

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/>

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 26 - 27 October, 2019

Family Sunday

Readings: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

The parable of the Pharisee and the toll collector follows that of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Luke frames the parable with comments about being just or in right relationship (translated "virtuous") and justified (translated "at rights with God"). It is addressed to "certain people" who will find a mirror image of themselves in the first of the characters, the Pharisee. Historically, the Pharisees were honorable people, well-versed in Jewish religious traditions and faithful in observing the Law. They made up a very small percentage of the population. In the gospels, they often appear as code for religious leadership that is self-focused, contemptuous of others, and out of touch with the struggle of ordinary people's lives. In Luke, some of the Jesus' harshest condemnation is reserved for the Pharisees of the gospel.

The Pharisee goes up to the Jerusalem Temple to pray. There is no surprise in this. That is what Pharisees do. More surprising is the identification of the other person who also heads for the Temple to pray, a toll collector or tax agent, a man in the pay of the occupying forces, not exactly a person to be trusted and certainly not one connected with proper worship. The Pharisee prays "to himself" or "by himself" or "about himself": any one of the three translations is possible. He prays with his eyes cast sideways towards his thieving prayer companion. He prides himself on going beyond the prescriptions of the Law. The toll collector, in contrast, stands at a distance, eyes cast down, beating his breast, acknowledging his need for God's mercy and recognizing God as the source of compassion and forgiveness. For an audience who "have confidence in themselves that they are righteous", this portrait of the tax agent in right relationship with God is confronting. For such people, being a tax agent is synonymous with being unrighteous.

The language of the toll collector's prayer, "God be merciful (*hilasthēti*) to me a sinner", evokes the prayer of a young man of Judah who, almost two centuries before, had seen his brothers die for their faith and who was himself facing death. The young man acknowledged the waywardness of his people, praying that God would be merciful to them and deliver them from persecution (2 Maccabees 7:37). The toll collector of the Lukan parable is more in tune with the faith tradition of his people than is its respected guardian, the Pharisee. Once again, right relationship with God and others is less a matter of who we are or what we do than the spirit in which we do it. There is no room for self-righteousness in a gospel way of life. We all need to admit our failings with humility, turn to God for forgiveness, and change our ways. Right now, this is what we are called to do as a human community that has failed to respect the integrity of the natural world and has exploited it for our own selfish ends. We can learn from the tax collector.

(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: 28/10 – 03/01/2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
5.00pm.....PPC Agenda
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
Friday: 7.00am.....Mass at St Pat's
(All Saints 9.00am.....Mass at STM
Day) 9.00am....Parish Playgroup
5.30pm ... Mass at St Pat's
Saturday 9.00am.All Souls Day Mass

31st Sunday in Ord Time Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2
2 Thessalonians 1:11 – 2:2
Luke 19:1-10



October/November 2019

26/27 October – Family Sunday
 27 October – Concert – Singing for Rosies
 28 October – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting
 4 November – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
 11 November – Care & Concern
 11 November – Consolation Team

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.

Singing for Rosies – Sunday 27 October:

Come along and enjoy a concert of classical music in St Thomas More's Church at 2 pm this Sunday 27 October with Alissa Birmingham 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.

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.

Gifts for Ministry Sessions:

The Diocese of Wollongong has developed a great resource to help members of Parish Communities to reflect on the particular gifts and talents they bring to Parish Ministries. It is timely to take the opportunity to reflect as we are invited during November to consider what Ministry we will put the hand up for over the next year. Two sessions, using the Wollongong resource, each about 90 minutes in length – one next Sunday, 3 November, at 10.15 am and one on Wednesday, 6 November, at 7pm – will be held in the meeting room at the Parish Office. Please come to the session that suits you. If you are planning to attend, please let Michael know beforehand, as there is a brief questionnaire to fill out in preparation.

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.

Cards about the Catholic Church:

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

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. We encourage you to make use of this quiet space.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

National Prayer Campaign for Drought:

The Catholic Church in Australia is dedicating the month of November 2019 as a time to pray for those affected by crippling drought conditions and to pray for the gift of rain. Parishes, schools, families and other Catholic communities across the country are being encouraged to participate in the National Prayer Campaign for Drought, which also invites people to provide assistance to those most in need. The month of prayer is an additional response to the local work being done in affected communities.

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.

