



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 Western Wakka Wakka, Giabul and Jarrowair 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/>

Third Sunday of Easter Year B: 17 – 18 April 2021

Readings: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger on the road of life. That is one of the elements in today's gospel that forms the conclusion to the Emmaus story. When I was a student at Trinity College in Dublin researching Luke's depiction of women in the Acts of the Apostles, I would often take a detour on my way home to visit the National Gallery of Ireland. Velázquez' remarkable oil painting, *Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus* captured and held my attention. The viewer is confronted with a painting within a painting. The kitchen maid pauses from her tasks to listen, through the space between kitchen and dining area, to the conversation between Jesus and his table companions. Jesus' hosts have not yet recognised the companion they had encountered on the road from Jerusalem. Velázquez seems to be suggesting that the young servant woman in the foreground, a woman from another place and another time, has sensed what they have yet to discover. Like the servant woman, we might attend to this graced encounter, its prelude and its aftermath.

Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and possibly his wife) on the road from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. On their journey, they encounter Jesus who has been raised. At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his death has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes. He engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts "burn" within them as he opens to them the meaning of their sacred scriptures. They invite him to share a meal with them and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Jesus then disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that he is alive.

Cleopas and partner return immediately to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples. All the assembled disciples experience powerfully the presence of Jesus in their midst. They share a meal with him. He opens their minds to understand the scriptures. Everything falls into place. They not only understand Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They now know that they will be "clothed with power from on high" to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery, and to preach forgiveness to all peoples "beginning from Jerusalem".

Luke will open his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, with the story of the risen One sending the disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We who re-member these events in every Eucharistic celebration are both the recipients and the bearers of that message. If we allow our hearts to "burn" within us, we too may recognise the Risen One "on the road" and become his witnesses to the ends of the earth, engaging and even hosting the "strangers" we meet along the way.

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

Parish Leader:.....Michael Bermingham
Priest Director:.....Michael O'Brien
Pastoral Council:.....Joseph Foley
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

Parish Diary for This Week

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass St Pat's
Tuesday to Saturday: 7 am Mass St Pat's
Tuesday 5.30pm.....Mass STM
Wednesday 9.00am...Liturgy of the Word
7.30pm.....Social Justice
Friday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

Next Sunday – 24 and 25 April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter Year B

Anzac Day

Saturday 6 pm Mass

Sunday 8.30 am Mass

(Maximum 200 people at each Mass)

Readings: Acts 4:8-12
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

Thought for the Week

"God will walk with us always, always, even in the most painful moments, even in the worst moments, even in moments of defeat. That is where the Lord is. And this is our hope. Let us go forward with this hope! Because he is beside us and walks with us. Always!" (Pope Francis)

(We can now accommodate 200 at each Mass. Chairs have been rearranged and are 1 metre apart and there is now provision for two lines for Holy Communion, with distancing of 1 metre respected.)

**April 2021
HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH/DIOCESE**

Weekend Masses:

Remember - if you are unable to get to Mass or know of someone who is unable to get to Mass or if you need transport, please get in touch with the Parish Office. If you are feeling unwell, please do not come, but avail of online Mass options.

Parish Newsletter:

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

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.

A Welcoming Community:

Our Parish Mission and Vision Statement describes our Parish as a "welcoming people of faith". We welcome all who come to be part of our community, particularly extending that welcome to young families with children - we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children in this community and want children to know the welcome of our loving God through the warmth with which they are received and accepted here.

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. Details below for online contributions through internet banking:

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. Thanks to those using the Tap and Go Pay point in the Church foyer.

Parish Playgroup:

Our Parish Playgroup meets each Friday from 9-11am during school term in our hall. This is a wonderful way for young children (babies-prep) to play and mix with other children. It is not only great for parents but also for grandparents who may be babysitting their grandchildren. Playgroup is run by committed parents and observes COVID-safe practices. For enquiries, please call Bella, 0409 648 823 or go to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/464997111048510>

RESOURCE (PODCAST): Australian Women Preach:

An initiative of Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) and the Grail in Australia, the podcast will highlight and share the voices of women breaking open the Word of God in ways that are meaningful to people today. Australian Women Preach launched on International Women's Day, 8 March 2021 and will run for the 30 weeks leading into the Australian Catholic Church's historic Plenary Council in October. Visit: <https://australianwomenpreach.com.au/> to listen.

