

# 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 Website: [www.stthomasmores.org.au](http://www.stthomasmores.org.au)

Parish Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmparishtwmba/>

## The Ascension of the Lord Year C: 1 - 2 June, 2019

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23; Luke 24:46-53

Loss is part of the human condition, and the physical death of a loved one is among the most painful experiences of loss. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been remembering his death and resurrection. As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence and absence of Jesus who has been raised.

The Lukan Ascension stories as found in the gospel and in today's first reading (Acts 1:1-11) presuppose a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's realm from whence the Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people. This vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement.

In Acts, Jesus' family and friends who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: they must return to Jerusalem for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus ("clothed with power from on high"), to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world. Like us, the early Christians needed time to grasp each dimension of the one great mystery of God's presence among them.

In the gospel account, the disciples gathered in Jerusalem are to be witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. They are to proclaim a gospel of "repentance and forgiveness". In the gospel (Luke 24:47) their audience is "all peoples", while in Acts 1:8, they are commissioned to be witnesses to Jesus "in all Jerusalem, in Judaea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". In other words, the good news is not only for the earth's human inhabitants but for the earth itself. Pope Francis, in calling us to be attentive to the cry of the poor, insists that the earth itself is "among the most maltreated and abandoned of our poor" (*Laudato Si'* 2).

Joy, peace, prayer and blessing have the final word in Luke's gospel. They have permeated Luke's story from the outset. As we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we might pray that the spirit of joy that animated the earliest Christians might fill our hearts so that the entire planetary community might know the blessing of God.

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

### Parish Diary: 3 – 9 June, 2019

Monday: 7.00am.....Men's Group  
9.00am.....Mass  
7.00pm..... PPC Meeting  
7.00pm.....St V de P  
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education  
5.30pm.....Mass  
Tue to Sat 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's  
Wednesday: 9.00am.Liturgy of the Word  
10.00am.....Open Door  
12.30pm....Music Planning  
Thursday 10.00am.....Emmaus Prayer  
Friday: 9.00am.....Mass  
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

### Pentecost Sunday - Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday  
8.30am Sunday  
Readings: Acts 2:1-11  
Romans 8:8-17  
John 14:15-16, 23-26



## June 2019

3 June – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
24 June – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting  
28 June – School Breaks Up

### HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

#### Blessing and Display of Multicultural Banner:

In 2018 a number of people agreed to decorate squares to be combined into a banner to highlight the cultural diversity of our Parish Community. The banner has now been completed and will be blessed and displayed at the Masses next weekend, Pentecost Sunday – a day that represents the beginnings of the spreading of the Good News into many voices and cultures.

#### First Communion:

First Communion will be celebrated at both Masses on the weekend of 20 and 21 July 2019. Any queries, please contact Michael on 0407 804 461 or by email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

#### Family Mass – Saturday 15 June at 6 pm:

This year we continue to build and maintain a strong relationship between Parish and School with a number of weekends through the year when we invite and welcome families from the school community to join us for Mass, with children given the opportunity to participate in the different parts of the Mass. Our next Mass for this year will be at 6.00 pm on Saturday 15 June. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that night. We will share wine and cheese after Mass. Donations of cheese platters and other finger foods on the night are most welcome.

#### Car Boot Sale July 13:

The Parish Revenue Development Committee is organising a Car Boot Sale for Saturday 13 July 2019 starting from 7 am. Sites will be available at a cost of \$20 for cars or \$25 for gazebo/market stall set ups. There will be a sausage sizzle on the day and tea and coffee will be available. Please spread the word. All inquiries can be directed to Michael at the Parish Office or to any of the members of the Committee.

#### Spring Clean Garage Sale – Date Claimer:

Following the success of the Spring Clean Garage Sale last year, the Parish Revenue Development Committee are preparing to run another one in 2019. The sale is scheduled for Saturday 7 September and will also run on the following Saturday 14 September if needed. If you are doing the autumn or winter clean up, please keep this event in mind. As happened last year, we can pick up items ahead of the sale. All inquiries can be directed to Michael at the Parish Office or to any of the members of the Committee.

#### Containers for Change:

If you happen to be taking containers to be recycled at one of the Containers for Change sites around town and you are wondering what to do with the proceeds, we now have a number which you can put into the machine and the funds will come to the Parish account. The number is: C10147818.

