

# 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 Wakka Wakka, 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](mailto:parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au)

Parish Email: [parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au) Parish Council Email: [parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@stthomasmores.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.stthomasmores.org.au](http://www.stthomasmores.org.au) Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba/>

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 27 - 28 July, 2019

Readings: Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

This Sunday's gospel offers three little cameos about praying and about God's generous giving. There are two teachings on prayer forming a frame around an enigmatic parable. In the first cameo, Jesus has finished praying and one of the disciples asks him to teach them to pray. Jesus responds as any devout first century Jew might respond. He evokes the words of the Jewish blessing prayer: "May the great name of God be exalted and sanctified, throughout the world. May God's kingship be established in your lifetime." Jesus calls God "father", a metaphor or image denoting the saving power of God over against the destructive power of the Roman emperor.

The prayer continues with an acknowledgement that bread, the fruit of the earth, is the gift of God: "Keep giving us each day the bread we need." This is not a prayer for more than is needed, but for just as much as is needed to sustain Earth's beings. The final petitions in the prayer are for forgiveness of sin "as we forgive each who is in debt to us" and for freedom from testing. We cannot live without the peace of mind that comes from forgiving, from being forgiven and from the knowledge that God is with us in times of trial such as the present ecological crisis with all its demands for radical change.

The parable that follows has raised questions for interpreters. Is it about persistence or about avoidance of shame? These are two very different concepts, but both have been suggested as the motive for the sleeping neighbour's response to the friend in need and as the proper rendering of the Greek word *anaideia*. The literal meaning of *anaideia* is avoidance of shame. This makes sense in a culture where anyone would be shamed by refusal to help a neighbour unable to meet the demands of hospitality, especially where one could well find oneself in similar need some time. No one would dream of refusing such a request for help, whether for the sake of friendship or to avoid being shamed, not even those who let it be known that they resent having to get out of bed in the middle of the night.

Persistence in prayer is a desirable quality but it has nothing to do with the parable of the friend in need who asks only once for "three loaves" and can expect to receive them. The translation "persistence" seems to derive from association with the repetition of seeking and searching and knocking, in other words with the sayings that form the third little cameo. Here Jesus draws on the experience of his listeners: if flawed disciples know how to give "good gifts" to their children, then they should not be surprised that those who ask for the Holy Spirit will receive this best of all gifts from God as they seek to renew the face of the Earth.

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

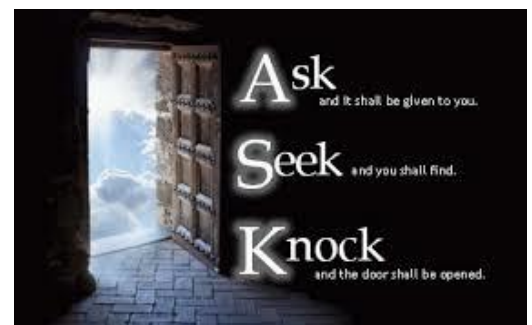
Parish Leader: ..... Michael Bermingham  
Priest Director:..... Michael O'Brien  
Pastoral Council: ..... Terry Carter  
Finance Committee: ..... Tim Davis  
Secretary: ..... Donna Pugh  
Secretary: ..... Jenny Bartkus  
School Principal:..... Michael Cash  
APRE:..... Lee ann Weekes  
School Board..... Karen Tobin  
Parish Safeguards Contacts:  
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

### Parish Diary: 29/07 - 04/08/2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass  
6.00pm.....PPC Agenda  
7.00pm.....PPC Information  
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  
Thursday: 10.30am....Emmaus Prayer  
Friday: 9.00am..... Mass  
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

### 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday  
8.30am Sunday  
Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23  
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11  
Luke 12:13-21



## July/August 2019

29 July – Parish Pastoral Council – Agenda Meeting  
5 August – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
12 August – Care and Concern and Consolation Team Meetings  
15 August – Mass for the Bereaved  
19 August – Parish Finance Committee Meeting

### HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

#### Mass for those grieving the loss of a loved one:

On Thursday August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at 9 am, Fr Hal Ranger will lead us in a celebration of the Eucharist where we wish to bring together all those parishioners, together with their family members, who have experienced a family bereavement in recent times. The invitation is also extended to anyone in the parish who would like to attend. It is an opportunity to touch our grief and to find renewed hope and comfort together. This is an initiative of the Care and Concern ministry, at St Thomas More's, whose members will be providing morning tea following the Mass. If you wish to attend, could you please notify the parish office, ph.4635 9555, or phone or text Mary Taylor on 0418 987 195 by August 8.

#### Many Many Thanks:

The past few weeks are somewhat of a blur – but a blur that has been filled with gratitude, with so many memories of people and experiences, with laughter and tears with a new awareness of how fortunate we are, I am, and how blessed we all have been. With all my heart I thank God for the long journey of life so far and for the thousands of faithful companions on that journey. In particular through this weekend's Newsletter, a special word of gratitude to all of you members of our Cathedral and St Thomas More's communities for your congratulations, prayers, gifts, good wishes and continuing friendship. Please God the future holds more of the same: let's go on, in faith, together. **Hal Ranger**

#### Leadership In Our Parish:

Our Parish Pastoral Council plays a vital role in ensuring the ongoing vibrancy of our community as we live the mission of Jesus. This year three members are needed to join the six others who are continuing.

