



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 Wakka Wakka, 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/>

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: 28 – 29 September, 2019

Social Justice Sunday

Readings: Amos 6:1, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31

The theme of the 2019-2020 Social Justice Statement is "making it real: genuine human encounter in a digital world." It calls us to ensure that the new digital technology facilitates rather than inhibits the spread of the gospel. The gospel reading invites us to look at the wealth we enjoy, to sharpen our awareness of the needs of those who seek to share the bounty we claim for ourselves, to notice the poor who wait for justice at our gates and seek a part in the life we enjoy. This inclusive embrace is the vision we espouse in this final week of the Season of Creation.

The gospel parable presents a nasty mega rich character using his wealth to support a totally self-centred life-style. He dresses in the finest clothes and feasts extravagantly every day. He has no concern for or interest in the destitute and badly wounded man, Lazarus, who has been cast at his gate and who longs for a share in whatever falls ('scraps' in our translation) from the rich man's table. The reference here is probably to the pita bread commonly used by diners at banquets to wipe their hands. The bread would be discarded after use and snapped up by the dogs. There is a reasonable chance that, even if the servants fail to offer Lazarus the leftovers, the dogs might share with him their daily fare. Begging for food was often the sole means of sustenance for those with disabilities. Lazarus has a serious disability: he is "sorely wounded"; he is "cast" at the gate and has no capacity to prevent the dogs from licking his sores.

Lazarus dies and is transported by angels into the arms of Israel's iconic ancestor, Abraham. In contrast, the rich man dies and suffers the torment of Hades. There is no mention of angels to transport him to the place of his ancestors. The rich man's suffering is exacerbated by the vision of the man whose needs he ignored in life now "a long way off" in Abraham's embrace. Earlier in Luke's story, Jesus has declared the bent-over woman to be a daughter of Abraham. Later, he will call the toll-collector Zacchaeus a "son of Abraham". To be "of Abraham" is to be true to the tradition inaugurated by Israel's ancestor in faith. It is to "hear" Moses and the prophets and their call to justice and right relationship.

Riches belong, not to the few, but to the whole Earth community. If they are all-consuming, they destroy our capacity to see or hear what really matters. All the honour and status they might bring are quite worthless in the final analysis. The rich man came to this realisation too late. The occasional period of digital detox might provide us with time to reflect and to restore the balance required for the health of all on our planet.

(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 Contact:
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 30/09 – 06/10/2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
6.00pm..... PPC Agenda
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: 10.30am... Emmaus Prayer
Friday: 9.00am..... Mass

27th Sunday in Ord Time Year C

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-9



September/October 2019

29 September – Social Justice Sunday

30 September – 8.30am Mass in the Bishop's Chapel

30 September – Parish Pastoral Agenda Meeting

7 October – Public Holiday – Office Closed

14 October – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

20 October – Mission Sunday

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Melbourne Cup:

Can you believe it is almost Melbourne Cup time again! Our annual sweep will take place again and your tickets are now ready in the Church Foyer for pick up. If you have missed out on tickets please contact the Parish Office and we can issue you a book or two. Tickets need to be returned by Sunday 3 November.

Caring for Each Other:

As a community of faith, we are called to be aware of those around us in the community. If you notice that a regular Mass attender has not been here for a while, if you know of someone who may be going through a tough time, if you know of someone who is on their own and could benefit from a visit, if you have heard that someone from the community is in hospital, if you notice someone who seems new to the community, please advise the Parish Leader, talk to a member of the Parish Council or contact the Parish Office. We have groups in the Parish such as Care and Concern and our local St Vincent de Paul Conference who may be able to assist.

Family Sunday – 26/27 October 2019:

On the last weekend in October, we will celebrate Family Sunday, an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all families in our Parish and to highlight the contribution of the Family Groups to the life of our Parish community. Any couples celebrating a 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70th anniversary (80th and 90th anniversaries will receive extra special acknowledgement) are asked to give their names to the Parish Office (Phone 4635 9555) so that we can particularly acknowledge you at both Masses that weekend.

