

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.*

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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/>

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 3 – 4 August, 2019

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

Our tradition tells us that “the earth and all that is in it belongs to God” (Psalm 24). That does not stop people from arguing over possessions and even killing for them. It never has. The Iraq war should have been a lesson to the world. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There was much coveted oil and that seems to have been the covert justification for an unconscionable invasion that cost countless lives. There seems to be something deep within the human psyche that continually seeks for more. Those who seek to be “rich toward God” or “rich in God” find life. Those who seek to be rich in material possessions will simply be left, at life’s end, with a question: “To whom will this hoard belong?” The question is rhetorical and expects the answer of Psalm 24: “the earth and all that is in it belongs to God”.

Jesus is addressed as “teacher”, and is asked to force a decision in an inheritance debate. He demonstrates that he is “teacher” rather than “divider”. He tells a hard-hitting story. He knows that storytelling is more effective in bringing people to life-giving decisions than is any attempt to bring down a definitive ruling, especially for those who surely know the law. His story is about a landowner who is blessed by an abundant harvest. The estate manager as well as the peasant workers and their families might reasonably expect a share in the profits, even a remission of the debts they inevitably carry. In this instance, the blessing of abundance turns the land-owner inwards rather than out towards others and so “toward God”. First person singular pronouns predominate: “What am I to do? I have no place.... / will do this.... / will / will / will” The futility or senselessness of stockpiling for personal gain is highlighted by the shift to second person singular, “You fool...”, and by the divine judgment on the landowner’s self-focus and greed. Greed appears in today’s reading from the letter to the community at Colossae. For the author of that letter, greed is simply idolatry, worship of a false god (Col 3:5).

In these times of planetary vulnerability, there is some urgency about the call to place our trust in the goodness of a generous God, to reduce our ecological footprint and to acknowledge that the good things of the earth belong to God and to all of God’s people, not just to the privileged few. In refusing to “store up treasure” for our own selfish ends, we become forever “rich toward God”. This applies to nation-states as well as to individuals. We have some responsibility for what is done in our name, for the size and deployment of our foreign aid budget for instance. The command to “be on your guard, be ever vigilant” in this respect is a demand for gospel justice.

(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: 5 – 11 August, 2019

Monday: 9.00am..... Mass
7.00pm..... PPC Meeting
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
12.30pm..... Music Planning
Friday: 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am.... Parish Playgroup

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Wisdom 18:6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48



August 2019

5 August – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
12 August – Care and Concern and Consolation Team Meetings
15 August – Mass for the Bereaved – Assumption of Mary
19 August – Parish Finance Committee Meeting

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

First Communion:

This Saturday night Tristan Allen, Callum Zull and Alex Cole will receive their First Holy Communion.

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 Michael O'Brien 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.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 15 August:

On Thursday 15 August the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day and Christmas Day are now the only Holy Days of Obligation (apart from Sundays). Mass will be celebrated here at St Thomas More's at 9 am on the day (this is also the Mass for the Bereaved). Masses will also be celebrated on the day at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7 am and 5.30 pm.

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, speak with Pastoral Council Members or the Parish Leader. *We still need two more people to nominate for the 2019/2020 Council.*

Sacrament of Penance Program:

The next Sacramental Program has now commenced. This group will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance at the end of August this year and Confirmation and Communion in 2019. For further details, please contact Michael, our Parish Leader, by phone, 4635 9555, mobile, 0407 804 461, or by email, parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au Please contact Michael also if you would like to support or assist the conduct of this Program. Please pray for the children and their families.

Catholic Leader Articles about Fr Tom Duncan's Ordination:

The Diocese celebrated the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr Tom Duncan on Thursday 18 July 2019 at St Patrick's Cathedral. Copies of articles in last week's Catholic Leader about his ordination are available in the Church Foyer. Fr Tom has been appointed as Assistant Priest at St Patrick's Cathedral beginning 2 September and will become a familiar figure here at St Thomas More's.

Cashless Donation Point has arrived:

The Cashless Donation Point is now set up in the foyer of the Church. 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:

Our Spring Clean Garage Sale in early September. If you are doing the winter clean up, please keep this event in mind. 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.