The commitment is to at least one meeting per month (with the exception of January) over a period of two years (with an option to extend for a third year). Some ministries require more time and on occasion sub-committees are formed.

For more information: see the Parish website page: [http://stthomasmores.org.au/?page\\_id=45](http://stthomasmores.org.au/?page_id=45), speak with Pastoral Council Members or the Parish Leader. *An Information Night for nominees/interested applicants will be held on 29 July at 7pm in the Parish Office.*

#### Sacrament of Penance Program:

The next Sacramental Program starts this week. This group will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance at the end of August this year and Confirmation and Communion in 2019. Applications still welcome. For further details, please contact Michael, our Parish Leader, by phone, 4635 9555, mobile, 0407 804 461, or by email, [parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au) Please contact Michael also if you would like to support or assist the conduct of this Program.

#### Cashless Donation Point has arrived:

The Cashless Donation Point will be set up in the foyer of the Church this week. The declining use of cash in favour of electronic payments means that someone who is a visitor to our Church for Mass or other occasions, for example Baptism, may wish to make a donation to the Church, but may not be carrying cash. This will give them the opportunity to make a donation. The Cashless Donation Point will be pre-set for \$6 (not \$5 as previously advised) and will work like any other "tap and go" terminal. Please note that the current Planned Giving and Envelope arrangements, as well as the normal Sunday collections, will continue unchanged. This will simply be an option for those who don't carry cash.

#### Spring Clean Garage Sale – 7 September:

Not long now to our Spring Clean Garage Sale in early September. If you are doing the winter clean up, please keep this event in mind. As happened last year, we can pick up items ahead of the sale and we can store items even this far out from the sale date. We will have a plant stall again, so any donations of plants, pots and/or potting mix are most welcome. Inquiries can be directed to Michael at the Parish Office or to any of the members of the Parish Revenue Development Committee.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### Seminary Appeal:

The Seminary Appeal supports Toowoomba Diocese's contribution to the Holy Spirit Seminary Banyo. Our Diocese is richly blessed to have 3 young men (Nathan Webb, Dominic Jayasuriya and BJ Perrett) currently at the Seminary. Bishop Robert has asked Parishes to encourage donations to this very important cause. Envelopes are currently available on the table in the Church foyer and can be put on the plate, dropped in at the Parish Office or posted directly to the Seminary. Thanks for your generous consideration of this appeal.

#### St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal:

The Winter Appeal is continuing. Donation envelopes are still available in the Church foyer.

#### Blue Care Grief and Loss Program:

A Blue Care Grief and Loss Program to provide support for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one will be held at the Blue Care complex, Middle Ridge commencing Wednesday 31st July 9.30am – 11.30am. Registration is essential. Please contact Margaret Spinks 0491071787 or [bluecare.grief.loss@gmail.com](mailto:bluecare.grief.loss@gmail.com) to register or for more information.

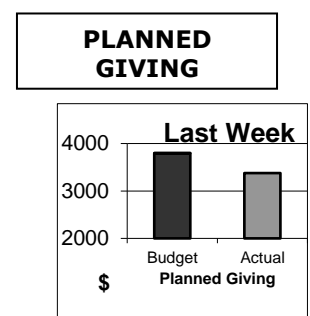
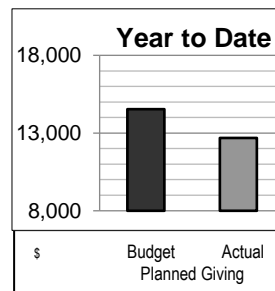
#### Missionary Sisters of Service 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

Everyone is invited to join the Sisters at a Diocesan Mass celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation. Bishop Morris will be the main celebrant at St. Anthony's parish, Memory St. Harristown on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm. Also their coffee table commemorative cookbook "Food for the Highways and Byways" will be on sale at \$40 (cash). Afternoon tea will be provided. Please RSVP by 27<sup>th</sup> July. Contact Sr. Mary Cleary, (07) 4634 9786 or email: [marycleary5@bigpond.com](mailto:marycleary5@bigpond.com)

#### 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, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Hedy Marshall, Mary Buttin, Rev Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Peter Webster, Ros Morton, Monica Gleeson, Georgie Rose Allen, Denis O'Dea, Pat Chapman, Alvina Denison

**Anniversaries:** Most Rev Basil Roper DD, Mark Gonsalves



Last Monday, 22 July, we celebrated the Feast of St Mary Magdalene – this article invites us to reflect on the question:

## Who is the real Mary Magdalene?

(An article by Sr Cecilia A. Ranger, a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, published on July 22, 2019 in the American Online Religious Publication, *Global Sisters Report*.)

