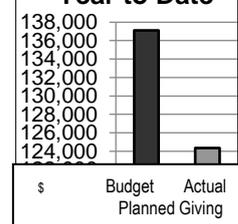
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

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 Fr John Michael, Rev Fr Lex Herzig, Rev Fr Anthony O'Keefe, Rev Fr Roderick Lynch

Recently Deceased: Byron Kelly

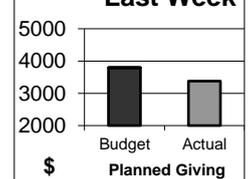
Year to Date



PLANNED GIVING



Last Week



A Synod on Youth was held in Rome in late 2018 (following on from the Year of Youth). As he did a couple of years ago after the Synod on Marriage and Family, Pope Francis has now published an Apostolic Exhortation entitled *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive) and addressed to Young People and to the entire People of God. The following extract is taken from Chapter Five, Paths of Youth:

In friendship with Christ

150. No matter how much you live the experience of these years of your youth, you will never know their deepest and fullest meaning unless you encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus.

151. Friendship is one of life's gifts and a grace from God. Through our friends, the Lord refines us and leads us to maturity. Faithful friends, who stand at our side in times of difficulty, are also a reflection of the Lord's love, his gentle and consoling presence in our lives. The experience of friendship teaches us to be open, understanding and caring towards others, to come out of our own comfortable isolation and to share our lives with others. For this reason, "there is nothing so precious as a faithful friend" (*Sir 6:15*).

152. Friendship is no fleeting or temporary relationship, but one that is stable, firm and faithful, and matures with the passage of time. A relationship of affection that brings us together and a generous love that makes us seek the good of our friend. Friends may be quite different from one another, but they always have things in common that draw them closer in mutual openness and trust.

153. Friendship is so important that Jesus calls himself a friend: "I do not call you servants any longer, but I call you friends" (*Jn 15:15*). By the gift of his grace, we are elevated in such a way that we truly become his friends. With the same love that Christ pours out on us, we can love him in turn and share his love with others, in the hope that they too will take their place in the community of friendship he established. And even as he enjoys the complete bliss of the life of the resurrection, we, for our part, can work generously to help him build his kingdom in this world, by bringing his message, his light, and above all his love, to others (cf. *Jn 15:16*). The disciples heard Jesus calling them to be his friends. It was an invitation that did not pressure them, but gently appealed to their freedom. "Come and see", Jesus told them; so "they came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day" (*Jn 1:39*). After that unexpected and moving encounter, they left everything and followed him.

154. Friendship with Jesus cannot be broken. He never leaves us, even though at times it appears that he keeps silent. When we need him, he makes himself known to us (cf. *Jer 29:14*); he remains at our side wherever we go (cf. *Jos 1:9*). He never breaks his covenant. He simply asks that we not abandon him: "Abide in me" (*Jn 15:4*). But even if we stray from him, "he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself" (*2 Tim 2:13*).

155. With a friend, we can speak and share our deepest secrets. With Jesus too, we can always have a conversation. Prayer is both a challenge and an adventure. And what an adventure it is! Gradually Jesus makes us appreciate his grandeur and draw nearer to him. Prayer enables us to share with him every aspect of our lives and to rest confidently in his embrace. At the same time, it gives us a share in his own life and love. When we pray, "we open everything we do" to him, and we give him room "so that he can act, enter and claim victory".

156. In this way, we can experience a constant closeness to him, greater than anything we can experience with another person: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (*Gal 2:20*). Do not deprive your youth of this friendship. You will be able to feel him at your side not only when you pray, but at every moment. Try to look for him, and you will have the beautiful experience of seeing that he is always at your side. That is what the disciples of Emmaus experienced when, as they walked along dejectedly, Jesus "drew near and walked with them" (*Lk 24:15*). In the words of a saint, "Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed, rules to be followed, or prohibitions. Seen that way, it puts us off. Christianity is a person who loved me immensely, who demands and asks for my love. Christianity is Christ".

157. Jesus can bring all the young people of the Church together in a single dream, "a great dream, a dream with a place for everyone. The dream for which Jesus gave his life on the cross, for which the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost and brought fire to the heart of every man and woman, to your heart and mine. To your heart too, he brought that fire, in the hope of finding room for it to grow and flourish. A dream whose name is Jesus, planted by the Father in the confidence that it would grow and live in every heart. A concrete dream who is a person, running through our veins, thrilling our hearts and making them dance".

Blessing of Palms: Sing it! Hosanna!

M Mangan

Sing it! Hosanna! Sing it! Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna to our King
Sing it! Hosanna! Sing it! Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna Jesus is our King.

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Gathering: All Glory, Praise & Honour
All glory, praise and honour, To you, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children,
Made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's Name coming,
Our King and Blessed One.

The company of angels are praising you on high:
And mortals, joined with all things created, make reply.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went:
Our praise and prayers and anthems before you we present.

To you before your passion,
They sang their hymns of praise:
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Their praises you accepted, accept the prayers we bring,
Great source of love and goodness,
Our Saviour and our King.

Text: Gloria, laus et honor: Theodore of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. By John M. Neale, 1818-1886, alt.
Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7 6 7 6 D; Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635; harm. By Jophann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENCE #A-62451e

Psalm: My God, My God

M Haugen

My God, my God, O why have you abandoned me

All who see me laugh at me
they mock me and they shake their heads:
He relied on the Lord, let the Lord be his refuge.

As dogs around me, they circle me about.
Wounded me and pierced me, I can number all my bones.

My clothing they divided, for my garments casting lots,
O Lord do not desert me, but hasten to my aid.

I will praise you to my people,
and proclaim you in their midst,
O fear the Lord my people, give glory to God's name.
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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:

Lord hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

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

(Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL]. All rights reserved.)

Communion: Communion: Tree of Life

M Haugen

Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
In your death we are reborn.
Though you die in all of hist'ry,
Still you rise with ev'ry morn.
Still you rise with ev'ry morn.

Seed that dies to rise in glory,
May we see ourselves in you.
If we learn to live your story
We may die to rise anew.
We may die to rise anew.

We remember truth once spoken.
Love passed on through act and word,
Ev'ry person lost and broken,
Wears the body of Our Lord.
Wears the body of Our Lord.

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
Come inflame our hearts anew,
We may all your joy inherit
If we bear the cross with you.
If we bear the cross with you.

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.
Give us faith to live your word.

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Thanksgiving: Now We Remain

D. Haas

We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.
Living now we remain with Jesus, the Christ.

Once we were people afraid, lost in the night.
Then by your cross we were saved:
Dead became living, life from your giving.

He chose to give of himself, became our bread,
Broken that we might live.

Love beyond love, pain for our pain.
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Recessional: Let Heaven Rejoice

R. Dufford

Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad;
Let all creation sing.
Let children proclaim through ev'ry land:
'Hosanna to our King'.

Sound the trumpet into the night;
The day of the Lord is near.
Wake his people, lift your voice,
Proclaim it to the world.

Rise in splendour; shake off your sleep
Put on your robes of joy.
And in the morning you shall see
The glory of the Lord.

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