



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 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.*

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/>

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 8 - 9 September, 2018

Child Protection Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

Those who are profoundly deaf frequently find themselves on the edge of the human and Earth communities. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to music and to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension or even the impatience of others.

In our contemporary technological world, sophisticated hearing devices and cochlear implants transform the lives of many who previously suffered from serious hearing loss and its social consequences. Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family and community and workplace. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities.

In first century Palestine, the chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. It seems clear that Jesus was known as an effective healer and that he used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. Many of his contemporaries in that part of the world would have turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or his daughter Hygeia. Jesus turns, not to Asclepius or Hygeia, but to the God of Israel ("looking up to heaven...") as the source of healing power.

There is layer upon layer of meaning in today's healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake. It was a regular route, but definitely not the most direct one. The gospel writer seems to be stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus' healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus' healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman whose story is told in Mark 7:26-30.

As the gospel story has unfolded, we have found that the same healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, to male and female, young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and to those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from "speaking with difficulty" to clarity of speech, but Jesus' own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand, "Do you have ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18). Let us bury our prejudices and open our ears to hear in the hope that we might come to understand..

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

Parish Leader: Michael Bermingham
Priest Director:..... Michael O'Brien
Pastoral Council: Julie Hintz
Finance Committee: Tim Davis
Secretary: Donna Pugh
Secretary: Jenny Bartkus
School Principal:..... Michael Cash
APRE: Lee ann Weekes
School Board..... Matt Andreas
Parish Safeguards Contacts:
Maree Keating – 0435 173 882
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 10 - 16 September 2018

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass
6.00pm.....Seasons of Creation
7.00pm.....School Board
Wednesday 9.00amLiturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
Friday 9.00am.....Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Isaiah 50:5-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35



September 2018

15/16 September – SPRED

24 September - Parish Pastoral Council - Agenda Meeting

30 September – Social Justice Sunday

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Child Protection Sunday 8/9 September:

This weekend is Child Protection Sunday, coming at the end of Child Protection Week.

Priests Retirement Foundation Annual Appeal:

Envelopes for the Annual Appeal for the Priests Retirement Foundation in the Toowoomba are still available in the Church Foyer.

Coach Trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO October 20:

A coach trip to the Brisbane Airport DFO is booked for Saturday October 20, leaving St Thomas More's at 8 am and returning by about 4 pm. Cost is \$40 per person. Please let the Parish Office or our Parish Leader know if you are interested to come along. Please book and pay by 1 October.

Melbourne Cup Coordinator:

We are looking for a new coordinator/s for this exciting job. It would probably suit a couple or two individual people to join forces. We would like to fill this position as soon as possible as time passes so quickly. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist. If we are unable to find a new coordinator/s we will not be able to go ahead with the sweep this year. That would be such a shame as our sweep has been going for a long time and the prizes are great!!

Planned Giving Envelopes:

The new batch of Planned Giving Envelopes is available in the Church Foyer. Please collect your envelopes.

Anointing Mass:

Will be held at St Thomas More's on Thursday 27 September at 9.00am. Please note the change of date. All welcome. Please think about anyone you may be able to assist with transport so that as many as possible may experience the blessings of this healing mass. Afterwards there will be a chance to meet up over a cup of tea provided by the Care and Concern Group.

Assistance to Drought-Affected Families:

The Toowoomba Diocese has a dedicated account set up with the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF) to receive and distribute funds in the event of Droughts/Natural Disasters. Anyone wishing to assist those impacted by the drought can make a deposit directly to our Parish Account: BSB: 064786. A/C No: 514006001. A/C Name: St Thomas More's. Reference: Drought + Your Name. We will identify this in our bank statements and forward the relevant amounts to the DDF for depositing in the dedicated account. Alternatively, donations could be put in an envelope marked drought, put on the weekend collection plate, and the parish will ensure they get to the DDF Account. Please note that donations to this fund are not tax deductible.

