



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/>

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: 8 – 9 August 2020

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Right now, our planet is battered by the waves of pandemic. Our church also knows what it means to be “battered by the waves”. Over its two millennia history, there have been periods of discrimination and persecution against its members. Countless church members have died for their faith, while others have been and are being denied the freedom to practice their religion. There have also been times when the church has fallen far short of its own ideals and has quite seriously betrayed the gospel values it seeks to embody and proclaim. It is presently “battered” by huge even terrifying waves, largely of its own creating. Only God can bring order out of the chaos, and God works through the courageous witness and action of faith-filled disciples.

In today's gospel, Matthew tells of Jesus astride the waves like the God of Israel in Job 9:8. In Israel's mythology, the sea represents chaos. To walk on water is to have power and authority to bring order out of the chaos. Matthew presents Jesus as exercising the power of God over the potentially destructive chaos. Jesus makes his claim to divine power explicit in words that echo God's words from the burning bush: “It is I” (literally “I am”). He tells the frightened disciples to take heart and not to be afraid. Peter, leader of the group, continues to doubt. He asks for a sign and is then prepared to take a risk in order to come to Jesus on the water. He begins to falter when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the threatening wind. Jesus reaches out his hand to rescue Peter. In a lovely gesture, Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly in his grip. Jesus names Peter's hesitation as a response of limited faith.

Matthew weaves the story of Peter into an earlier story from Mark's gospel. We can only speculate on the reasons for this. Were Matthew's communities going through hard times? Were they battered by the waves of conflicting loyalties as they found themselves excluded from Pharisaic Judaism? Was the pressure of separation from the synagogue too great for some, even for those in leadership? This is a telling story for anyone who exercises leadership at any level in the church. It is a reminder to us as disciples to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the source of hope in times of struggle and uncertainty and on the crucial issues that face our planetary home.

Finally, this story invites us to consider the threatening waves created by the undeniable reality of a pandemic in a time of climate crisis. The human community is largely responsible for the climate crisis. The human community must join hands to save what can be saved. The growing commitment to renewable energy provides, for me, a contemporary image of a saving hand reaching out to Earth communities that are in danger of being submerged.

Reflection by Sister of Mercy, Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, Theologian and Biblical Scholar

Parish Diary for This Week

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
2.00pm Care and Concern Zoom
3.30pm.....Consolation Team
5.30pm.....Mass St Pat's
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass STM
Tue – Sat 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday: 9.00am..Liturgy of the Word
Friday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

(Please note that numbers at each Mass on weekdays and weekends will be limited to 100 people.)

Next Sunday – 15 and 16 August 2020

20th Sunday in Ord Time A

**Saturday 6 pm Mass
Sunday 8.30 am Mass**

(Maximum 100 people at each Mass)

Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

Thought for the Week

“This (today's Gospel story) is an effective image of the Church: a boat which must brave the storms and sometimes seems on the point of capsizing. What saves her is not the skill and courage of her crew members, but faith which allows her to walk, even in the dark, amid hardships.” (Pope Francis)

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:.....Kristin Byrne
School Board:.....Karen Tobin
Parish Safeguarding Contact:
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

**August 2020
HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH/DIOCESE**

Mass Numbers and Weekend Masses:

There is no change to the situation where, based on the 4 square metre per person rule, we are able to accommodate up to 100 people in our church at any one time. Social distancing of 1.5 metres has been used for setting out the chairs. The number of 100 applies to both weekend and weekday Masses. We will continue with the ticketing and sign-in system until any changes in government advice, as well as hand sanitising, no holy water in fonts, no use of collection plates and no contact at the Sign of Peace. Thanks for your patience with all these requirements and for coming early to Mass.

Remember - if you are unable to get to Mass or know of someone who is unable to get to Mass, please contact the Office and we can discuss a possible visit to bring Holy Communion. If you need transport to get to Mass, please phone the office and we will follow up with Care and Concern. If you are feeling unwell, please do not come, remembering that there are still lots of online Mass options.

Dispensation from the Obligation of Sunday Mass:

Dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass has been granted during this difficult and worrying time. A dispensation for the Holy Day of Obligation for the Assumption has also been granted. You are strongly encouraged though to spend some time in prayer, either privately or as a family at these times.

Parish Newsletter:

Paper copies are available outside the front door of the Church and near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please contact the office for copies to be delivered or posted.

Parish Pastoral Council Membership:

We are still looking for new Parish Pastoral Council members. If you are considering putting your hand up, please chat to one of the members of the current Council or to Michael, the Parish Leader.

