

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/>

Solemnity of Christ the King, Year C: 23 - 24 November, 2019

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

Sadly, there have always been those who scoff at others or make fun of them, generally because they themselves feel threatened in some way. Those who suffer such bullying behaviour often feel powerless and demeaned. There may be some comfort for such people in today's gospel. We find here a serious case of bullying and two dignified responses that undermine the destructive power of those who taunt or deride.

The first response is that of Jesus who refuses to retaliate when the soldiers mock him or when another convicted criminal ("one of the criminals hanging there") derides him. Another dignified response comes from "the other" criminal. This man has the insight to recognise that Jesus is innocent. He also has the courage to challenge the injustice of what is going on around him. Having offered his challenge, he then turns to Jesus and addresses him by name: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kin-dom." His request reveals his faith in Jesus as the human face of God. It also reveals his knowledge of Jesus' mission, first announced in Galilee: "I must proclaim the good news of the kin-dom of God"

Jesus points to God and God's reign or empire. Jesus' criminal companion points to the reign or empire of Jesus. The reign of God and the reign of Jesus are one and the same. In turning to Jesus and putting his request, this criminal becomes a disciple and receives the assurance of a share in Jesus' life with God: "Today you will be with me..." "Jesus, remember me" is a fitting prayer in the face of all life's struggles. It is a prayer for mercy. Next time we sing these words or pray them in our hearts, we might spare a thought for the one who first uttered them, a convicted Jewish criminal who had the courage to rise above his own suffering and to challenge the unjust oppression of an innocent neighbour. Like Jesus, this criminal was and continues to be an instrument of God's reign. His capacity to challenge the injustice of Jesus' execution might be a source of inspiration for us as we struggle to find mercy and justice for the Earth as well as for the innocent ones who seek asylum in our midst only to find themselves subjected to the torture of exile and hopelessness.

The title of today's feast reminds us of the boundless nature of God's rule or reign: we celebrate Christ Jesus as ruler of the universe, of all that is and of all that will be. As our understanding of the universe expands, we find ourselves caught up in the ever creative and saving presence of a compassionate, merciful God. This feast might serve as a reminder to us to allow the peace of Christ to reign in our hearts even in the face of derision.

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

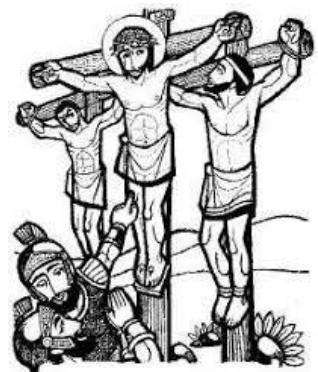
Parish Leader: Michael Bermingham
Priest Director:..... Michael O'Brien
Pastoral Council: Terry Carter
Finance Committee: Tim Davis
Secretary: Donna Pugh
Secretary: Jenny Bartkus
School Principal:..... Michael Cash
APRE:..... Lee ann Weekes
School Board..... Karen Tobin
Parish Safeguards Contact:
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

Parish Diary: 25/01 – 01/12/2019

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass
5.00pm...PPC Agenda Meet
7.00pm.....St V de P
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
5.30pm.....Mass
7.00pm.....Choir Practice
Tue to Sat 7.00am.... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday: 9.00am.Liturgy of the Word
10:00am.....Open Door
Friday: 9.00am.....Mass
9.00am....Parish Playgroup

First Sunday of Advent Year A

Mass: 6.00pm Saturday
8.30am Sunday
Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44



November/December 2019

25 November – Parish Pastoral Council Agenda Meeting
 1 December – SPRED Mass
 2 December – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
 13 December – Anointing Mass 9.00am
 18 December – Second Rite of Reconciliation

HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH

Ministry Forms for 2020:

Parishioner Information and Ministry Sign-Up Forms for the year ahead are still available in the Church foyer. To assist with the preparation of rosters for the coming year, we will need completed forms returned before as soon as possible to allow time for rosters to be finalized and 2020 rosters to be in place from early December. Current rosters will continue until new rosters are published.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:

This weekend we will observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25). Domestic and family violence occurs in many forms in our society, but the predominant victims of domestic and family violence are women and children. This is an annual opportunity, particularly for the men in our community, to take a stand against domestic and family violence. Candles will be lit during Mass.

