

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

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/>

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 17 - 18 August, 2019

Readings: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

There is a sense of urgency in today's gospel. Jesus feels constrained or under stress until the "fire" he has come to cast on the earth is kindled and the baptism of fire that John the Baptist foreshadowed in 3:16 takes effect. Elsewhere in Luke's writing, fire is associated with judgement (3:9, 17; 9:17; 17:29), and with the presence of the Holy Spirit (3:16), especially in the Lukan story of Pentecost (Acts 2:3) where "tongues as of fire" appear and rest on all those assembled in the upper room. Fire is a sign of the end times when the Spirit of prophecy descends on all God's people (Acts 2:18-19). Those who have experienced the effect of the all too frequent bush fires in Australia or the wild fires of California can appreciate the power of this image. Climate change is undoubtedly increasing the risk of destructive fires. Drier conditions wither plant life that then becomes fuel for the fires. Fire can take all before it. It can also bring the most astonishing new life in its wake.

Linked with the image of fire is that of water: Jesus has a "baptism with which to be baptized". Once more, a sense of urgency is expressed as the power of water is evoked. Like fire, water has power to destroy and power to save. Fire and water become metaphors for the hard won gospel path to peace. Jesus seems to be contradicting so much of what he has stood for to this point. At his birth, he is presented as the bringer of peace (Luke 1:79 and 2:14). He tells the hospitable woman of 7:50 and the faith-filled woman of 8:48 to "go in peace". He instructs his disciples to bring peace to the families they visit (10:5-6). He refuses to be a divider (12:13-14). And now he declares that he has come not to bring peace but division. His hearers can expect members of families to be divided one against another. How can this be?

The Lukan Jesus is almost certainly describing the status quo rather than prescribing what ought to prevail. In other words, by the time Luke is writing, it is clear that some have accepted the gospel way of peace and justice and compassion and others within the same families have not. Acceptance of the gospel and of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah would have involved a monumental shift for Jews on the one hand and for adherents of the diverse philosophies or faiths of the Roman world on the other. Today's families of mixed faith might be able to get inside this experience and to understand the suffering involved when a family member makes a life choice that other members of the family find hard to accept. This is not an easy text to understand or even to accept. We need to struggle with its ambiguity.

(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: 19 - 25 August, 2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.Finance Committee
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
Thursday: 7.00pm.....Social Justice
Friday: 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C Migrant and Refugee Sunday

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30



August/September 2019

19 August – Parish Finance Committee Meeting
26 August – Parish Pastoral Agenda Meeting
1 September – Father's Day
1 September – Priests Retirement Foundation Annual Appeal

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Planned Giving Envelopes:

The new batch of Planned Giving Envelopes are now available in the Church Foyer for pickup. The commencement date for the new envelopes is 1 September.

Priests Retirement Foundation Annual Appeal:

The Annual Appeal for the Priests Retirement Foundation in the Toowoomba Diocese will be held on the weekend of 31 August and 1 September. Envelopes will be available at that time.

Leadership In Our Parish:

Our Parish Pastoral Council plays a vital role in ensuring the on-going 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 still need two people to nominate. 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 is now well underway. This group will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance on 28 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 is happening on 7 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. enquiries can be directed to Michael at the Parish Office or to any of the members of the Parish Revenue Development Committee. We will soon be putting sign up sheets in the foyer for assisting with the sale.

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 on 4635 9555.

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

Plenary Council Update:

Since Pentecost the six National Themes for Discernment have been published – an outcome of the Listening and Dialogue Phase in which many of you participated. At the end of July, the final detailed report on the Listening and Dialogue phase was released. This information can be accessed on the Plenary Council website: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Now we are invited to get involved in the next phase of the Plenary by entering into the Listening and Discernment experience. You may wish to consider one of the six Themes for Discernment, which, at this time, may be of interest. An excellent detailed, user-friendly, step by step guide to use with groups is available on the Plenary Council website under the heading of Resources. Check out this material and let Michael know if you would like to be part of a group process so some sessions can be organised.

