

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.*

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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/>

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 3 – 4 November, 2018

Readings: Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34

In today's gospel reading we encounter a good scribe, while in next week's we find some not so good scribes. This seems to fit the pattern of the Markan gospel. There are faithful disciples and not so faithful disciples. There are honest Jewish leaders like Joseph of Arimathea and not so honest leaders like those who try to entrap Jesus. There are principled Romans like the centurion who witnesses the death of Jesus, and not so principled Romans like Pilate who condemns him to death.

Goodness and fitness for the 'kin-dom' or 'empire of God' are never guaranteed, according to the Markan schema, by status or position or call or ethnicity or gender or by any other contingency of existence. Everyone has choices, as Andrea is constantly reminded by her boyfriend Nate in "The Devil Wears Prada." For a Jew, the first and best choice is to love the God of Israel with one's whole being and then to love one's neighbour as oneself. Jesus and his questioner are agreed on that. Jesus is presented in today's gospel as a Jew who knows and observes the Law of Moses. He wins the respect of the scribe, a specialist in the Law, who has overheard him debating with the Sadducees.

Jesus recognises the sincerity of the scribe and takes seriously the question that this teacher of the Law puts to him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" He responds in the words of the "Shema Israel" from Deuteronomy 6, today's first reading. Love of God comes first. It is a love that derives from gratitude for God's liberating action in the lives of God's people. Israel has known the unconditional love of God. Those who know anything about human behaviour would probably agree that the experience of unconditional love engenders an increased capacity for love. For the Jews, including those who throw in their lot with Jesus the Jewish Galilean, to love one's neighbour is to keep the second commandment of Leviticus 19:18, "...you shall love your neighbor as yourself".

In first-century Judaism, love of God was expressed in worship and in the prayers and rituals of daily life. Love of others likewise found expression in action, not only in care of family and close friends, but also in support of "the poor and the needy and the stranger." To seek peace was also a feature of neighbourly love. To accept and follow such a program is to be, with the scribe, "not far from" God's kin-dom or empire. Contemporary sensibilities might lead us to include the other-than-human among the neighbours or "kin" we are called to love. If we learn to love the earth and all that inhabits it, the birds and the beasts, the plants and the soil, the sky and the sea, then we are more likely to tread lightly upon it.

(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.....Matt Andreas
Parish Safeguards Contacts:
Maree Keating – 0435 173 882
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 5 – 11 November 2018

Monday: 7.15am.....Men's Group
9.00am.....Mass
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday to Saturday 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass
Wednesday 9.00amLiturgy of the Word
10.00am.....Open Door
1.00pm.....Music Planning
Friday 9.00am..... Mass
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

32nd Sunday in Ord Time - Year B

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: 1 Kings 17:10-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44



November 2018

12 November – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
12 November – Care & Concern and Consolation Team
19 November – Finance Committee Meeting
27 November – STM School Christmas BBQ

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Melbourne Cup Tickets:

Monday 5 November at 9.00am is the deadline for returning tickets. It would be appreciated if you would return your books (sold or unsold) to the office as soon as possible or they can be placed in the slot outside the Parish Office door.

Spiritual Enrichment Day at St Thomas More's – 15 November:

Sr. Elaine will offer this year's Spiritual Enrichment Day on the theme "Invited into a Journey of Deepening Consciousness" at St Thomas More's on Thursday, 15 November 2018. You are invited to arrive at 9.00 am for a 9.30 am start. The session will finish no later than 2.30 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME. There is no cost involved but you are asked to bring lunch to share. For any queries contact Sr. Elaine via: Email: emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au Phone: (07) 4632 4277 Mobile: 0458 020 906

Parish/School Mass – 6.00pm Saturday 10 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 10 November. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that night.

Ministry Forms for 2019:

Parishioner Information and Ministry Sign-Up Forms for the year ahead are available in the foyer. To assist with the preparation of rosters for the coming year we ask you return your completed forms by the weekend of 10 and 11 November to allow time for rosters to be finalised and 2019 rosters to be in place from the weekend of 1 and 2 December, the First Sunday of Advent.

St Thomas More's School Annual Christmas BBQ:

The St Thomas More's Parents and Friends have kindly invited members of the Parish Community to join with the School Community for a Christmas BBQ in the school grounds from 5 pm on Tuesday 27 November 2018. All are encouraged to attend.

St Thomas More's Spring Clean Garage Sale:

I would like to express my profound thanks to all those who contributed to the success of our Spring Clean Garage Sale in September. It was a wonderful day and lots of you put in hours of hard work to make it happen. The financial side of things is now finalised and I am delighted to report that, after expenses, the day realized a net result for the Parish of \$4,189.74. Well done to all! (Michael, Parish Leader).