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 16 November. We look forward to warmly welcoming families from the school that night.

Cards about the Catholic Church:

In the foyer near the noticeboard you will find copies of the cards (that have also been sent out with your Planned Giving Envelopes). These cards talk about the positive things being done by our Church to protect and safeguard children and vulnerable adults, as well as the contribution to the wellbeing of the broader community.

Transport Available:

Anyone who has no transport to attend weekend Mass can be assisted. Telephone the Parish Office (4635 9555) to make your needs known and a Care and Concern member will follow up to arrange suitable transport.

Mission Sunday:

Our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal on 26/27 October. Envelopes will be available in the Church Foyer.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Pregnancy and Infant loss Remembrance Day:

A Memorial Service will be held on 15 October at 7.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Goodwood St Toowoomba. Our Lady of Lourdes Ecumenism Group extends a welcome to all parents, siblings, grandparents and others affected by the loss of a baby, regardless of whether the loss was recent or long ago, to a special Memorial Service followed by time for sharing and a cuppa.

Social Justice Sunday:

This year, the Bishops' are focusing on digital justice. Their 2019 Statement seeks to look at how we can best use digital technology so that we promote "genuine human encounter". Pope Francis names the digital world as "a meeting place where we can either encourage or demean one another, engage in meaningful discussion or unfair attacks". He and our Bishops are very aware that the digital world can be a place of isolation, manipulation,

exploitation and violence. It can be a place where cyberbullying occurs, where people's details are handed to advertisers to be traded for profit, where search algorithms are manipulated and fake news is readily available. Statements and prayer cards are now available in Church Foyer.

Christian Brothers - 120 Years Old Boys Dinner:

Old Boys, family and friends are invited to celebrate 120 years of St Mary's College, at our Old Boy Dinner. Tickets are \$50, which includes a 3-course meal, and an interview conducted by James O'Shea (1999) with winning Premiership (NRL) and World Cup Challenge, Queensland and South Sydney Rabbitohs player, Ethan Lowe (2008). A major auction of sports memorabilia will be held. The Dinner will be held on 19 October at 7.00pm in the T P O'Brien Hall at St Mary's. See flyer in Church Foyer.

Grief and Loss Program:

A Blue Care Grief and Loss Program to provide support for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one will be held at the Blue Care complex, Middle Ridge commencing Tuesday 15th October 9.30am – 11.30am. The free program runs for two hours each week for eight weeks and provides information, practical advice and effective coping skills as well as social and emotional support. This is a small group program and registration is essential. There is no cost to attend. Please contact Margaret Spinks 0491071787 or bluecare.grief.loss@gmail.com to register or for more information.

Becoming Soul Full – A Retreat for Catholic Women:

The retreat will be held on 21 – 23 October 2019 at the James Byrne Centre, Highfields. An invitation to Catholic women who struggle, question, survive, dream, advocate, care. Come, take time to listen to the Spirit and share your story of faith with other women. This retreat is a time to name our reality, concerns and dreams for the church in a safe and supportive environment. Let us name our hopes for Catholic women of the Diocese of Toowoomba. Retreat will be facilitated by Andrea Dean, Director of the Office for the Participation of Women and Office for Lay Pastoral Ministry within the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Registration Closes 14/10/19 See flyer for details and registration information. Register online – See Flyer on Notice Board for further information.

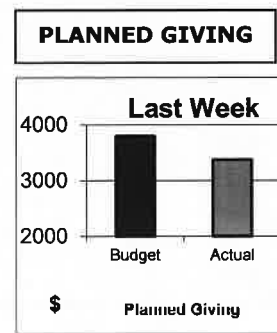
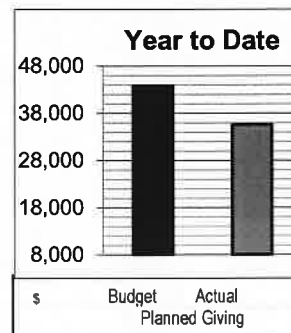
Plenary Council Update:

We are now invited to get involved in the next phase of the Plenary by entering into the Listening and Discernment experience. You may wish to consider one of the six Themes for Discernment, which, at this time, may be of interest. An excellent detailed, user-friendly, step by step guide to use with groups is available on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/> under the heading of Resources. Check out this material and let Michael know if you would like to be part of a group process so some sessions can be organised.

