

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 Website: www.stthomasmores.org.au

Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba/>

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 12 - 13 October, 2019

World Mission Sunday

Readings: Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2; Luke 18:1-8

Today's gospel begins with a reference to prayer, a favourite theme in Luke, and ends with a question about faith. If the parable were also about prayer, as the narrator suggests, then the unjust judge would image a God who has no respect for anyone and is slow to hear the cry of the poor! There are clearly problems with this, and scholars are divided on how to explain it. The most likely explanation is that, in the editorial process, the gospel writer has made three key additions to the story: the introductory statement that Jesus told them a parable "about the need to pray always"; the final instruction to pay attention to the judge's words; and the three questions at the end. The original parable was almost certainly told in another context and probably ended with the words of the judge. What difference might this make for us as 21st century readers? The parable has acquired different meanings as it shifted from an oral to a written context. The Lukan author fits the parable rather awkwardly to the issues he wants to address with his communities.

The scene for the verses representing the original parable is "a certain city", possibly suggesting that it is a story for any and every city. There are two main human characters, the judge and the widow. There is another non-speaking character in the wings, namely the widow's opponent. The hearer or reader is invited to fill the gaps. Who is this opponent? What sort of injustice is the widow experiencing? Since the judge clearly recognises the validity of the widow's claim, why does he refuse to hear her plea? Is it because he is accepting bribes from the woman's adversary? What sort of judge would admit to having no respect for anyone, even to himself?

A vital clue to understanding the parable lies in the translation of the final words of the judge. It literally reads: "so that she won't finish up giving me a black eye". Translators have consistently softened the impact of this with a metaphorical reading. Is Jesus drawing attention to the plight of widows in that society who can only get justice from a corrupt judiciary if they resort to violence? The widow in this story is one feisty woman: without the support of a husband or the benefit of social security payments, she has only her own personal resources to rely upon. The judge operates from the assumption that she is prepared to use her fists. A system that provides no other recourse for the vulnerable of the human community and for those endeavouring to save our endangered planet simply has to change. Jesus tells his hearers to pay attention to what the "unjust judge" has to say. It is not at all clear what the reader is meant to take from this story. One possibility is that those who seem to have little power can win out in the end if they have the courage to persist in their struggles for 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 Contact:
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 21 - 27 October 2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass
7.00pm.....School Board
Tue to Sat 7.00am.... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday: 9.00am.Liturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
Friday: 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

30th Sunday in Ord Time Year C Family Sunday

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14



October 2019

19/20 October – Mission Sunday
26/27 October – Family Sunday
27 October – Concert – Singing for Rosies
28 October – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Melbourne Cup:

If you have missed out on tickets please contact the Parish Office and we can issue you a book or two. Tickets need to be returned by Sunday 3 November. Tickets not picked up have been posted. If you are available to help sell raffle tickets, please telephone Terry Parker on 4636 5998.

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 attendee 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.

Family Sunday – 26/27 October 2019:

On the last weekend in October, we will celebrate Family Sunday, an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all families in our Parish and to highlight the contribution of the Family Groups to the life of our Parish community. Any couples celebrating a 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70th anniversary (80th and 90th anniversaries will receive extra special acknowledgement) are asked to give their names to the Parish Office (Phone 4635 9555) so that we can particularly acknowledge you at both Masses that weekend.

Singing for Rosies – Sunday 27 October:

Come along and enjoy a concert of classical music in St Thomas More's Church at 2 pm on Sunday 27 October with Alissa Bermingham and friends. The Toowoomba Women in Harmony Choir will make a guest appearance. Entry is by gold coin donation to the work of Rosies, Friends on the Street. The performance will be followed by afternoon tea.

Parish/School Mass – 6.00pm Saturday 16 November:

As part of building and maintaining a strong relationship between Parish and School, we have arranged with the school to have one weekend Mass each Term this year where we invite and welcome families from the school community to join us, with children given the opportunity to participate in the different parts of the Mass. Our Mass for this Term and the last for the year will be at 6.00 pm on Saturday 16 November. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that night.