Plenary Council Matters:

After both Masses last weekend, forms were handed out to assist members of the Parish Community to share your thoughts about the Church and the shape of the future. Forms are still available in the Church foyer. Forms can be returned to the Parish Leader at weekend Masses or to the Parish Office or put in the wall slot outside the Parish Office if the office is unattended. In the foyer, also, there are small cards that have details such as postal address, email address and website for those who would like to respond directly to the Plenary Council Coordinating Group.

Baptisms:

On Saturday 3 November we welcome into our Church Community **Cadence Rose Dowrick** daughter of Dustin and Elly Dowrick and on Sunday 4 November we welcome **Benjamin John Coutts** son of Matthew and Stephanie Coutts.

Updating your will? Have you ever considered a Bequest to St Thomas More's Parish?

The work of St Thomas More's Parish relies on the personal and financial generosity of many people. Each of us will revisit and update our wills from time to time as life circumstances change. Next time you are reviewing your will and talking with your solicitor, you might consider leaving a bequest to the Parish. A Form of Wording, for Bequests to the Parish, is available from the Parish Office.

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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishop Robert McGuckin on "Heart Talk":

On 4 November 2018 Bishop Robert will appear on Shalom World's TV show, Heart Talk. The episode will be available on the Shalom World website <http://www.shalomworldtv.org/> from 4 November as he talks about childhood, vocation, spirituality, the challenges he faces, and much more.

News from the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office:

Congratulations to the following new appointments within our diocese – Mrs Melissa Hobson, Principal of St. Joseph's Chinchilla; Mrs Liisa Hammond, Principal of Youth and Community Learning Centre, Toowoomba; Mr Luke Barrett, Principal of St. Monica's, Oakey; Mr Christopher Gabbett, Principal of Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields, Mr Aaron Wells, Assistant Principal Administration of St Thomas More's, Toowoomba and Mrs Fiona Drew, Assistant Principal Religious Education of St Stephen's, Pittsworth. May God continue to bless their vocational journey in the life of Catholic schooling.

Social Justice Melbourne Cup Night:

You are invited to the annual Melbourne Cup Fundraising Night of horsing around to be held on Sunday 4 November at 6.00pm at St Anthony's Parish Centre. Come and join the fun and help support refugees and asylum seekers in the Toowoomba area.

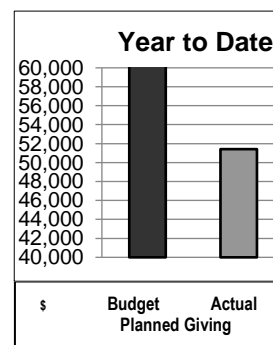
Anglican Roman Catholic Reconciliation Service:

One of the elements of the Anglican Roman Catholic Covenant signed in 2009 is that there will be an annual Eucumenical Service of Reconciliation which will focus on the restoration and growth of relationships between the Roman Catholic and Anglican Communion, to be held close to Anglican Roman Catholic Reconciliation Day (4 November). All are warmly welcomed to this celebration on Monday 5 November 2018 at 6 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba.

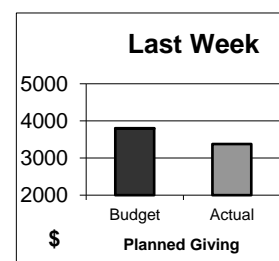
PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

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, Rita Sullivan, Jos Ayers, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Ros Morton, Megan Ford, Ted Wormwell, Mary Buttin, Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Bernie O'Keeffe.

Recently Deceased: Merv Richardson, Doreen Jeffery



PLANNED GIVING



A Pope who is not afraid of open discussion and even dissent in the Church

A reflection on the 2020 Plenary Council by Sr Mary Fermio RSJ and Sr Audrey Thomson RSJ

In her address to a recent gathering of Josephite Sisters of the Victoria/Tasmania region, congregational leader Sr Monica Cavanagh spoke of the upcoming Plenary Council and urged them to accept the invitation to become participants in the proposed process.

As Religious women, we have had a lifetime of dedication to the people of God and the work of the Church. This has put us in a privileged position of being close to the people and to families who have shown great confidence and trust in sharing with us the “the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 4) they experience in their daily lives and in relation to the Church.

The same Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes*, states that “the Church seeks but a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ Himself under the lead of the Spirit”.