Choral Workshop:

An opportunity not to be missed! A choral workshop is being offered this Sunday the 24 November straight after the 8.30am Mass. Many of you will know Alissa Birmingham and she has generously offered to run this workshop for everyone (yes, I mean you) interested in singing in the choir. We will be working on a new piece for Christmas Eve Mass, so I encourage everyone who has previously sung in the choir, as well as any new choristers to come along to what will be a very upbeat 90 minutes of music and song. If you have any queries, please contact Maree Keating on 0435173882.

Christmas Choir Practice:

Choir Practice for Christmas Masses will begin from this Tuesday, 26 November at 7 pm in the Church. All singers welcome.

SPRED Mass:

On Sunday 1 December at 8.30am the SPRED community will join us for the celebration of the Eucharist here at St Thomas More's.

Manger Collection:

From next weekend the Manger will be in the centre aisle of the church for those who wish to make a monetary gift as part of their Christmas sharing. The beneficiaries this year will be those impacted by drought in the Far South West of the State.

Wine and Cheese Evening:

We will hold a wine and cheese evening on Saturday 7 December after 6.00pm mass. Offers of platters (large or small) for the evening are most welcome.

Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:

A Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at St Thomas More's on 13 December at 9.00am. 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.

Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation:

Our Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 18 December 2019. There will be two services on that day – 9.00 am here at St Thomas More's and 6.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral.

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 attendee 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.

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve – 6.00pm and 8.00pm
 Christmas Day – 8.30am

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal:

Envelopes for donations to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal are now available in the Church foyer.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Tree Appeal:

The Christmas Tree has been set up in the Church foyer nominating gifts to be included in Christmas Hampers. Please ensure tag is attached so it can be placed in the appropriate hamper. Gifts should be returned **by Monday 16 December**.

Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards:

2020 Columban Calendars **\$8.00** each and Christmas Cards **\$3.00** per packet. These are now available in the Church Foyer.

Drought Angels:

The Burchell family are gathering items to assist the work of Drought Angels who are preparing Christmas Hampers for Farming Families impacted by the drought. You can donate directly via the website: www.droughtangels.org.au or bring items such as toiletry items for men, women and children through to pantry items, cleaning products, etc. (no perishable items) to the Church by 6 December and Jo will collect them.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

National Prayer Campaign for Drought:

Parishes, schools, families and other Catholic communities across the country are being encouraged to participate in the National Prayer Campaign for Drought, which also invites people to provide assistance to those most in need. The month of prayer is an additional response to the local work being done in affected communities.

Spiritual Enrichment Day:

A Spiritual Day will be held on Thursday 5 December commencing at 9:30am at 69 Margaret Street. Sr Elaine Morzone MFIC will be running a day of spiritual enrichment at Sychar. See flyer on notice board in Church Foyer for further details and day's timetable.

Bus Trip Marian Valley:

Saturday 7th December. Bus departs Neil St. outside St. Pat's Cathedral at 7:30 am. Cost \$25. For bookings contact Theresa on 0434 528 904.

Heritage Remembrance Service:

Remembrance Service and Candle Lighting Ceremony will be held at St Therese's Parish Centre on Sunday 8 December at 7.00pm. See flyer on notice board for further information.

