

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 Leader: a/h phone: 0407 804 461. Email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

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/>

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 10 - 11 August, 2019

Readings: Wisdom 18:6-9; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

The longer form of today's gospel brings together a number of loosely connected sayings of Jesus about trust and vigilance. Jesus addresses his disciples affectionately as a "little flock". He tells them that there is no need for fear. God, their "father", has delighted in giving them "the kin-dom" and they are to be generous in their turn. They are to sell their material possessions and give "alms" or, in a more accurate translation of the Greek original, they are to use their resources to engage in "works of mercy" (*eleēmosunē*). Their security resides in Jesus' assurance: "Where your treasure (or treasury) is, there your heart will be also." The parental and affectionate language of the opening verses is in sharp contrast with the violent imagery of the latter part of the gospel reading. Contrary to what some have argued in the past, the murderous slave master who cuts recalcitrant slaves into pieces can never be understood as a gospel image of God. In this problematic passage, the Lukan Jesus is engaging his hearers' experience of slavery in order to make a point about the need for attentiveness to the demands of the gospel. The vigilant slave is said to be "blessed" or "happy" or "privileged". From a contemporary perspective, it seems strange indeed to speak of a slave as fortunate. As the story unfolds, we realise that the slave enjoys a relative happiness in comparison with the fate of the other slaves.

The shorter form of the gospel in 12:35-40 presents a very strange teaching that would surely have been met with scepticism by its earliest hearers. The word picture that Luke paints is just not credible in a first century setting where slavery was taken for granted and where the respective roles of masters and slaves were characterised more by extreme violence than by mutuality of any sort. The disciples are told to be like slaves who keep vigil all night as they await the return of their master from a wedding banquet. Their function is to open the door when he knocks and, if they are awake enough to perform this function, there will be an extraordinary reversal of roles: the slaves will sit down at table while the master assumes the role of slave and serves their meal.

The disciples are being prepared for Jesus' announcement later in the narrative that he is among them as one who serves. They need to understand that something extraordinary is happening, even more extraordinary than the slave-master banquet scenario might suggest. God's way of being in the world is full of healing experiences and life-enhancing surprises. The final verses of the shorter reading shift to the image of the thief in the night. These verses are also about vigilance, being watchful and alert so as not to be taken by surprise in the final reckoning.

(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 Contact:
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 12 - 18 August, 2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
2.00pm...Care and Concern
3.00pm...Consolation Team
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
1.00pm...Funeral P Schultz
5.30pm.....Mass
Tue to Sat 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday: 9.00am...Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
10.30am.....Liturgy Group
7.00pm.....PRDC
Thursday 9.00am...Assumption Mass
10.30am.....Emmaus Prayer
7.00pm.....Social Justice
Friday: 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53



August 2019

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

Funeral for Peter Schultz:

Peter's Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1pm on Tuesday 13 August at St Patrick's Cathedral. We will especially remember Peter at our Masses this weekend as together we grieve the passing of this wonderful priest, pastor and friend.

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. All are welcome.

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. We recognise that we all lead busy lives and you may be hesitant to nominate because you can't commit to attending all meetings. Don't let that stop you as we regularly have members unable to attend meetings.

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.

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.

Caring for Each Other:

As a community of faith we are called to be aware of those around us in the community. If you notice that a regular Mass attender has not been here for a while, if you know of someone who may be going through a tough time, if you know of someone who is on their own and could benefit from a visit, if you have heard that someone from the community is in hospital, if you notice someone who seems new to the community, please advise the Parish Leader, talk to a member of the Parish Council or contact the Parish Office. We have groups in the Parish such as Care and Concern and our local St Vincent de Paul Conference who may be able to assist.

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.

New to the Parish:

If you are new to the parish, please put your details in the book provided in the foyer and you will be provided with information regarding the groups and activities you may wish to be part of. If you want to be part of our Thanksgiving Program, please contact the Parish Office 46359555.

Transport Available:

Anyone who has no transport to attend weekend Mass can be assisted. Telephone the Parish Office (4635 9555) to make your needs known and a Care and Concern member will follow up to arrange suitable transport.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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.

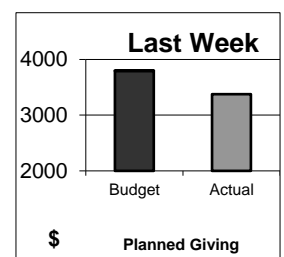
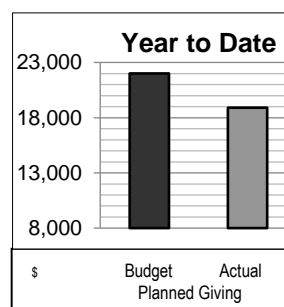
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

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, Pat Chapman, Alvina Denison

Recently Deceased: Fr Peter Schultz, Norm Docherty, Denis O'Dea, Don Haidley, Patricia Joyner.

Anniversaries: Rev Fr Patrick Kelly, Jack Whittaker

PLANNED GIVING



ST MARY MACKILLOP: "Aussie Battler – from Excommunication to Sainthood"

Mary MacKillop was born on January 15, 1842 in Fitzroy, Melbourne. She was the eldest of eight children. Her parents were Scottish immigrants. Mary loved her family, but they faced many difficult circumstances as her father was not able to hold down a job. This meant that the family often had to rely on friends and relatives to support them and give them a home.