Parish Mass Friday 21 September:

The 9 am Mass on Friday 21 September will be celebrated in the St Thomas More's School Hall as it will also be an end of term Mass for the whole school. All are welcome.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Plenary Council 2020 Diocesan Inservice:

The next diocesan inservice will be held on Wednesday 26 September at the James Byrne Centre at Highfields. The day will focus on the Plenary Council 2020. Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Council Facilitator) will be the guest. The day will include a listening and dialogue session as well as an opportunity to learn about running the process at a local level. Registrations are due by 19 September. Forms are available at the Parish Office or you can register online via the following link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=419432&>

Please consider attending.

Horizons Magazine:

Copies are still available in the Church foyer. This edition has an article about our farewell to the Sisters of St Joseph.

Assistant to Grounds/maintenance person needed: St Patrick's Cathedral is seeking a person who has some knowledge of handy work and DIY or further expertise to assist the current person responsible for grounds and general maintenance. This would be a casual role beginning with 10 hours which over time may be extended to more hours. Please send your application and information to admin@stpats.org.au or drop it in to the Cathedral office, or post to PO Box 7062, Toowoomba 4350 or phone 4637 1500 for more information. Applications close 16 September 2018.

SPRED INFORMATION EVENING:

Where Faith and Friendship Meet will be held at 6:30pm on 10 September at the SPRED Centre, 34 Hume Street. For further information telephone 4632 8427. Could you be a friend to someone in SPRED? Come along to an information evening to find out more.

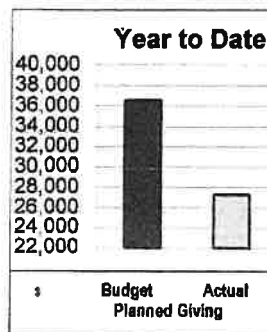
Mass in the Maronite Rite:

Father Fadi Salame from Brisbane will be celebrating Mass in the Maronite Rite on Sunday 23rd September at 11.00am at St Anthony's Church in Memory Street Harristown. We extend a special invitation to any families from Iraq or Syria or anyone from other countries familiar with the Maronite to attend. Other parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass. Fr Fadi will be bringing a bus from Brisbane with Parishioners and friends and after Mass you are invited to have a picnic lunch in Laurel Bank Park on the corner of Herries and West Streets after Mass. Please bring your own food for lunch. Please contact Gabrielle Saide on 4632 4778 after 6.00pm if you require transport.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill: Bryan Flemming, Terry Tyers, Ned Sparksman, Michael Kelly, Mark Butlin, Pauline Dixon, Allan Wills, Damian Wyvill, Sara Mehari, Leo McCormack, Scott Murphy, Michelle Halpin, Christine Prescott, Toni Fitzgibbon, Camille Taylor, Patrick McNamee, Janice Lockhart, Dodie McGrane, Christene Andrews, Brendan Moore, Rita Sullivan, Jos Ayers, Marla Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Ros Morton, Megan Ford, Ted Wormwell, Vince Gainey, Mary Buttin, Fr Brian Sparksman

Anniversary: Brendan Power



PLANNED GIVING



KEY MESSAGES FOR CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2018

- Child protection is everyone's business. The responsibility lies with adults in keeping children safe from harm. All members of society need to play a part in ensuring children are nurtured and safe.
- Adults are essential in ensuring children's safety and well-being.
- Listening to children and young people is the number 1 indicator in assisting their safety and well-being.
- Children and young people are honest. They are unlikely to lie about abuse. They are more likely to stay quiet about abuse or harm than to speak up (especially if they know their abuser).
- Mean or cruel words harm children and young people.
- Understanding why people harm children and young people is essential in helping to prevent child abuse.
- The corruption of children and young people by being forced into acts against their will, including illegal activity harms children and young people.
- Being ignored, going hungry and feeling and/or being treated as invisible harms children and young people.
- Seeing or directly experiencing domestic and family violence harms children and young people.
- Being physically, verbally, sexually or emotionally abused harms children and young people.
- Not having health, educational and other developmental needs met harms children and young people.
- Being groomed for sexual abuse harms children and young people.
- Being forced to do something that feels 'wrong' harms children and young people.
- Being forced into situations that feel unsafe harms children and young people.
- Being forced to be with people (even those who are 'known' and 'loved') who feel unsafe harms children and young people.
- Being forced to be with people who children or young people have stated have abused them, harms children and young people.
- Not being heard when they speak about abuse or trauma harms children and young people.
- Being removed from their home and/or family causes trauma and loss and harms children and young people.
- Knowing they have no voice to speak of how they feel and what they've experienced in terms of their safety and well-being harms children and young people.
- Being without the right to make decisions in their life such as where they live, who they visit and where they spend time harms children and young people.
- Caring for children and keeping them safe is a shared responsibility.