St Saviours College Open Evening:

St Saviours College will be holding an Open Evening on Thursday 29 April from 3.00 to 6.00pm. To register go to www.ssctwb.catholic.edu.au or any enquiries to welcomestsav@teb.catholic.edu.au. All welcome to attend.

Sychar (House of Spirituality and Prayer):

Please see the flyers on the Noticeboard about Ongoing Sessions being offered in Term 2 2021 at Sychar (House of Spirituality and Prayer), 69 Margaret Street, Toowoomba. Sychar also has a library with books and other spiritual materials. For more details, please contact Sr Elaine by phone 0458 020 906 or email: emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au

Simply Sacred:

Toowoomba Philharmonic Society presents Simply Sacred, a collection of favourite sacred excerpts featuring works from Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn and more, on Friday 23 April 2021 at 7:30 pm and Saturday 24 April 2021 at 2:00 pm. Flyer with details on the Parish Noticeboard.

Confirmation and First Communion:

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St Thomas More's on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 7.00pm. First Communion will be celebrated at 6 pm on Wednesday 23rd Jun 2021. The Parent Meeting for this sacramental program is scheduled for Tuesday 20th April with a choice to attend either at 9.00 am or 7.00pm in the Parish Office. Children need to have received the Sacrament of Penance before joining the sacramental program for Confirmation and First Communion. Also, if anyone would like to join the sacramental team for this program, your support would be warmly welcomed. Any queries, please contact Michael on 0407 804 461 or by email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au.

LIVE STREAMED MASS:

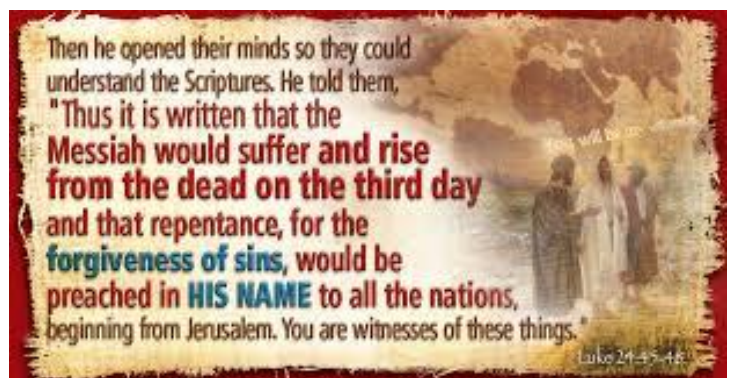
Ongoing from St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba each Sunday at 9:00am. Use any of the following links:
[Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) or [Website](#)

Marriage Encounter Weekends:

Worldwide Marriage Encounter invites couples, priests and religious to a Marriage Encounter Weekend to enrich and revitalise your Sacrament. It gives you the opportunity to grow in your relationship with your spouse or your community. [Virtual weekend via Zoom](#), 30th April - 2 May 2021, commencing at 7pm on Friday - concluding at 4pm Sunday. Contact Julie and Zyg Staszyc: 0437 388 513
Email: sabookings@wwme.org.au
[Live-in weekend](#) Friday 28 May - Sunday 30 May at Ormiston (on Brisbane's bayside). Contact Maria and David Murphy: (07) 3342 1456, dandmurphy@optusnet.com.au

PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill: Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Scott Murphy, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie McGrane, Val Sharpe, Mary Buttin, Rev Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Peter Webster, Monica Gleeson, Georgie Rose Allen, Alvina Denison, Bevan Devine, Brian Swords, Jean Denison, Terry McNamara, Pauline Anderson, Margaret Reis, Fr Don Murray, Gwen Jonkers, Dawn Stark, Tim Erbacher, Lesley Mullen, Ken Ryan, Donncha Boles (son of Christine Prescott), Catherine Dormer, Kev Ford, Maria Krulik, Joan Leonard, Benjamin Shelley, Andrew McGregor, Helen Gainey, Irene Earsman, Pat Carey, John Zeller. We remember all who are ill with the Corona Virus.
Recently Deceased: Edward Houlihan, Cardinal Edward Cassidy.
Anniversaries: Fr John Michael, Fr Lex Herzig, Fr Anthony O'Keefe.



Giving 10th/11th April	
Planned	1097.50
Loose	75.40
Pay Point	95.00
D Debits	1231.50