Rosary Crusade:

There will be a Rosary Crusade at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 18 August at 2.00pm. Come for part or come for all. All welcome.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal:

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

St Vincent's Cancer Care Luncheon:

St Vincent's Cancer Care Luncheon and cent sale will be held at Urban Grounds, Herries Street on Monday 2 September. Everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$60 each and are available from Lesley Knight on 4636 2014 or 0428 304 784 and Jessie Cutler on 4635 9474 or 0431 908 688. Function commences around 9.30am.

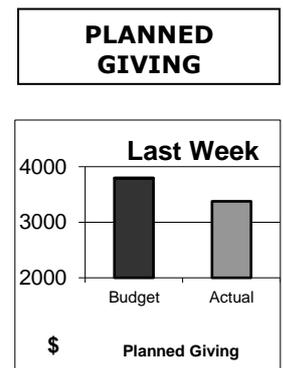
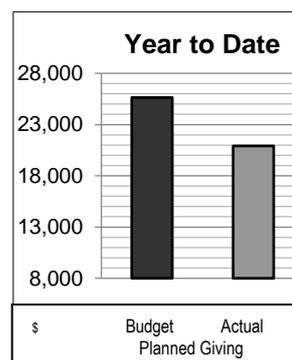
Christian Brothers - 120 Years Old Boys Dinner:

Old Boys, family and friends are invited to celebrate 120 years of St Mary's College, at our Old Boy Dinner. Tickets are \$50, which includes a 3-course meal, and an interview conducted by James O'Shea (1999) with winning Premiership (NRL) and World Cup Challenge, Queensland and South Sydney Rabbitohs player, Ethan Lowe (2008). A major auction of sports memorabilia will be held together with the opportunity to buy our new history book, celebrating 120 years. The Dinner will be held on 19 October at 7.00pm in the T P O'Brien Hall at St Mary's. See flyer in Church Foyer.

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, Megan Ford, Bev Walls

Recently Deceased: Fr Peter Schultz



Below is the text of Fr Michael O'Brien's homily in memory of Fr Peter Schultz at our Masses last weekend. The text is reproduced from the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Newsletter for last weekend, the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 2019:

Vale Fr. Peter Schultz 1961 – 2019

There once was a Grade 9 student in a western town in Queensland who loved nothing more than being the class clown. He loved to make people laugh – it often didn't go down well with the teachers! In that same community arrived a young man who was involved in the life of the parish and school. He was there for a year before he was going to the Seminary in Brisbane. The parish priest there at the time told him outright, that he would never make a priest. This didn't dampen his resolve, if anything it made it stronger. He spent time with the family of the mischievous little boy. He showed him an example of energy in faith and a desire to make the world a better place. That young boy in 1983, was myself and the priest to be was Peter Schultz. When Peter went to Pius XII Seminary the following year we continued to write and explore our faith and understanding of life. Peter had a lot to do with my desire for priesthood. In his own way Peter led me from thinking about going to the Seminary to actualising what I was feeling. Before he left for the Seminary, he gave me a copy of a book that helped inspire him – *"Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach*. It's a complex and exhilarating story of a seagull by the name of Jonathan, and I think it goes some way to understanding Peter. The story involves a seagull that suddenly realizes there is more to life than simply flying out to boats for a crumb to survive another day. He realises that to fly is the greatest quest. So he begins to practice and discovers new ways of screaming down from a great height and landing unhurt. The other gulls see him and decide he is dishonoring his flock – for that is not the reason they were created. So he is cast out. His understanding of life doesn't fit in with the other gulls. So he continues to practice until one day the inevitable happens – he crashes and life comes to an end. But rather than there being nothing he rises to a higher level of consciousness whereby he is invited to continue his discovery of learning with other seagulls in another world. Eventually Jonathan returns to his original seashore and finds another outcast whom he teaches the perfection of flight. They gather others and fly down to the flock that threw them out. The flock are warned not even to look at them or they will themselves be cast out. But during the night in the shadows they listen, and gradually are convinced by the beauty of what Jonathan speaks of. They all join together to go beyond the limits that their minds place upon them – to dream beyond this moment and world – to be what God truly created them to be – to hope. In this story, there is a great analogy of Jesus. And of his followers who were cast out because of their faith. I believe it is also part of an understanding of life that Peter held. The ways that Peter often went about life was different to others. He strove to find his own place and to share that understanding, particularly through his preaching, with others. Sometimes like Jonathon, he was misunderstood, but without a doubt he believed, as the story says, *"The only true law is that which leads to freedom."* He wrote on my Christmas card that year, *"May the Lord enter your heart and show you His will. Remember like Jonathon always follow your heart not your head or others for I believe that is where you will find our God."* Peter certainly followed his heart and love of God. Dr. Tony Ferris, who generously spent time walking with Peter, gently reminded him of something that Peter had said some time ago. He had told Tony about a lecture by Wrex Woolnough during his time at the Seminary – "There's only one question in life that you have to be able to answer and it is this - when God asks you, when you are dying "Can you accept my love?" If you can say Yes, everything else you've done in life is insignificant."