Invitation to join the Season of Creation

2018 theme: *Walking Together*

To celebrate the Season of Creation, there will be a short time of reflection on the next Four Tuesday evenings.

Dates: Tuesday - September 11th, 18th, 25th and October 2nd.

Time: 6.00 pm for about 20 mins (following the 5.30 pm Mass)

Each week will have a different theme:

(Sept 11th – Water), (Sept 18th – Fire), (Sept 25th – Soil), (Oct 2nd – Air).

On 1st September 2016, Pope Francis introduced the idea of the 8th Work of Mercy, Care for our Common Home, as both a spiritual and a corporal work of mercy. Through the four reflection sessions, we can see how to exercise this work of mercy. All are welcome.

Gathering: (Saturday) Sing A New Song D Schutte

*Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
Singing alleluia.*

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Saviour now has come.
God has turned your sorrow to joy and filled your soul with song.

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds, the dead shall be raised:
I know my Saviour lives.

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Gathering: (Sunday) Every Valley R Dufford

*Every valley shall be exalted and every hill made low.
And all God's people shall see together
The glory of the Lord!*

Comfort all my people; the time for war is gone.
The blind shall see, the deaf shall hear,
The lame shall leap for joy.

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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: Praise the Lord my soul, c Smith



Response: Praise the Lord my soul and bless his holy name!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
Who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is God who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
Who raises up those who are bowed down.
The Lord who protects the stranger.
And upholds the widow and orphan

It is the Lord who loves the just,
But thwarts the way of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God from age to age.

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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, in children let us welcome you.

Acclamation:

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

We Bring These Gifts: Michael Mangan

*We bring these gifts, these gifts of bread and wine,
Grain from the fields, fruit of the vine.
May they be holy in your sight.
To you, O God, we bring these gifts.*

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
You have given us this bread.
Fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
It will become the Bread of Life.

Blessed are you, O God of all creation.
You have given us this wine.

Fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become the Cup of Life.

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Communion: Only A Shadow C Landry

The love we have for you, O Lord,
Is only a shadow of your love for us,
Only a shadow of your love for us, your deep abiding love.

The bread we take and eat, O Lord,
Is your body broken and shared with us,
Your body broken and shared with us, the gift of your great love.

*Our lives are in your hands. Our lives are in your hands.
Our love for you will grow, O Lord,
Your light in us will shine.*

Our own belief in you, O Lord,
Is only a shadow of your faith in us,
Only a shadow of your faith in us, your deep and lasting faith.

The dreams we share today, O Lord,
Are only a shadow of your dreams for us,
Only a shadow of your dreams for us, if we but follow you.

The joy we share today, O Lord,
Is only a shadow of your joys for us,
Only a shadow of your joys for us,
When we meet face to face.

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Thanksgiving: Open Our Eyes J Manibusan

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see your face.
Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see.

Open our ears, Lord. Help us to hear your voice.
Open our ears, Lord. Help us to hear.

Open our hearts, Lord. Help us to love like you.
Open our hearts, Lord. Help us to love.

I live within you, deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you. Rest now in me.

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Recessional: Go Tell Everyone A Dale/H Richards

God's spirit is in my heart,
He has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do, what I have to do.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
tell blind people that they can see,
and set the downtrodden free,
and go tell everyone
the news that the kingdom of God has come,
and go tell everyone
the news that God's kingdom has come.*

Just as the Father sent me, so I'm sending you out to be
my witness throughout the world, the whole of the world.
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