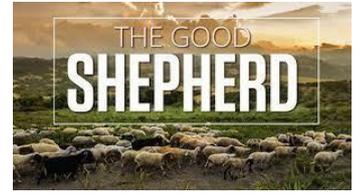




St Thomas More's Parish

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.

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/>

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B: 24 – 25 April 2021

ANZAC Day

Readings: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

The liturgy for Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to reflect on Jesus as the noble or good shepherd of the believing community. "Shepherd" in its literal sense is not really part of our 21st century vocabulary, and yet we use it metaphorically, as a verb or as a noun. Its verbal form connotes care and compassion, protection, guidance and tender relationship. In John's gospel, Jesus rightly claims for himself the title "good shepherd". He contrasts the good shepherd or leader with the leader that fails to care for the flock. Knowing one's sheep, staying with them in the face of mortal danger and being prepared to die for them are marks of the good shepherd.

There are echoes here of the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly of Ezekiel 34 where the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor describes the leaders of Israel in their relationships with the people. There are likewise echoes of an early second century description of the Emperor Tiberius in whose reign Jesus of Nazareth was executed, precisely because he did not abandon his "flock". The Roman historian Suetonius has this to say of Tiberius: "To the governors who recommended burdensome taxes for his provinces, he wrote in answer that it was the part of a good shepherd to shear his flock, not skin it" (Suetonius, Life of Tiberius 32.2).

In the pre-industrial biblical world and early centuries of the Common Era, the "shepherd/sheep" metaphor was heard by an audience that enjoyed a much closer relationship with sheep and their human carers than do most people today. In Australia, for instance, there are 63.7 million sheep and some 25 million people. In other words, the ovine inhabitants of Australia significantly outnumber the human. Yet most of our highly urbanised human population knows its sheep only in their disembodied forms. The human-ovine relationship is, for the most part, reduced to that of consumer and consumed. Sheep are valued, not for their intrinsic goodness as creations of a loving God, but rather as commodities that provide food and clothing for the human population. We now know that modern domesticated sheep evolved from creatures that pre-date modern humans. We might take time to consider the implications of this for our relationship with the other-than-human inhabitants of our planetary home. Our reflections might include some consideration of the wisdom or otherwise of continuing to breed these creatures for human consumption, often at the expense of environment.

Good Shepherd Sunday provides us with an opportunity to move beyond our human-centred views of the world and our human-centred interpretations of our sacred texts. We might hear a call to value the realities that underpin gospel images such as the Good Shepherd/sheep metaphor. We might also hear a call to expand our appreciation of all the inhabitants of our planet. To be good shepherds in our time is to embrace the whole Earth Community with reverence and compassion.

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
5.30pm.....Mass St Pat's
Tuesday to Saturday: 7 am Mass St Pat's
Tuesday 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass STM
6.15pm.....PPC Agenda
Wednesday 9.00am...Liturgy of the Word
Friday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

Next Sunday – 1 and 2 May 2021

5th Sunday of Easter Year B

Saturday 6 pm Mass

Sunday 8.30 am Mass

(Maximum 200 people at each Mass)

Readings: Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

Thought for the Week

"It is truly a surprising and mysterious love, for by giving us Jesus as the Shepherd who gives his life for us, the Father has given us all of the greatest and most precious that He could give us." (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 internet banking contributions: 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

MASS IN THE MARONITE RITE:

Fr Fadi Salame will be celebrating Mass in the Maronite Rite this Sunday at St Anthony's Church 3 Memory Street at 11.00am. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to attend this Mass. Orthodox Easter is celebrated on 2nd May and a special invitation is extended to members of our Egyptian Communities and other Coptic Catholics to attend.

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. 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 Gaine, Irene Earsman, Pat Carey, John Zeller. We remember all who are ill with the Corona Virus.
Recently Deceased: James Mayanja
Anniversaries: Fr Roderick Lynch, Fr Leo O'Donohue,

Giving 17th/18th April	
Planned	886.00
Loose	125.00
Pay Point	65.00
D Debits	2478.16