Mary Magdalene has gotten a lot of bad press, it seems to me. I agree with a recent article which suggests that her image has been repeatedly "conscripted, contorted and contradicted." Every July 22, on her feast day, I dread listening to homilies at church; in Scripture study groups, I shudder at the accusations against her.

According to the New Testament, who was Mary Magdalene?

Mary was a common name in New Testament times, held by a number of women mentioned in the canonical Gospels. The commonly received and traditional history of Mary Magdalene by Catholics and other Christians has been greatly affected by different interpretations about which biblical references actually refer to her beyond those where she is identified by the place name (referred to as a toponym) "Magdalene."

In the Gospels, several women come into the story of Jesus with great energy. There were Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary of Bethany, sister of Martha and Lazarus (Luke 38-42 and John 11). Also, we read about Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, and Mary, the wife of Clopas.

Some women have erotic energy, like the three unnamed women who are expressly identified as sexual sinners, and they, too, have become part of the legend: the woman who wipes Jesus' feet with ointment, a Samaritan woman whom Jesus meets at a well and invites to seek her "husband," and an adulteress whom Pharisees haul before Jesus to see if he too will condemn her. All of these Marys make it difficult to unravel the tapestry of Mary Magdalene from the knotted threads of legends about her that have been passed on from generation to generation.

In the four Gospels, Mary Magdalene is nearly always distinguished from other women named Mary by adding "Magdalene" to her name. Traditionally, this has been interpreted to mean she was from Magdala, a town thought to have been on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Luke 8:2 says she was actually "called Magdalene." In Hebrew, *Migdal* means "tower" or "fortress," and in Aramaic, "Magdala" also means "tower" or "elevated, great, magnificent."

The real Mary Magdalene of the Gospels actually fits well with the mission and identity of many socially committed people of today: She knew about service to others and engaging other disciples to "come and see" the human needs they might witness. She knew about inclusion; she knew about friendship; she knew about fidelity even when life looked desolate.

For Mary Magdalene was a faithful friend of Jesus:

- as one who hung in — according to the Gospels — during Jesus' public ministry as one of his disciples (Luke 8:1-2, Mark 16:9);
- as a witness at the foot of the cross during the crucifixion (Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, John 19:25);
- as one of the women who brought spices to anoint Jesus at the burial site (Matthew 27:61, 28:1; Mark 16:1);
- as a witness who found the tomb empty after the Resurrection (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:9, Luke 24, John 20:1);
- and as the first apostle to report the Resurrection to the rest of the disciples after Jesus' private appearance to her (John 20:16, Mark 16:9, Matthew 28:9).

Mary Magdalene was not afraid to be a faithful friend! No matter what the personal cost. The deep sacrificial friendship that Mary Magdalene had for Jesus has not only been intertwined with the many "Mary" stories of Christian history, but it has also been misinterpreted, calling her the secret wife of Jesus and claiming that Jesus (calling him Joseph) and Mary Magdalene (referred to as Aseneth) were parents of Ephraim and Manasseh.

Other speculative as well as rather sad fictions have been written about the relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Sometimes we too judge close friendships harshly or at least suspiciously, so this may be understandable. Perhaps there is a lesson to learn here from Mary Magdalene's long-lasting friendship with Jesus. Deep and lasting spiritual friendships allow us to serve as disciples, to pray together, to witness suffering, to share whatever joys and sorrows life has to offer, and to rejoice at Resurrection!

I have always loved Chapter 6:14-17 of the Book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) on true friendship:

*A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; the one who finds such, finds a treasure.*

*A faithful friend is beyond price; no sum can balance his [sic] worth.*

*A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy; such as he who fears God, finds*

*For the one who fears God behaves accordingly; and one's friend will be like oneself.*

Maybe we need to remember often, and even imitate, the real Mary Magdalene, one who had the privilege of calling Jesus "friend."

## Gathering: All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen

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 visions,  
Rock 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 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;

©1994 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENCE#-A-62451e

### 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 Response: Lord, on the day I called for help,  
you answered me.**

C Smith

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
You have heard the words of my mouth,  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
Which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
You increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly  
And the haughty he knows from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of affliction,  
You give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me,  
Your hand will do all things for me.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
Discard not the work of your hands.

© 1995 Colin Smith, Revised 2016 Willow Publishing. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENCE #A-62451e

**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:

Provident God, You answer when we call to You.

### Acclamation:

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

### Preparation of the gifts:

Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You are our bread, broken and shared.  
Lord, to whom shall we go? Yours are the words of life.

M Herry

© 1993 Michael Herry FMS. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENCE #A-62451e

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

## Communion: Wonderful Feast

Marty Haugen

**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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

8. 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.

**We rise from your 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.**

© 2002, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENCE #A-62451e

### Thanksgiving: Seek Ye First

K Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you:  
Seek and ye shall find;  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

© 1972 Maranatha! Music.. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One Licence #A-62451e

### Recessional: All are Welcome

M Haugen

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 bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

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

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:

©1994, GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENCE #A-62451e