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**

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 currently at the Seminary. Envelopes are still available at the Parish Office and can be put on the plate 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.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS:

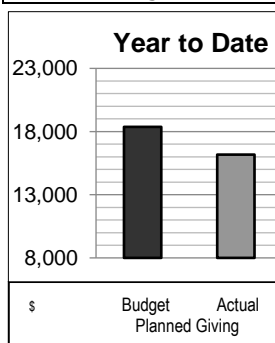
The following appointments have been announced by Bishop Robert: **Fr Peter Dorfield** is appointed as Executive Officer, Professional Standards and Safeguards Office from Thursday 1 August 2019. Mr George Keryk has retired from the position. **Fr Warren Padilla** is appointed as Associate Priest, to St Mary's Parish, Charleville from Thursday 15 August 2019. This also includes priestly assistance at Quilpie, Augathella and Cunnamulla. **Fr Gerry Tubis** is appointed as Associate Priest, to All Saint's, Roma from Thursday 15 August 2019. This also includes priestly assistance at Mitchell and Wallumbilla-Surat. **Fr Thomas Duncan** is appointed as Assistant Priest, to St Patrick's Cathedral from Monday 2 September 2019. Fr Tom will continue his Chaplaincy at the University of Southern Queensland and also coordinate the visit to the Australia Catholic Youth Festival in Perth this December. **Fr Nandana Saparamadu** is to provide priestly ministry at St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba from Monday 2 September 2019. Fr Nandana will continue to reside at St Patrick's Cathedral Presbytery and assist Fr Michael with Cathedral Parish duties.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

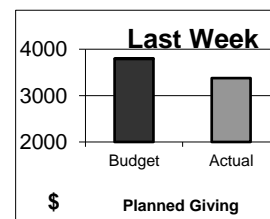
Those who are ill: Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Scott Murphy, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie McGrane, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Hedy 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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Bill Meara, Mariya Madelana, Irangani Filisia, Rev Fr Mark Cosgrove, Rev Fr John Ryan



PLANNED GIVING



**A REFLECTION FROM OUR PRIEST DIRECTOR, FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN, ON THIS WEEKEND'S GOSPEL
READING:**

Actions that are eternal

Interestingly when I was reflecting on today's gospel, I was reminded of one of the final prayers at the end of a wedding ceremony:

May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world
so that the afflicted and needy
will find in you generous friends,
and welcome you into the joys of heaven
Amen.

In my ponderings, I wonder whether we forget sometimes that the goodness of our lives are not just simple acts that we do at one point in time. Every kind act we have the opportunity to do at this time becomes an eternal act – actions that remain forever and God doesn't forget them. We rely on God's mercy and forgiveness for every questionable action, so they are not eternal. But as the prayer invites us to reflect on – "and welcome you into the joys of heaven". This gospel of the man who amassed a great fortune when on earth, without assisting others, acts as a little reminder that kind acts are not a moment in time, but a moment in eternity. The question is asked of Jesus to be the arbitrator of the division of the inheritance. But Jesus, as usual turns the question on its head. The question is not about the fairness of the division, but rather the inheritance itself. The gift is having more than enough to help others rather than making sure you get the most out of the division. There's a sense of being satisfied there is an inheritance to share at all. A quote I recently read said, "Happiness is not having all you want, but wanting all you have". Human nature drives us forward to be more than we are and that is how progress and development occur, but at some stage we must find a happiness that is found in sharing our love, time, possessions with those around us. And in the doing we prepare a plethora of good acts where the "afflicted and needy will find in us generous friends" that last an eternity. May we ponder on the beauty of our kind and loving actions and the power they have here and in God's eternal kingdom.

God's blessings, Father Michael

*Listen to what
the Spirit is saying*

**FINAL REPORT FOR THE PLENARY COUNCIL
PHASE I: LISTENING AND DIALOGUE**

The Plenary Council Coordinating Group have now released a 314 Page Report on the First Phase – Listening and Dialogue – of the preparation process for the Plenary Council 2020. If you wish to access a copy of the full report, you can do so by using the following link:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FINAL-BOOK-v5-LISTEN-TO-WHAT-THE-SPIRIT-IS-SAYING.pdf>

You can also access the Snapshot Reports and a Summary of Submissions from the Listening and Dialogue Phase at the following page: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports/>

Gathering: Christ Be Our Light

B Farrell

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

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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:

C Smith

Response:

In ev'ry age O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn us back into dust,
And say: "Go back children of the earth."
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday,
Come and gone,
No more than a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream,
Like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
By evening it withers and fades.

Make us know the shortness of our life
That we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord relent! Is your anger forever?
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
We shall rejoice and exult all our days.
Let the favour of the lord be upon us;
Give success to the work of our hands.

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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:

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

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

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on English in the Liturgy [ICEL]. All rights reserved)

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 Passover 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: The Harvest of Justice

D. Haas

**May we find richness in the harvest of justice
Which Christ Jesus has ripened for us.
Bread for the journey, bread for the hungry,
All for the glory and praise of God.**

For to have little is to be in abundance,
To give what remains, to give all we have,
Is to walk with the poor ones and become the stranger,
One with the Lord, the Lord our God.

**May we find richness in the harvest of justice
Which Christ Jesus has ripened for us.
Bread for the journey, bread for the hungry,
All for the glory and praise of God.**

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Recessional: Christ Be Our Light

B Farrell

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

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