Thank you Peter for being **you** – strong in conviction – listening to your heart – bringing joy through the sacraments – being a friend – go now in peace!

Shalom, Father Michael

A Word of Thanks on Behalf of the Diocese:

"As Priest Director for St Thomas More's Parish Community, I extend, on behalf of the Diocese a heartfelt thank you to everyone for making the parish a home for Fr. Peter. He always spoke highly of the community and the support he experienced with you. Thank you for your companionship and encouragement throughout his 14 years with you. He will be deeply missed but beautifully remembered. Thank you for your willingness to bring out the best in Peter during this time. Always in our hearts, God Bless, Father Michael."

Some reflections on Peter's life that members of this community have shared:

"We are all deeply saddened by the death of our brilliant, enigmatic and compassionate Father Peter Schultz."

"Fr Peter, was to me, an inspirational priest who brought the Gospel to life with compassion and care. I never left a mass that he presided over without feeling provoked to think a little deeper about my existence and the meaning of life."

"How very, very sad. A great man who served his parish with great empathy. We will miss him."

"Personally, I will very much miss his great homilies – straight to the point and challenging to our modern lives."

Gathering: Send Down the Fire

M Haugen

**Send down the fire of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit,
Breathe life in your people,
And we shall be people of God.**

Call us to be your compassion,
Teach us the song of your love;
Give us hearts that sing,
Give us deeds that ring.
Make us ring with the song of your love.

Call us to learn of your mercy,
Teach us the way of your peace;
Give us hearts that feel,
Give us hands that heal.
Make us walk in the way of your peace.

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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:

O Lord, come to my aid; do not delay

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me;
Indeed, I waited for the Lord, and he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song in my mouth, praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord.

As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help, O my God do not delay.

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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:

Set our hearts on fire, O God.

Acclamation:

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

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

Communion: Gift of Finest Wheat

Robert E Kreutz

**You satisfy the hungry heart, with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his
voice;
So when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you, our praise and gratitude;
That you should count us worthy Lord, to share this heav'nly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share, the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world can not contain, comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us O Lord; then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name, in truth and charity.

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Thanksgiving: People of Peace:

C Landry

**To be people of faith in times of doubt
To be people of hope in times of despair,
To be people of peace, people of peace,
O, Lord, Your instruments of peace.**

Where we encounter hatred let us bring your love,
Where hurt has been oppressive, your healing care;
Wherever there are people who are needing to be free;
Make your church an instrument of peace.

To heal the broken hearted, to comfort those who mourn;
To go to those imprisoned bring freedom to the bound;
To be a light for all who struggle to be free:
Make your church an instrument of peace.

In giving to the hungry, in satisfying thirst,
In welcoming the stranger, in comforting the ill;
In being those who hunger for justice and for truth; make us all
your instruments of peace.

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Recessional: Deep in The Spirit

F Andersen

**If the Spirit of God lives in you,
Sing to the Lord!
Praise him for this goodness!
Deep in the Spirit your song!**

I will play for him! Joy-filled is my song!
My life is my melody! To him I belong!

Deep in Christ I live! Faith in him my prayer!
When my soul is torn and dry, faith to sense Him there!

Spirit in my heart, sing for me my prayer!
Deep within my heart I know: You are always there!

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