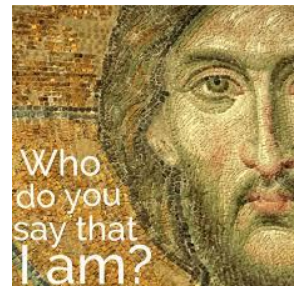




St Thomas More's Parish

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 Leader: a/h phone: 0407 804 461. Email: parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au

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/>

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: 22 - 23 August 2020

Readings: Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

"Be yourself. Everybody else is taken", sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this song, composed for Melinda's dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths. Even though we know that "everybody else is taken", most of us spend energy trying to measure up to other peoples' expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are. Being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts. Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission. If the mission was to succeed, then his followers needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God's anointed one, as the revelation of the living God.

Jesus' true identity is a key issue for Matthew's community as it is for us. From the outset, he is presented as the anointed one of God, the Messiah or Christ. Before his birth, the reader knows him as "Emmanuel", God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand. Jesus' fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet in the tradition of Elijah or Jeremiah or John the Baptist, and as the incarnate Wisdom of God. The power of God at work in Peter leads him to a deeper understanding of Jesus' identity. Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight, however, and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ or Messiah and son of the living God. Insight is a gift, and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter has both in abundance. He is declared "blessed" on account of this gift of insight, and entrusted with the "keys" of God's empire.

The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18) where the saying is framed on the one hand by instructions about dealing with transgressors and on the other by the assertion that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst. "Binding and loosing" belongs to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ and as the revelation of the living God. The exercise of the power "to bind and to loose" demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus. Gathering in the name of Jesus is a challenge right now as we face the restrictions required to deal with pandemic. We pray for the wisdom to find new ways of being church and of truly dealing with transgression.

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
5.30pm.....Mass STM
Tue – Sat 7.00am..... Mass at St Pat's
Wednesday: 9.00am..Liturgy of the Word
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 – 29 and 30 August 2020

22nd Sunday in Ord Time A

Social Justice Sunday

Saturday 6 pm Mass

Sunday 8.30 am Mass

(Maximum 100 people at each Mass)

Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

Thought for the Week

"God is not satisfied with appearance. God wants the garment of justice. God wants his Christians dressed in love." (St Oscar Romero)

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

**August/September 2020
HAPPENINGS IN OUR PARISH/DIOCESE**

New Phone Number for St Thomas More's School:

Please note that St Thomas More's School has a new phone number. It is: (07) 4591 3900.

Mass Numbers and Weekend Masses:

There is currently no change to the situation where, based on the 4 square metre per person rule, we are 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 will continue with the ticketing and sign-in system until any changes in government advice, as well as hand sanitising, no holy water in fonts, no use of collection plates and no contact at the Sign of Peace. Thanks for your patience with all these requirements and for coming early to Mass.

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. If you are feeling unwell, please do not come and avail of online Mass options.

Dispensation from the Obligation of Sunday Mass:

Dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass has been granted during this difficult and worrying time. You are strongly encouraged though to spend some time in prayer, either privately or as a family at these times.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council Membership:

We are still looking for new Parish Pastoral Council members. If you are considering putting your hand up, please chat to one of the current members of Council or to Michael, the Parish Leader.

60 Years of St Thomas More's Parish:

On September 4 it will be 60 years since St Thomas More's officially became a Parish. We will celebrate this milestone in our Parish's history at our Masses on 5 and 6 September.

Sacrament of Penance Program:

The Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated on Wednesday 9 September.

Parish Pastoral Council Plan for Consultation:

The Parish Pastoral Council are currently developing an action plan for next year, 2021. An initial document has been prepared and copies are now available. We are inviting members of the Parish Community to provide feedback on the identified goals for the plan. Copies are available in the Church. Copies can also be sent by email or picked up from the Parish Office. Please contact Michael to obtain a copy.

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.

EndCOVIDForAll: It's not over until it's over for everyone.

Caritas Australia has joined churches and aid agencies for #EndCOVIDForAll, a pledge of support that will be taken to government to show our support for vulnerable communities, because **it's not over until it's over for everyone**. For more information on #EndCOVIDForAll or to sign the pledge go to www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY:

Social Justice Sunday is 30th August 2020. The Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2020-21, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, along with other prayer and liturgical resources is available on the [Office for Social Justice website](#).

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.

7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat:

The "7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat" has been prepared by Columban priest, Fr Charles Rue, whose ministry has for many years had a focus on the Catholic understanding of care for the environment. The retreat is designed to lead people up to the World Day of Prayer for Creation, so they are encouraged to start it on Tuesday, August 25. However, it could be prayed at any time during the "Season of Creation", which runs from September 1 until St Francis' feast day on October 4. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Commission for Liturgy and the National Liturgical Council has additional resources for the World Day of Prayer for Creation. All resources can be accessed via the following link: [Retreat materials and resources](#).

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:

- Free digital copies of The Catholic Leader: [Visit their website to view a free digital copy.](#)
- Liturgy Brisbane online Sunday and family resources: <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

LIVE STREAMED MASS:

Ongoing from St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba each Sunday at 9:00am. Use any of the following links:
[Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) or [Website](#)

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, Brian Swords, Jean Denison, Terry McNamara, Pauline Anderson, Margaret Reis, Mary Twidale, Fr Jamie Collins, Fr Don Murray, Gwen Jonkers, Margaret Betros, Tim Erbacher, Lesley Mullen. Ken Ryan.

We remember all who are ill with the Corona Virus.

Recently Deceased: Theresa Fitzpatrick. We pray for all who have died from the Corona Virus.

Anniversary: Rev Fr Charles McDonald.

WEEK 5 Roster - 29th/30th August

| 6.00PM MASS ROSTER | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CO-ORDINATORS | |
| ORGANIST/SINGER | Margaret Dickenson, Jacinta McGovern |
| READERS | Ava Emery |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | Michelle Lobo, Cathy Bathurst, Annette O'Dea (Only 1 required) |
| 8.30AM MASS ROSTER | |
| CO-ORDINATORS | |
| ORGANIST/SINGER | Derek Phillips, Men's Group |
| READERS | Sonja Wilson, Sue Kruger |
| COMMUNION MINISTERS | Maria Bourke (Only 1 required) |
| MONEY COUNTERS | P Pemberton, B Williams, T Conway |

Giving 15/16 August

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Planned | \$663.75 |
| Loose | \$263.70 |
| Pay Point | \$25.00 |