Baptisms:

This Sunday, we welcome into our Church Community **Edward Patrick Tucker-Crossley** son Peta Tucker.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day Masses:

Mass will be celebrated at St Thomas More's on Friday 1 November at 9.00am for All Saints Day and on Saturday 2 November at 9.00am for All Souls Day. All are welcome to attend. Mass will also be celebrated at St Pat's at 7 am and 5.30pm on Friday 1 November for All Saints Day and on Saturday 2 November at 7 am for All Souls Day.

Cards about the Catholic Church:

These cards are still available in the Church foyer. Please take and share them with others.

National Mosque Open Day – Saturday 26 October:

The leaders of the Toowoomba Mosque have sent an invitation to members of our parish community to join them for their Open Day on Saturday 26 October between 11 am and 3 pm at 217 West Street Harristown. Anyone able to attend would be most welcome to do so.

At church without any change for the plate?

You will find our Pay Point located on the wall in the Church Foyer near the New Parishioners Book. Simply tap your card – credit or debit – and you will donate \$6.00 to St. Thomas More's Parish Community. Please consider an ongoing donation to assist us in our good works as a community.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

You are reminded that the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open every Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm for adoration, personal prayer and reflection.

Updating your will?

Have you ever considered a Bequest to St Thomas More's Parish? The work of St Thomas More's Parish relies on the personal and financial generosity of many people. Each of us will revisit and update our wills from time to time as life circumstances change. Next time you are reviewing your will and talking with your solicitor, you might consider leaving a bequest to the Parish. A Form of Wording, for Bequests to the Parish, is available from the Parish Office.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Becoming Soul Full – A Retreat for Catholic Women:

The retreat will be held on 21 – 23 October 2019 at the James Byrne Centre, Highfields. An invitation to Catholic women who struggle, question, survive, dream, advocate, care. Come, take time to listen to the Spirit and share your story of faith with other women. This retreat is a time to name our reality, concerns and dreams for the church in a safe and supportive environment. Let us name our hopes for Catholic women of the Diocese of Toowoomba. Retreat will be facilitated by Andrea Dean, Director of the Office for the Participation of Women and Office for Lay Pastoral Ministry within the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Registration Closes 14/10/19 See flyer for details and registration information. Register online – See Flyer on Notice Board for further information.

Rare and Beautiful Variety Sale:

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are holding their RARE AND BEAUTIFUL variety sale on Saturday 26 October at 71 Margaret St TOOWOOMBA, 6.30am to 12 noon. On sale will be items of value – Rare and Beautiful, as well as everyday items including crockery, glassware, linen etc All funds go to assist the missions. For more information contact the Sisters on 46321818.

Caritas: Women For The World Picnic:

You are invited to join the Caritas Women for the World Picnic on Saturday 9 November 2019 from 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Botanic Gardens at the Corner of Lindsay and Campbell Streets Toowoomba. Come for a relaxing afternoon in the park and learn about this Caritas initiative to help empower women from around the world. More details on the Poster on the Parish Noticeboard.

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.

Anniversaries: Fr Michael Mahon, Fr Roger Burke

Recently Deceased: Patricia Smith (Helen)

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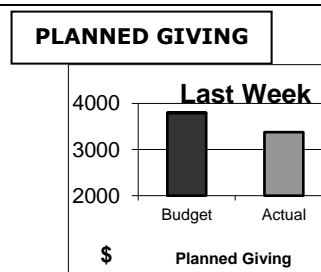
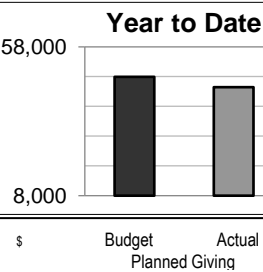
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DO NOT FEAR for I am with you

Sister Stan Mumuni is at the forefront of the Church's work in reaching out to children in need in Ghana. As the director of the Nazareth Home for God's Children, Sister Stan works endlessly to provide education, healthcare and a safe home for children rescued from life-threatening situations.