At sixteen years of age Mary began to work to support herself and her family. She worked as a governess, a clerk with Sands and Kenny printers and as a teacher. She wrote in a letter to Monsignor Kirby in 1873:

"When I was little more than 16 years of age, the principal care of a very large family fell upon me, and until I was 25 I felt its burden yearly more and more."

From an early age, Mary felt called to dedicate her life to the service for the Australian poor as a religious sister. She was able to follow this call in 1866 when Fr Julian Woods the parish priest of Penola in South Australia invited her to open a school there. In this tiny Australian country town she began her first school in a stable. On March 19, the feast of St Joseph, she dressed in a black dress to signify her desire to dedicate her life to God completely. This was to be the beginning of a new Religious Order. With Fr Julian Woods she founded the Sisters of St Joseph - an Australian group of Sisters. Mary had a special devotion to St Joseph and the Sacred Heart.

In 1867, Mary moved to Adelaide at the request of Fr Julian Woods who was now the Director of Catholic Education. On 15 August, Mary made her first Religious Vows at a ceremony in Adelaide. She and her companions began to wear the Josephite Religious habit and live by a Rule of Life approved by Bishop Sheil. The work grew rapidly and within a short time many other women had joined Mary MacKillop to live and work as a Sister of St Joseph. Schools were opened for the poor and for children in country communities.

In 1869, Mary MacKillop took four Sisters to Queensland at the request of Bishop James Quinn. The Sisters lived and worked here for ten years before difficulties with the Bishop caused Mary to take the Sisters out of Queensland.

Throughout her life Mary MacKillop was to endure difficulties with many of the bishops because they wished to control the affairs of the Order. The rule however insisted that Mary MacKillop and not the Bishop would be responsible for the daily lives of the Sisters. In September 1871, Mary MacKillop was excommunicated by Bishop Sheil from the church for standing firm to this belief. The rule was, for her, a means by which she understood God's will for her.

At thirty-one Mary travelled to Rome to present the Rule for papal approval. The Roman authorities stood by the Rule regarding the governance of the Order. The Sisters would not be under the control of the local bishop. This did not please some of the bishops. It meant that Mary had to withdraw the Sisters from Queensland and from Bathurst. It also meant that Mary was ordered by Bishop Reynolds to leave Adelaide and go to Sydney.

In the meantime the Sisters kept on doing God's work of teaching the poor children and providing shelter to those who were disadvantaged. Mary supported her Sisters by making long journeys to visit her Sisters - by boat, train and Cobb and Co coach. In between she supported her Sisters by writing numerous letters. Everywhere she went, she brought God's compassionate love with her. She looked at each person and saw within the potential for goodness. She revered the dignity of all whom she encountered. Mary felt very strongly the widespread ignorance of the whole of the spiritual dimension of life and dedicated her life to bringing the message of God's love to all whom she encountered.

After an extended illness and a stroke Mary MacKillop died on August 8, 1909 in Alma Cottage, North Sydney. Her death brought much sorrow to her sisters who were comforted by the words of affection spoken about their Founder. Cardinal Moran commented at this time: 'Today I have assisted at the death bed of a saint'. I am sure he did not realise how true his words would be just 100 years later.

The most remarkable feature was that through all her troubles Mary never gave up. She held the strong belief that through every struggle God will carry you. Like Jesus on the cross, Mary was ready to forgive those who had caused her harm. Her life teaches us to live with courage in the face of difficulties, and to trust in God's care.

(On Thursday 8 August we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The above article is taken from a book entitled: Heroes – Saint Mary MacKillop, Australia's First Saint. It was published in 2010 by Life Teen, part of Catholic Youth Services in the Archdiocese of Sydney. The article drew on biographical material prepared by Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ, who is well known to us in this community.)

Gathering: City of God

D Schutte

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light,
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Let us build the city of God.

May our tears be turned into dancing!

For the Lord, our light and our love,

Has turned the night into day!

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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:

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
For praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
The people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
On those who hope in his love,
To rescue their souls from death,
To keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our shields.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,

As we place all our hope in you.

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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:

We place our hope in You, O God.

Acclamation:

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

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Communion: As Grains of Wheat

L Rosania

As grains of wheat are gathered in,
We've come together;
From lives apart,
We bring our hearts to make one whole.

For many are we,

And broken we've come

But we shall become one.

Each grain must fall and give itself:

It first is broken,

Then, joined with others,

Makes one body and one bread.

From many fields the harvest comes
To feed the hungry; the world cries out
To taste the goodness of the Lord.

Your harvest, Lord, is gathered in;
We stand before you to be your bread,
To be your body in the world.

For many are we,

And broken we've come,

But we shall become one.

We shall be one.

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Thanksgiving: I Found the Treasure

D Schutte

Lord, to whom can I go?

You alone speak the words of life.

You alone on the earth or in heaven above

Are my saviour and my Lord.

I found the treasure in a field,

That neither time nor death can steal.

I will sell what I have, give all that I am,

To hold this treasure as my own.

Jesus, Lord of my life,

I can ask for nothing more

Than to see and believe that my life lies in you,

In the kingdom of my Lord.

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Recessional: We Are Called

D Haas

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

To live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice,

We are called to love tenderly,

We are called to serve one another,

To walk humbly with God!

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love!

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