60 Years of St Thomas More's Parish:

On September 4 it will be 60 years since St Thomas More's officially became a Parish. We are planning to celebrate this milestone in our Parish's history at our Masses on the weekend of 5 and 6 September.

Sacrament of Penance Program:

Parent Sessions were held on 4 August. Sessions for the children begin on 19 August. For further details, please contact Michael, our Parish Leader, by phone, 4635 9555, mobile, 0407 804 461, or by email, parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

Caring for Each Other:

As a community of faith, we are called to be aware of those around us in the community. Please keep in touch with each other and be particularly mindful of people who may be on their own. If you need assistance or know of someone who requires Parish assistance, please contact the Office and we will follow up.

Caring for Our Staff:

Visitors to our Parish Office are still required to adhere to social distancing requirements and we will keep a record of your contact details and the date and time of your visit. We will also adhere to sanitizing requirements.

Sychar Spirituality Library:

To facilitate the process of sanitisation of the library area at 69 Margaret Street, Tuesday mornings between 9.00 am and midday will be set aside for returning library books previously borrowed or for borrowing new books. Those unable to visit during these times may arrange in advance to access the library at another more suitable time by phoning Elaine Morzone on 0458 020 906.

"SMILE WITH THE CLERGY"

"Smile with the Clergy" is a book edited by Fr. Kerry Costigan and contains jokes and stories associated with God, the Church and the Clergy. If you would like a copy, at the purchase price of \$20, copies are available from the front office at St Patrick's Cathedral. Proceeds go to the Priests' Retirement Fund.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

You are invited to join in praying the Rosary at 2pm on Saturday 15 August at St Patrick's Cathedral for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Parish Pastoral Council Plan for Consultation:

The Parish Pastoral Council are currently developing an action plan for next year, 2021. An initial document has been prepared and copies are now available. We are inviting members of the Parish Community to provide feedback on the identified goals for the plan. Copies are available in the Church. Copies can also be sent by email or picked up from the Parish Office. Please contact Michael to obtain a copy.

Planned Giving and Parish Contributions:

Many thanks to those who continue to drop their Planned Giving Envelopes into the mailbox near the door to the Parish Office. For online contributions through internet banking, please use the following details:

Account Name: St Thomas More's
BSB Number: 064786 Account Number: 514001500
Reference: Your Envelope Number (if part of Planned Giving) or Loose Collection (if not part of Planned Giving)
Phone us if you need to ask further about this option.

Toowoomba Diocese Current Information:

Access current information and resources in our diocese:
<https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-response-resources/>

Available from the Archdiocese of Brisbane:

1. Free digital copies of The Catholic Leader: [Visit their website to view a free digital copy.](#)
2. Liturgy Brisbane continue to provide online prayer resources for each Sunday as well as resources for families with children. The resources can be accessed via the following link:
<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

LIVE STREAMED MASS:

From St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba each Sunday at 9:00am. Use any of the following links:
[Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) or [Website](#)
This is continuing after weekend Masses recommence.

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, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Mary Buttin, Rev Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Peter Webster, Monica Gleeson, Georgie Rose Allen, Pat Chapman, Alvina Denison, Bevan Devine, Brian Swords, Jean Denison, Terry McNamara, Pauline Anderson, Margaret Reis, Mary Twidale, Fr Jamie Collins, Fr Don Murray, Gwen Jonkers, Margaret Betros, Tim Erbacher, Lesley Mullen. Ken Ryan.
We remember all who are ill with the Corona Virus.
Recently Deceased: Michael Ahern, Mary Twomey, Africana Quijano (Philippines)
Anniversaries: Rev Fr John Ryan, Rev Fr Patrick Kelly, Bill Meara, Patrick Joseph Kelly,

WEEK 3 Roster - 15th/16th August

6.00PM MASS ROSTER	
CO-ORDINATORS	Cathy Bathurst
ORGANIST/SINGER	Margaret Dickenson, Hayley Lutvey, Courtney Dukes
READERS	Julie Hintz, Kathryn Boulus
COMMUNION MINISTERS	G Harvey, C Bathurst, A Emery, M Cash, J Doherty (Only 1 required)
8.30AM MASS ROSTER	
CO-ORDINATORS	Russell Mauch
ORGANIST/SINGER	Pat Dwan, Tom Delany
READERS	Tony McKeon, Mary Taylor, Sue Kruger, Heather Whittaker
COMMUNION MINISTERS	E Tierney, G Hutchisonson, P Albion, S Pfeiffer (Only 1 required)
MONEY COUNTERS	H & A Gregson, W & C Dingle, M Wills, T Murphy

Giving 01/02 August

Planned	\$1839.50
Loose	\$294.00
Pay Point	\$20.00