In line with traditional beliefs, in parts of Ghana, children born with a disability, or whose mother passes during childbirth, are considered to be 'spirit children' and thus at risk of being harmed or killed. The Church in Ghana is dedicated to protecting these children and educating families to ensure every child has a chance to live a full life. The Nazareth Home for God's Children is among the pioneers in this crucial mission.

Today you have the opportunity to personally partner with the Church in Ghana and offer monthly support to this essential work. All gifts will be directed to life-saving projects for children in need. Your one-off gift today is also very much appreciated and will make a great difference to those in need.

Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/Ghana

Thanks to your generosity, the funds raised from last year's Church Appeal enabled St John's School in the remote Myanmar township of Hakha to complete the first building of classrooms and begin construction on a second block. This progress has allowed students to continue on to higher levels of education, while increasing the capacity at the school and ensuring more children in the area have the opportunity to learn and develop in a holistic way.

Your support also allowed the Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (PSIE) to increase the number of young men and women they enrol and train to become qualified teachers equipped with child-focused education techniques. In 2018, twelve new teachers completed their training course at PSIE – this year the number is expected to triple.

The appeal this year focuses on the work of the Church in Ghana as they provide support to children in need. The funds raised through the Church Appeal contribute to vital faith and community building projects in mission lands around the world. Your support is crucial in ensuring all of God's people can have life to the full.

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the international Pontifical Mission Societies. They raise funds and form people for mission. This enables them to reach out through heroic missionaries and community leaders to help children and communities in need and provide vital training for seminarians and other young leaders.

You are invited to reach out and help children who are vulnerable through the life-giving work of the Church in Ghana today. You are encouraged to become a Ghana Mission Partner and support children in Ghana. From \$20 per month, your gift will be directed to crucial Church-run programs which support vulnerable young people, such as the Nazareth Home for God's Children.

To join as a monthly partner or to make a one-off donation today, simply use the appeal envelope provided. Please include your name, email and address details so Catholic Mission can thank you personally, send you your receipt, and keep you informed of the difference your gift makes. If you need some time to reflect, please take the reply-paid envelope home and either send directly to Catholic Mission or bring it to Mass next week and place it on the collection plate.

Thank you for whatever generous support you can give to this appeal and for helping the Church in Ghana to reach out to children in need.

Gathering: Blest Be the Lord

D Schutte

***Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord,
The God of mercy, the God who saves,
I shall not fear the dark of night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day.***

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.
He will protect me from their wicked hands.
Beneath the shadow of his wings I will rejoice
to find a dwelling place secure.

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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: Our help is from the Lord,
who made heav'n and earth**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord, who made Heav'n and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble! Let him sleep not,
Your guard. No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard & your shade; at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and forever.
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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 of love for all, hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

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

Communion: 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.***

Gather with patience for those who have nothing.
Leave them your riches and you will receive.
Make room for the poor ones, make way for the stranger;
For I am the Lord, the Lord your God.

For to have mercy on those forgotten,
This is my true law, this is my command:
Clothe the naked, be home for the orphan,
Be hope for the widow and welcome the lost.

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.
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Thanksgiving: The Face of God

Mark Raue

Why do you wait pretend and ignore?
Why won't you answer my call?
Your mission is to bring my presence to the world
so all can live life to the full.

***You are my eyes to look upon the world
You are my voice to speak out
You are my hands
to reach out and touch my people
You are the face of God.***

Some travel far from all that they know
To mission to people far away.
I'm calling you to just look next door;
At what you can do here today.

All around you now are people in need;
Lost in their fear and poverty.
Thirsting for hope, they cry out my name.
Will you be there when they call for me.
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Recessional: Strong and Constant

F Andersen

I will be your God who walks with you!
You will be always within my hand!
Take your heart and give it all to me!

***Strong and constant is my love!
Strong and constant is my love!***

Should you wander far away from me
I will search for you in every land!
Should you call, then you will truly know:

When you know sorrow within your life,
I will come I will embrace your heart!
Through your pain you will discover me!
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