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, Maria Hunter-Robinson, Val Sharpe, Paul Turner, Hedy Marshall, Mary Buttin, Rev Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Peter Webster, Ros Morton, Monica Gleeson, Georgie Rose Allen, Pat Chapman, Alvina Denison, Megan Ford, Bev Walls.

Anniversaries: Rev Fr Clarence Leahy, Rev Fr Neil O'Donoghue,
Recently Deceased: Muriel (Betty) Barron



Social Justice Statement 2019–2020

Making it Real: Genuine Human Encounter in our Digital World

Overview:

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2019–20 is titled 'Making it Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world'.

New digital media offer positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity, however some elements of our digital world may be harmful. These include information overload; social isolation; marginalisation of the vulnerable; consumerism and fake news.

The Statement reminds us that the new digital media cannot be seen as neutral or 'unaffected by any moral considerations'. While many users do not realise it, the core business of social media platforms is to sell advertising and maximise profits. People's personal lives may be reduced to data that is traded for profit or power, and it is used to target and influence us in ways previously unthinkable. Pushing users to more extreme positions and promoting fake news and conspiracy theories sells, but this is at odds with human solidarity.

The Bishops amplify Pope Francis' call to us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world', with the image of the Good Samaritan as our inspiration. We are called not only to love our neighbour, but to bring the love of God to the new global neighbourhood. The Statement points out that we are called not just to be inhabitants of this new digital world, but active citizens shaping it. All of us – whether we are users, communities, industrial or political leaders – have a role to play in rejecting hatred, divisions and falsehoods. We have a duty to foster a neighbourhood that promotes those human attributes and social values that lend themselves to genuine human encounter – love, understanding, beauty, goodness, truth and trustworthiness, joy and hope.

Prayer for Our Digital World from Pope Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognise the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion. Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:

where there is shouting, let us practise listening; where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony; where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity; where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity; where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety; where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions; where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust; where there is hostility, let us bring respect; where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

Amen.

Gathering: Send Down the Fire

M Haugen

**Send down the fire of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit,
Breathe life in your people,
And we shall be people of God.**

Call us to be your compassion,
Teach us the song of your love;
Give us hearts that sing,
Give us deeds that ring.
Make us ring with the song of your love.

Call us to answer oppression,
Teach us the fire of your truth;
Give us righteous souls,
'Til your justice rolls.

Make us burn with the fire of your love.

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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: Praise the Lord My Soul, O Praise the Lord.

*It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
Who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he 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.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
The Lord, who protects the stranger.*

*He upholds the widow and orphan
But thwarts the path 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:

God in your goodness hear our prayer.

Acclamation:

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

Communion: The Harvest of Justice

D. Haas

**May we find richness in the harvest of justice
Which Christ Jesus has ripened for us.
Bread for the journey, bread for the hungry,
All for the glory and praise of God.**

Gather with patience for those who have nothing.
Leave them your riches and you will receive.
Make room for the poor ones, make way for the stranger;
For I am the Lord, the Lord your God.

For to have mercy on those forgotten,
This is my true law, this is my command:
Clothe the naked, be home for the orphan,
Be hope for the widow and welcome the lost.

For to have little is to be in abundance,
To give what remains, to give all we have,
Is to walk with the poor ones and become the stranger,
One with the Lord, the Lord our God.

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Thanksgiving Let There Be Peace on Earth

S Miller & J Jackson

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
We are family:
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

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Recessional: Song for Human Rights

S.E. Murray

Sing a song for peace and justice,
Speak for those who cannot speak!
Claim the world for peace and justice:
Let the strong support the weak.

**Light a candle in the darkness;
Hope and freedom must not die!
Hope and freedom must not die!**

You who live in happy places,
Who can laugh and speak and sing,
Listen for the other voices,
Mute with fear and suffering.

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