#### Dance Aerobics:

Commenced in the Hall on Wednesday 29 May from 5.30 – 6.15pm (during School term). Telephone Juanita on 0472 526 745. Please see flyer on Church noticeboard for further information.

#### Baptisms – Confirmation and Communion:

This Sunday, we welcome into our Church Community **Grace Patricia Zwoerner** daughter of Charles Zwoerner and Terri-Ann Cover. Grace will also be confirmed and make her first communion and **Hunter Ray Filipetto** son of Marcus Filipetto and Emily-Rose Baltus.

### AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal:

The Winter Appeal for St Vincent de Paul has now commenced. Donation envelopes are now available in the Church foyer.

#### Ordination to the Priesthood – Tom Duncan:

Date: 18/7/19 Thursday

Time: 5:30pm

Location: St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba

Bishop Robert McGuckin warmly invites the diocesan community to celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of Tom Duncan.

#### Volunteers Needed:

Volunteer Opportunity - Family Support. Do you have ½ a day free during the week? Do you like to listen and problem-solve? Vinnies Family Support Centre is looking for volunteers who can provide a listening ear to people in difficult situations and help by providing people with food parcels and other forms of assistance in an office environment. Contact Emma Simpson on 0418352969, [emma.simpson@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:emma.simpson@svdpqld.org.au)

#### Jubilee Celebration of Priestly Ordination:

On Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 11am a Jubilee Celebration of Priestly Ordination will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral. All welcome to attend.

#### Sacramental Gifts:

Gifts for children receiving the Sacraments are often hard to find. South Street Newsagency now has a new range of beautiful gifts available. It is a range of gifts for Baptism, Confirmation and Communion and other religious gifts for all occasions including statues, crosses and candles

#### St Ursula's Past Students Toowoomba Date Claimer:

St Ursula's Past Students Toowoomba is being re-formed, with all Past Students invited to re-join by contacting the College. The first function will be a dinner evening at the College on Friday 26th July 2019. Cost will be \$25 p/p.

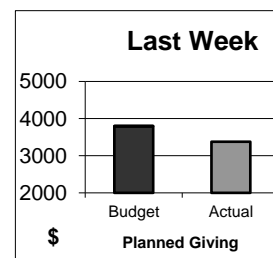
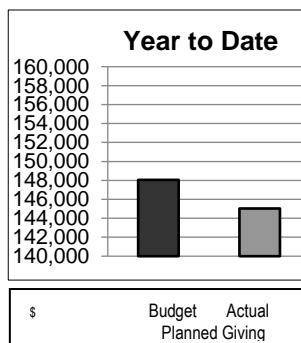
The new Committee would love to see as many Past Students as possible at this function thereby supporting the restart of the Past Students Association. The new Principal – Mrs Tanya Appleby is very supportive of the move to reform the Past Pupils Association and your support to achieving this goal would be much appreciated by all concerned. Please contact the College on 46327611 or email on: [stursulaspsaa@gmail.com](mailto:stursulaspsaa@gmail.com) re attending the first function on Friday 26th July. Also check out St Ursula's College Toowoomba Past Students & Associates on Facebook.

#### 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, Christene Andrews, Rita Sullivan, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Hedy Marshall, Mary Buttin, Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Peter Webster, Ros Morton, Stephen Rouse, Monica Gleeson, Georgie Rose Allen, Patty Howard

**Anniversaries:** Rev Fr Joseph McKey, Rev Fr Kevin Noble.

#### PLANNED GIVING



## Some words of reflection from Fr Michael O'Brien, our Priest Director:

### In One Hundred Words...

I was recently reading the latest book by Jeffrey Archer, "Tell Tale". It is a collection of short stories, and as you know the author always has a twist at the end that often we don't see coming. The first tale is an interesting one. He says in the introduction that many years ago the editor of the Reader's Digest in New York invited him to write a story with a beginning, a middle and an end, but it could only be 100 words long! He also had to produce it in the next 24 hours. He says that his first attempt was 118 words, second attempt 106 words and his third was 98. He finishes by asking whether you can work out which 2 words he put back in? It is titled **"Unique"**.

