

# St Thomas More's Parish

A welcoming Catholic Community growing in faith and united in our mission to share God's love with others.

We acknowledge the Giabal and Jarowair people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

Phone: 4635 9555

Email: [parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au)

Office Hours: Secretary Tue-Wed 9am-3pm

Co-Ordinator: Tues-Fri 9am-3pm

Priest Director: Fr. Michael O'Brien

Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Holcombe

Working in partnership with

St Thomas More's Catholic

Primary School:

Duane Wann

Kristin Byrne

## Third Sunday of Lent ~3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

**"Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the temple"**

This is a gospel story that we may be familiar with but it may also be mistaken in our understanding of why would Jesus act so outrageously? Passionately? Zealously?

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself – thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep, and doves. However, to further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage – so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. *This* was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

I think we need to take Jesus' anger very seriously. Jesus wasn't throwing a tantrum, he was known for his compassionate nature. Do not miss the significance of this outrage. Jesus would not stand for this injustice. No barriers should stand in the way of our relationship with God.

Our God has given us the Ten Commandments, the Law, the Prophets and Jesus his Son, so that we might know the Way, the Truth and the Life. When we are called to account for how we spent our lives, whom we loved and how we made the world a better place for all, most of us will not be able to plead ignorance.

May our Eucharist this Sunday enable us to be mindful of what the Ten Commandments say, but even more may it give us the courage and strength to live them out in a world that needs witnesses to them more than ever, whatever stirs up the passion for injustice in your life, go and make a stand.

**God Bless ~ Jacinta**

WEEK 2 ROSTER	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MASS CO-ORDINATORS	G. Harvey	M. & M. Bourke
WELCOMERS	S. McNelley	R./J. Akins, M. Gill
ORGANIST/SINGER	M. Dickenson & J. Farrell	D. Phillips, J. Killmister, T. Delany
READERS	S. McNelley, F. Mitchell, J. Olive	T. Carter, M. Dodd, S. Pfeiffer, L. Cargnello
COMMUNION MINISTERS	M. Lobo, G. Harvey, B. O'Keefe	M. Bourke, M. Stevens, S. Kruger, D. Gardiner
MONEY COUNTERS		H. & A. Gregson, W. & C. Dingle

### READINGS:

#### **Exodus 20:1-17**

The Law was given through Moses.

#### **Cor. 1:22-25**

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

#### **John 2:13-25**

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Those who are ill:** Helen Muller, Andrew McGregor, Nancy Daly, Jim Dickenson, Deb Handley, Damian Wyvill, Kylie Lane, Nev Sarquis, Greg Twidale, Ted Cavanagh, Glenna Kasmer, Janice Lockhart, Thomas Lawton, Terry Tyers, Christine Prescott & her son Donncha Boles, James Babineau, Wini Collins, Terry McNamara, Pauline Anderson, Maria Krulik, Joan Leonard, Sister Dorothy Bayliss RSC, Bill Phillips, Peter Erbacher and Betty Saal.

**The anniversaries of our dear departed:** Margaret Pereira, Arthur Lobo

**Recently Deceased:** Kevin Weise, Roger Stroud

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**Project Compassion envelopes available in the foyer -please take one 😊**

**EASTER ROSTERS** – If you are available for any ministry over Easter, please fill in the details required on the sheet located on the foyer table. Thank you. As you would be aware we need extra helpers for the multitude of services over Easter. Please consider volunteering!

**Lenten Prayer Group** – Embark on a transformative Lenten journey with *Pietà*, a resource from Woollongong diocese, that guides you through the daily readings and prayers is meeting either Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the church foyer or Thursdays, 9:30am in parish meeting room for anyone who would like to follow the study, Email [parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au](mailto:parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au)

**The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver** invite you to celebrate the **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Consecration of Sr Miriam Lorenz S.S.P.C.** A Jubilee Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ken Howell and Fr Michael O'Brien at 11.30am on Saturday 16 March 2024, in St Patrick's Cathedral, 123 Neil Street, Toowoomba. Please join us afterwards at our convent: 71 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, for light refreshments and also to meet Mother Selin, our Mother General. **For catering purposes, please RSVP by Friday March 8th. Telephone: (07) 4632 1818.**

**Sacraments and Symbols Seminar ~St Thomas More's**

For all those involved in liturgical ministries or wanting to enjoy a deeper experience of the Mass. This hour seminar will unpack the theology of sacramentality and the significance of numerous symbols used in our Eucharistic celebrations.

**\* 4:30pm Saturday 9 March**

**\* 9:30am Sunday 10 March**

This weekend our Parish Pastoral Council will be conducting a survey for the proposal of moving the VIGIL mass to either:

- a) the earlier time of 5pm
- b) earlier time of 5pm for the months of April to September
- or c) no change of time.

This proposal is being considered because of the positive feedback from our earlier Christmas Vigil masses, the consideration of young families and older parishioners who wish to be home earlier in the evening and for the social occasions planned for the evenings after mass. It would be the only Vigil mass in Toowoomba outside of 6pm. It would also work in with our priests' busy schedules. Your Sunday obligation is covered for any mass past 3pm on Saturday.

To place a vote, put a token into the box of your preference. If you have missed mass this weekend, email the [parishoffice@stthomasmores.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomasmores.org) to let us know your preference.

<b>Sunday 3 March</b>	<b>8.30am STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	<b>Hospitality</b>
<b>Monday 4 March</b>	<b>9:00am STM</b> 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass PPC Meeting 6:30pm ~Parish meeting room
<b>Tuesday 5 March</b>	<b>5.30pm Mass STM</b> 9:00am SPC Mass	9:30am Adult Faith ~parish meeting room <b>7pm Lenten prayer group -church foyer</b>
<b>Wednesday 6 March</b>	7am Mass SPC	7:17-8:15am Breakfast Club in church foyer 10am Open Door ~parish meeting room 3:30pm Sacramental preparation lesson ~ church
<b>Thursday 7 March</b>	7am Mass SPC	<b>9:30am Lenten prayer group ~ parish meeting room</b> 10am Funeral of Kevin Weise
<b>Friday 8 March</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> 7am Mass SPC	*Year 2 STM joining parish mass (subject to change)
<b>Saturday 9 March</b>	<b>6pm Mass STM</b> 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat's <b>Sacraments &amp; Symbols Seminar 4:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 10 March</b>	<b>8.30am Mass STM</b> 7am, 9am,5.30pm SPC	<b>Sacraments &amp; Symbols Seminar 10am</b>

**Planned Giving:** Loose \$469, Envelopes \$700, Direct Debits \$1706, Quest \$170

Thank you for your generous donations.

**Planned Giving Options:** Direct debit or envelopes please contact Jessica at the Parish Office on 4635 9555. You may simply like to do a bank transfer:

**St Thomas More's, BSB:064 786 Acc:514001500** please reference your name/envelope number.