SPRED Information Evening:

SPRED (Special Religious Education) aims to support the religious, spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of people with an intellectual disability by offering appropriate spiritual and religious experiences for faith development. SPRED is having a friend to walk beside you in the everyday happenings of life, which is exactly where God is to be found. Could you be a friend to someone in SPRED? Would you like to find out more? You are invited to come along to the information evening on Wednesday November 6 from 6.30 to 7.15 pm at the SPRED Centre, 34 Hume Street, Toowoomba (Telephone: 4632 8427).

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, Paul P. Lamerand.

Anniversaries: Rev Fr Edmund O'Donnell.

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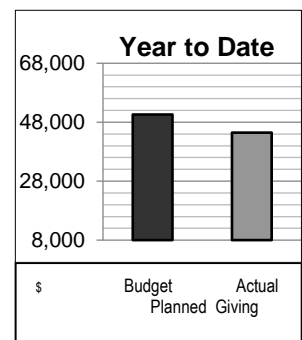
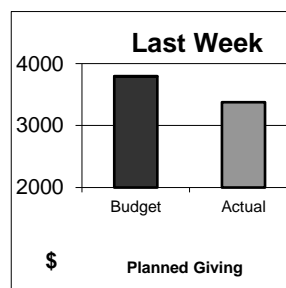
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PLANNED GIVING





This weekend we celebrate Family Sunday acknowledging all families who make up our community as we especially honour married couples in families who have achieved a significant anniversary during 2019.

We also recognise the presence and contribution of the FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT which has been alive and well in St Thomas More's Parish for over thirty years since early 1988 and has flourished due to the willingness of parishioners to participate in the group activities along with the support and encouragement from within the Parish.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join from grandparents to babies, single parent families and single people, either young or elderly, spouses not of the Catholic Tradition. Groups consist of approximately ten to fifteen families, with, in some cases, a cross section of ages. Gatherings occur once a month to enjoy each other's company and to develop and maintain supportive relationships. In getting to know each other better we become more Parish Community orientated and hopefully this contributes to a greater sense of belonging and of being valued.

Today in our liturgy we pray Family Groups will be of service and benefit to our Parish. We thank the Group Leaders for their support to their Group Members. We give thanks for the blessings we have received over the years and foster the sentiment of our Parish Vision Statement: "St Thomas More's Catholic Parish, a welcoming people of faith, lives out God's Mission, embracing love, justice and peace."

Information regarding Family Groups, including joining an existing group or starting a new group, can be obtained by contacting the Coordinators, Russell and Norma Mauch, on telephone 4635 9060 or by talking to any of the leaders or members of the existing groups or by contacting Michael, our Parish Leader.

Family Group Movement



DO NOT FEAR for I am with you

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers, and for reaching out to children and communities in need in Ghana and throughout the world.

Your generosity makes it possible for programs such as the Nazareth Home for God's Children to provide love and support for children rescued from life-threatening situations. If you are yet to return your Appeal envelope to the Parish, please do so over the coming weekends and the Parish will pass it on to Catholic Mission.

For more information about the work of Catholic Mission or the Extraordinary Missionary Month this October, please contact our friendly team on the number below, or at catholicmission.org.au/about-us/contact.

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

Gathering: My Help Shall Come

F Andersen

***My help shall come from the Lord
who made the heavens!
I will lift my eyes to the mountains!
My hope is the Lord!***

Sing to the Lord! Loud be your song!
All people praise this God!
Whose love is fruitful and strong!

Turn to the Lord! Give God all your cares!
God's Spirit in your heart
Knows every hope and prayer!

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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: The Lord hears the cry of the poor

I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked.
To destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress

The Lord is close to the broken hearted;
Those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

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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:

Lord hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

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

Communion: Blest are They

D. Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

***Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, Holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!***

Blest are they, the lowly ones: they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill.

Blest are they, who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!

Blest are they, who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

Blest are you, who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.

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Thanksgiving: Be Still, My Friends

F Andersen

***I ask you my friends to be still;
And know that I am here with you!
The longing in your heart I will fill;
For I now make my home in you!***

The mountains, the valleys, the oceans deep
sing praises and glory to you!
And all of creation joins in song;
But we find you within!

The crowds on the hillsides need your Bread!
The lame need your healing hand!
The blind and the dumb cry out for you;
When will our hearts be filled?

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Recessional: Song of God's People

M Brown

***Let the trumpet sound,
let the music play,
let the song of God's people be heard,
and let the praise of God resound
throughout heaven and earth.***

People of God sing out your praise,
Sing of the glory of our God,
Lift up your voice and let your praise be heard.

In you, O God, we place our trust.
Your love and kindness,
you lavish on us,
We celebrate your life in us, O God.

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