*Paris, 14 March 1921*

*The collector relit his cigar, picked up the magnifying glass and studied the triangular 1874 Cape of Good Hope. "I did warn you there were two", said the dealer, "so yours is not unique."*

*"How much?"*

*"Ten thousand francs."*

*The collector wrote out a cheque, before taking a puff on his cigar, but it was no longer alight.*

*He picked up a match, struck it, and set light to the stamp.*

*The dealer stared in disbelief as the stamp went up in smoke.*

*The collector smiled. "You were wrong, my friend," he said, "mine is unique."*

Today's celebration is the completion of Jesus' time walking the pathways on earth. It is time for the disciples to give thanks and "return to Jerusalem with great joy". These were his words in parting, interestingly just over 100 words. What words would you use to summarise the life of Jesus? Words are powerful when they are connected to mission and our attempts to gain meaning from life. Could you do this in 100 words? Take some time to reflect on which words of Jesus resonate with you – paint a picture of Jesus using words!

Like Jesus, as we all pass from this world to another, what is the wisdom you wish to leave with others. In sentences what are the 100 words of wisdom you would wish to pass on to others? Last Friday I celebrated the 100 birthday of Josie Vetter in Goondiwindi – a word for every year of her life! Yet her response was simple – it only took one word – SMILE!

Sometimes we don't need words to express the lived experience of our faith. Next week we take time to focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and are invited to remember the words of Jesus telling us not to be afraid! I remember as a newly ordained priest I was called to a home of a gentleman who had just passed away – my first time in this situation. In my rush out the door, I forgot my book with the prayers in them. As we stood around his bed we held hands and I said some words of comfort and hope, and then we prayed together. I remember it well for I had an amazing feeling that I was given the right words to say. Don't tell the Bishop, but I haven't used a book in that situation ever since.

So be not afraid -

***May we trust the Holy Spirit to give us the right words to say in our loving relationships, and all situations in life.***

*God's Blessings on your journey, Father Michael*

- ❖ This weekend we begin the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - All are welcome to attend an Ecumenical Service to be held at St Mark's Anglican Church, High Street, Rangeville at 7 pm on Wednesday June 5.
- ❖ This Sunday is World Environment Day – a reminder of our call to care for all creation and a good time to revisit the wonderful encyclical letter of Pope Francis entitled *Laudato Si'*. A copy of the encyclical can be accessed via the following weblink:  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)



## Gathering: Behold the Glory of God

R O'Connor

***Behold the glory of God, the day-star arising!  
Christ Jesus shines on the earth with mercy enduring!***

Night of hope, night of glory divine,  
Darkness conquered evermore.  
Christ triumphant shines on the earth  
With joy that endures.

Dance for joy all you angels of God,  
Let the pow'rs of heav'n exult.  
All creation, join now in song: 'Salvation is won!'

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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:

C Smith

**Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy;  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples clap your hands,  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, Most High, we must fear,  
Great King over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with a trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
Sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over all the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

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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:

Send us your Spirit, O God.

## Acclamation:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection  
until you come again.

## Communion: Gift of Finest Wheat

Robert E Kreutz

**You satisfy the hungry heart, with gift of finest wheat;  
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
They know and heed his voice;  
So when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you, our praise and gratitude;  
That you should count us worthy Lord,  
To share this heav'nly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share,  
The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world can not contain,  
Comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us O Lord; then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in your name, in truth and charity.

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## Thanksgiving: The Fullness of God

F Andersen

Deep in Christ I pray you know the power he can give!  
May your hidden self grow strong!  
And may you live strong in faith and built on love  
Until you know how high and long,  
How wide and deep the fullness of God!

May the God of Jesus Christ, the Father we serve  
Fill your mind that you may see,  
Deep in your heart, what hope his call now holds for you,  
His promise true:  
To fill your heart with power to live the fullness of God!

Know the way you learnt from Christ, to live life anew!  
Let your heart be drawn to him;  
Let Christ renew the hope in you to grow into  
Goodness and truth!

And living so, you'll come to know the fullness of God!  
And living so, you'll come to know the fullness of God!

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## Recessional: Glory Be to God in Heaven

M Perry (text)

Glory be to God in heaven  
Peace to those who love you well;  
On the earth let all your people  
Speak your grace, your wonders tell:  
Lord, we praise you for your glory,  
Mighty Father, heaven's king;  
Hear our joyful adoration  
And accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father,  
Lamb who takes our sin away,  
Now with God in triumph seated  
For your mercy, Lord, we pray;  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,  
Saviour, you are God alone  
In the glory of the Father  
With the Spirit: Three in One!

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