How is the church to do this? “To carry out this task, the Church has always had the duty of scrutinising the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. We must, therefore, recognise and understand the world in which we live, its expectations, its longings and its often-dramatic characteristics.” (*GS*, 4)

The Church cannot carry out this mandate unless it offers its members an opportunity to articulate what is in their hearts and minds and the reality of their lives.

The invitation to take part in the Plenary Council offers all in the Church a wonderful opportunity to be in dialogue with all Catholics – lay, Religious and clerics – across Australia. It can enable all to have a voice in determining how we can restore relevance to the Church in our society – a relevance which has been tarnished and greatly diminished by scandals, cover-ups and other factors which have caused many to feel alienated and without hope.

The Plenary Council Website states: “Together we are on a journey of listening to God by listening to one another. We invite all Australians to engage in an open and inclusive process of listening, dialogue and discernment about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. Your voice is needed – join in.”

The important question we are asked to ponder and respond to is: “What do you think God is asking of the Church in Australia today?” First and foremost, this question is a reminder that no matter who or where we are, whether we are active in ministry or the workforce, or in retirement, each of us *is* the Church and each of us has a responsibility for the life of the Church.

The Council seems to be a marvellous opportunity for Religious to accept the invitation to participate in a process which has the potential to help heal the wounds in today’s Church, to help create a vision for the future, to give hope to those who are dispirited, disenchanting, frustrated and disillusioned, as well as the devout and fervent.

As Religious we are close to the people; we hear their stories and many of us ourselves feel frustrated and disillusioned so the input from Religious women is vital, particularly if the Church is to have any credibility regarding equality in its membership.

Through the infrastructure of our General Chapters, Religious Congregations have endeavoured always to read the signs of the times in order to respond appropriately to the call of the Gospel. Because of our closeness to the people at local levels, we are in a position to gather people in groups to encourage them to discuss what they think are the needs of the Church in today’s world and to forward their concerns to the Council. We can gather in our communities and share the wisdom of “our grey hair” and our countless years of experience in mission. We are called to “be on mission to our last breath” as was St Mary MacKillop – and here is a wonderful opportunity for us all.

In an article in *The Swag*, retired Bishop Pat Power states: “The unique gifts of women should not prevent the issue (the question of the role of women in the Church) being further examined. The unique gifts of women need to be brought to the fore in every aspect of the life and mission of the Church.” (*The Swag*; Vol 26, No 2, Page 29).

Archbishop Tim Costelloe of Perth calls us to listen to each other. **Listening** seems to be the main focus of this Council and unless Bishops listen to the voice of the people, the Church will continue to lose ground, to have people turn away dissatisfied with the leadership and the spirituality offered to them. Many are now leaving their parishes to find expressions of their spirituality elsewhere and abandoning the local Church that had previously welcomed and nourished them.

The Plenary Council is a positive step and it is essential that we participate and use our wisdom, talents and experience to contribute to this significant event in the history of the Australian Church. So let us pray each day for all the people of Australia that they will “listen to the whisperings of God in our own hearts” (*Mary MacKillop*) and take the leap in faith and send in ideas, suggestions and thoughts so that the Plenary Council 2020 will bring about the desired and necessary renewal of our Church in Australia.

Gathering: Bring Forth the Kingdom

M Haugen

CANTOR: You are salt for the earth, O people;**ALL:** Salt for the Kingdom of God!**CANTOR:** Share the flavour of life, O people:**ALL:** Life in the Kingdom of God.**Refrain:** ***Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God.*****CANTOR:** You are a light on the hill, O people:**ALL:** Light for the City of God!**CANTOR:** Shine so holy and bright, O people:**ALL:** Shine for the Kingdom of God!

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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: Psalm: I love you, Lord..... C Smith**Refrain: I love you, Lord, my strength: I love you, Lord**

I love you, O Lord, my Strength.

My Rock, my Fortress, my Saviour.

God, you are the rock where I take refuge;

My shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

Lord, you are worthy of all praise:

When I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my Rock!

Praised to you, God, who saves me.

The God who gives me redress

And subdues people under me.

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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:

Make us instruments of your peace and love.

Acclamation:

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

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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

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Thanksgiving: Quiet Reflection**Recessional: Bring Forth the Kingdom****CANTOR:** You are a seed of the Word, O people:**ALL:** Bring forth the Kingdom of God!**CANTOR:** Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,**ALL:** Grow in the Kingdom of God!**Refrain:** ***Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God.*****CANTOR:** We are a blest and a pilgrim people:**ALL:** Bound for the Kingdom of God!**CANTOR:** Love our journey and love our homeland:**ALL:** Love is the Kingdom of God!

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