

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
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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

Fourth Sunday of Lent ~10th March 2024

Ephesians 5: 8-14

"You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord"

My favourite childhood movie was Disney's "Beauty and the Beast". I could recite from memory every song and every line from the film. One such line that stands out to me, (among my many favourite quotes) Belle says to the Beast "come into the light". This is once Belle seeks to rescue her father from the prison in the castle, and upon meeting the Beast, a huge and ferocious character, he stands in the shadows and she offers to replace her father as the prisoner in the castle, but before Belle makes this deal she asks for her captor to "come into the light". Now the film goes on to have Belle melt the heart of the Beast with her kindness and they fall in love and only then does she break the spell...sorry I should have prefaced this with a spoiler alert! But it has been around since the 90's!

What has this got to do with the readings this weekend? This 4th Sunday of Lent, has a choice of using year B readings or using year A readings. The readings we are hearing at mass this weekend is year A, as referenced, but when studying the readings Jn 3:14-21 is the Gospel passage and this stood out to me:

*"that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God"*

It rings so true! We are quick to condemn even our own actions, but it is difficult to live in the light, be transparent and genuine to ourselves and in our relationship with others and God. We want to cover up our wrong doings, lie about it or fix it before we are found out, but in the end, living honestly is the only way.

This is echoed by St Paul's letter to the Ephesians that we hear today. To hide in the dark, is not how we are called to live. St Paul implores us to be children of the light, that by living as Jesus has instructed us to is in stark contrast to the dark. By bringing the light into the world we can change the hearts of others, even Beasts.

As we go about our life this week, I implore you to live your life in the light. Don't be blind to what God is calling you. May this Eucharist bring us closer to the light of Christ and bring us out of blindness and darkness.

God Bless ~ Jacinta

WEEK 3 ROSTER	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MASS CO-ORDINATORS	C. Bathurst	R. Mauch
WELCOMERS		T. & H. Donnollan
ORGANIST/SINGER	M. Dickenson, K. Ferguson	D. Phillips, T. Delany
READERS	K. Boulus, J. Hintz, K. Byrne	H. Whittaker, S. Kruger, M. Bermingham
COMMUNION MINISTERS	C. Bathurst, A. Emery, J. Doherty	P. Albion, S. Pfeiffer, M. Dodd
MONEY COUNTERS	J. Doherty, V. O'Reilly	

READINGS:

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13.

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel

Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

John 9: 1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

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: Fr Joseph Skelly [1970], Fr Kevin Ryan [2011], Fr Bernard Kane [2011], Fr Derick Furness [2013], Fr Ronald Walton [1970].

Sacramental candidates have begun their lessons, please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament of Penance.

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

Catholic Leader Papers are available for you to take and if you are able please leave a donation.

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

SACRAMENTS & SYMBOLS SEMINAR: is this weekend! If you have missed out on this experience or want to know more...please let Jacinta know via email.



Sunday 10 March	8.30am STM 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	Sacraments & Symbols Seminar 10am
Monday 11 March	9:00am STM 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass
Tuesday 12 March	5.30pm Mass STM 9:00am SPC Mass	9:30am Adult Faith ~parish meeting room 7pm Lenten prayer group -church foyer
Wednesday 13 March	7am Mass SPC	7:17-8:15am Breakfast Club in church foyer 10am Open Door ~parish meeting room 3:30pm Sacramental preparation lesson ~ church
Thursday 14 March	7am Mass SPC	9:30am Lenten prayer group ~ parish meeting room
Friday 15 March	9.30am Mass 7am Mass SPC	*Year 3 STM joining parish mass (subject to change)
Saturday 16 March	6pm Mass STM 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat's
Sunday 17 March	8.30am Mass STM 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	
Planned Giving: Loose \$480, Envelopes \$1564, Direct Debit \$3081, Quest \$210 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.		