St Ursula's College Past Students & Associates:

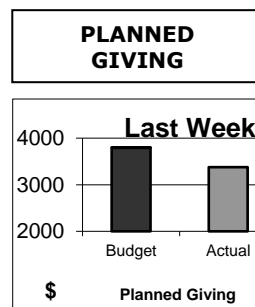
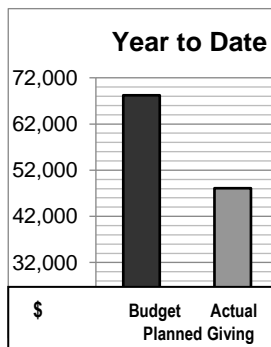
Come join with us as we "Jingle & Mingle" on Saturday 7th December at the Tapestry Bar, Fitzy's Toowoomba. Purchase tickets via: www.trybooking.com/BFUXJ

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, Mary Buttin, Rev Fr Brian Sparksman, James Babineau, Mort Edmiston, Arleen Hansen, Peter Webster, Monica Gleeson, Georgie Rose Allen, Pat Chapman, Alvina Denison, Megan Ford, Bev Walls, Paul P. Lamerand.

Anniversaries: Rev Fr John Dowd, Rev Fr William McCormack, Amelda Claire Grundon, Brian Robert Grundon, Beryl Cole

Recently Deceased: Mollie Ariotti, Eric Moloney.



Prayer to End Domestic and Family Violence

Loving God,

We thank you for inviting us to work to end domestic and family violence in our community.
We ask for your wisdom and guidance.

We pray for constancy in seeking a society where all people are safe in their home, families and close relationships, and where all relationships respect the equality and dignity of each person.

We pray for all those affected by violence, that they may find safety and healing.
We pray that all women and children will find a place and life free from violence,
and children will be cared for in nurturing, protective and supportive ways.

We pray for young men that they may find models of respectful relationships,
and reject the violent and demeaning images of manhood current in our society.

We ask for the courage to confront the causes of family violence, including the prevalence of violence in society, abuse of power and the unequal position of women in the community.

We pray for right and just relations between all people,
so that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms.
We long for the time you have promised, when violence is banished,
women and men are open to love and be loved, children are protected,
and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer sourced from Catholic Social Services Victoria)



Eternal God,

*In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life.
We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour
on our drought-stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops.*

*Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers
and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them.
In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth.*

*Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and
through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life:
Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.*

*Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.*

Gathering: Hymn to Christ

F Andersen

Christ, the visible expression of our God!
We praise you!
Long before Creation He existed and was Lord!
We praise you.

**And therefore, He is rightly called, Lord of All!
And therefore, He is rightly called, Lord of all!**

Thru' Him everything was made,
He is the Father's Word!
We praise you!
Power and Dominion rest on Him, Creation's Lord!
We praise you!

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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: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house."
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

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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:

May you reign in us, O God.

Preparation of the gifts:

M Herry

Lord, we come to your table Lord, we hear your word
Lord, you are our bread of life and we the Body of Christ.

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Acclamation:

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

Communion: We Remember

M Haugen

**We remember how you loved us to your death,
And still we celebrate, for you are with us here.
And we believe that we will see you
When you come, in your glory, Lord,
We remember, we celebrate, we believe.**

Here a million wounded souls are yearning
Just to touch you and be healed. Gather all your people
And hold them to your heart.

Now we recreate your love,
We bring the bread and wine to share a meal.
Sign of grace and mercy, the presence of the Lord.

Christ, the Father's great "Amen"
To all the hopes and dreams of every heart.
Peace beyond all telling and freedom from all fear.

See the face of Christ revealed in ev'ry person
Standing by your side. Gift to one another,
And temples of your love.

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Thanksgiving: I'll Be Always Loving You

T Watts

I am here with you by your side,
Sheltering your heart from the night.

Let me love the world through your heart.
Let me heal your wounds with my touch.

**Wherever you go, whatever you do,
I'll be always loving you.**

**I will be your God, your comforter.
I will hold you close in my heart.**

Let me see the world through your eyes.
Let forgiveness shine through your smile.

**Wherever you go, whatever you do,
I'll be always loving you.**

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Recessional: All the Ends Of The Earth

R Dufford

**All the ends of the earth all you creatures of the sea,
Lift up your eyes to the wonders of the Lord,
For the Lord of the earth, the master of the sea,
Has come with justice for the world.**

Break into song at the deeds of the Lord,
The wonders God has done in every age.

The Lord has made salvation known
Faithful to the promises of old. Let the ends of the earth,
Let the sea and all it holds, make music before our king!

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