



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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: 11 - 12 July 2020 Sea Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, we have necessarily distanced ourselves from others. Some of us have retreated to the natural world so that our sensitivities have sharpened and our planetary awareness has heightened. We have become more attuned to the complexity of nature and to its rhythms. We have observed the diverse feeding habits of the birds, for instance, and their communication patterns. There is new and renewed interest in gardening, in the growing of vegetables and fruit in pots or in built-up garden beds. Such changes in lifestyle are conditioning us to use our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as today's gospel invites us to do. Jesus' directive, "let anyone with ears listen", is a reminder that we do have ears and that we do not always hear. Ann Lewin's words come to mind: "You do not have to Look for anything. Just look. You do not have to Listen for specific Sounds. Just Listen. You do not have to Accomplish anything. Just Be. And in the Looking and the Listening and the Being, find Me."

To what sort of being, of looking and listening does today's gospel call us? The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to examine our connection with the natural world. For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive. Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner, or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their readiness to receive? It may not be one or the other but both.

What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat. The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

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

Parish Diary for This Week

Monday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
5.30pm.....Mass St Pat's
Tuesday: 9.30am.....Faith Education
2.00pm.....Liturgy Group
5.30pm.....Mass STM
Tue – Sat 7.00am.... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday: 9.00am..Liturgy of the Word
Thursday 10.30am....Emmaus Prayer
Friday: 9.00am.....Mass STM
9.00am.....Parish Playgroup

(Please note that numbers at each Mass on weekdays and weekends will be limited to 100 people.)

Next Sunday – 18 and 19 July 2020

16th Sunday in Ord Time A

**Saturday 6 pm Mass
Sunday 8.30 am Mass
(Maximum 100 people at each Mass)**

Readings: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

Thought for the Week

Basically, God's true "Parable" is Jesus himself, his Person who, in the sign of humanity, hides and at the same time reveals his divinity. In this manner God does not force us to believe in him but attracts us to him with the truth and goodness of his incarnate Son: love, in fact, always respects freedom. (Pope Benedict XVI July 10 2011)

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:.....Kristin Byrne
School Board:.....Karen Tobin
Parish Safeguarding Contact:
Sarah Holcombe – 0408 193 636

**July 2020
HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH/DIOCESE**

Mass Numbers and Weekend Masses:

On 2 July Bishop Robert reiterated his advice of 25 June that we will wait until after 10 July to increase gatherings to 100 people subject to the 4 square metre rule and social distancing.

After 10 July, based on the 4 square metre rule, we are now able to accommodate up to 100 people in our church at any one time. Social distancing of 1.5 metres has been used for setting out the chairs. The number of 100 applies to both weekend and weekday Masses.

We are continuing to use the ticketing system that we have been using for the last four weeks for weekday Masses. Remember - if you are unable to get to Mass or know of someone who is unable to get to Mass, please contact the Office and we can discuss a possible visit to bring Holy Communion. If you need transport to get to Mass, please phone the office and we will follow up with Care and Concern.

Our priests are still offering us the option of home Masses - to celebrate a Mass in your home simply phone the office at St Patrick's Cathedral on 4637 1500 or email admin@stpats.org.au.

Parish Newsletter:

Paper copies are available outside the front door of the Church and near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please contact the office for copies to be delivered or posted.

Sea Sunday July 12:

Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for those who live and work on the sea. Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Today's Appeal supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. During the COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers continue to bring products to sustain our population and economy, often at personal risk to their health. To support this ministry, please send your donations via: <http://www.bit.ly/seasundayaustralia> For further information, please call: Ros Rajasingam on 0481 910 245 or visit the website: <http://www.aos-australia.org/>

Donation from St Vincent's Care Services:

We publicly acknowledge the generosity of St Vincent's Care Service who recently made a donation to support St Thomas More's Parish. In an email from Troy Tornabene, Mission Leader, St Vincent's Care Services, on 25 June 2020, he wrote: "St Vincent's Care Services knows that Parishes and members of the community are struggling at this time, and this year we would like to provide a small gift of \$2,000 to your Parish." We thank St Vincent's Care Services for their kindness.

Parish Pastoral Council Membership:

As we enter the second half of 2020, we are looking for three new members to join the Parish Pastoral Council. Term of membership is 2 years with a possible extension for a further year. This is a great opportunity to be part of supporting the life of our parish and shaping the parish direction for the future. If you are considering putting your hand up, please chat to one of the members of the current Council or to Michael, the Parish Leader.

60 Year of St Thomas More's Parish:

On September 4 it will be 60 years since St Thomas More's officially became a Parish. We are planning to celebrate this milestone in our Parish's history and are inviting people to volunteer to be part of a committee to prepare for this event. Please talk to Michael, the Parish Leader, or to Kathryn Boulus if interested.

Caring for Each Other:

As a community of faith, we are called to be aware of those around us in the community. Please keep in touch with each other and be particularly mindful of people who may be on their own. If you need assistance or know of someone who requires Parish assistance, please contact the Office and we will follow up.

Caring for Our Staff:

Visitors to our Parish Office are still required to adhere to social distancing requirements and we will keep a record of your contact details and the date and time of your visit. We will also adhere to sanitizing requirements.

Mobility Scooter for Sale:

If interested, please phone Dorothy on 0439 982 941.

Live-in Companion Needed for Older Lady:

We have received the following request for assistance: "A dear friend of ours has lived in her own home until she fell and was not well for some time. She has been in care for over a year and wants to go back to her home but the doctors want her to have someone living with her. So, as friends and EPA's of this lady we are looking for a lady to live with her for free accommodation and food supplied, if that suits the lady. We are writing to all parts of the Diocese to see if there is a caring lady who would like to live in Toowoomba in beautiful, free accommodation with a lovely woman. We pray a special lady can be found. Sincerely Peter and Mary Allen and Nev Pocock (EPA's) (Enduring Powers of Attorney)" If interested or you know of someone who may be interested, please contact Michael, the Parish Leader, for more information.

Planned Giving and Parish Contributions:

Many thanks to those who continue to drop their Planned Giving Envelopes into the mailbox near the door to the Parish Office. For online contributions through internet banking, please use the following details:

Account Name: St Thomas More's

BSB Number: 064786

Account Number: 514001500

Reference: Your Envelope Number (if part of Planned Giving) or Loose Collection (if not part of Planned Giving)

Phone us if you need to ask further about this option.

Toowoomba Diocese Current Information:

Access current information and resources in our diocese:

<https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/coronavirus-response-resources/>

Available from the Archdiocese of Brisbane:

1. Free digital copies of The Catholic Leader: [Visit their website to view a free digital copy.](#)

2. Liturgy Brisbane continue to provide online prayer resources for each Sunday as well as resources for families with children. The resources can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

LIVE STREAMED MASS:

From St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba each Sunday at 9:00am. Use any of the following links:

[Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) or [Website](#)

This is continuing after weekend Masses recommence.

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, 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, Bevan Devine, Mick Ahern, Brian Swords, Jean Denison, Terry McNamara, Pauline Anderson, Margaret Reis, Mary Twidale, Fr Jamie Collins, Fr Don Murray, Margaret Betros. We remember all who are ill with the Corona Virus.

Recently Deceased: We remember all victims of COVID-19

Anniversaries: Rev Fr Patrick Campbell, Rev Fr Neville Grundy, Enid Bourne, Monica Bermingham.

