

# 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  
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

## Fifth Sunday of Lent ~17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

"Oh don't be a martyr!" Have you ever heard someone say this expression when they want you to stop what you are doing? Maybe they think you do too much? Or that it is a warning for you to know when to back off before imminent failure. Or that you are always putting yourself through suffering. Whatever the reason for saying that, it doesn't come across as positive affirmation.

However, being a martyr is an act of selfless heroism. At the heart of our faith, is the cross, the symbol of Jesus dying for us! There is no greater sacrifice than that. When we talk of becoming like Jesus, sacrifices are a part of that. We need to fall on the ground and die before we can yield a rich harvest. The Saints that we look to that were martyred sacrificed their lives but sacrifices are to be made consistently in our lives as Christians.

By comparison we have it easy today, but martyrdom comes to all believers in different ways. In the broadest sense a martyr is one who is prepared to pay the price for holding true to Christ. For us now, this might mean making serious choices about the company we keep, the business ventures we enter into, the non-violent protests we mount, foregoing luxuries so that others in our world might have necessities, and even remaining faithful to the vows and promises we have made. Christian faith sometimes bites hard, and when it does, we know we are sharing in the martyr's lot.

And what should be our response when our faith in Christ costs us something big? Jesus models it for us in today's Gospel, '...what should I say? "Father, save me from this hour." No, it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'

May this final week of Lent, see us actively seek out ways of sharing in the martyr's lot by letting go of what is not essential and focusing on the One who loved us to the end.

### God Bless ~ Jacinta



Our St Thomas More's year 2 students celebrated St Patrick's day with a liturgy on Friday. I have left the clover on the wall, the prayer of St Patrick, if you would like to pray it this weekend.

WEEK 4 ROSTER	SATURDAY 23/3	SUNDAY 24/3
MASS CO-ORDINATORS	J. McGovern	W. Dingle
WELCOMERS	B. O'Keeffe	W. & C. Dingle
ORGANIST/SINGER	M. Dickenson, J. McGovern	M. Keating, V. Pfeiffer
READERS	J. Doherty, K. Morris, James McGovern	P. White-Davison, M. Wills, K. Pikramenos, K. Rouse
COMMUNION MINISTERS	J. Hintz, M. Lobo, C. Bathurst	R. Mauch J. Kennedy, L. Holcombe, H. Whittaker
MONEY COUNTERS	P. Pemberton, B. Williams, T. Conway	

### READINGS:

#### Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

#### Hebrews 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

#### John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Those who are ill:** 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:**

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

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!  
We will be having a choir for the Holy Thursday & Easter VIGIL masses.

**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)

**SACRAMENTS & SYMBOLS SEMINAR** went very well last weekend. Thank you to all those who attended! If you would like to know some of the information has been posted up in the foyer, please have a look.

**Second Rite of Penance**

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March**

**9:30am at St Thomas More's**

**5:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral**

Mass of the Holy Oils has a long tradition within the life of the church. It is not only to bless and consecrate the holy oils used for baptism, confirmation and anointing, for the coming year but also a time for the priests of the Diocese to renew their promises and recommit to their ministry in the life of the church. There will be a light supper afterwards in the Cathedral Centre. Everyone welcome. This year it is on Monday, 25th March at St Patrick's at 5.30pm.

Please Note: If you make a direct debit payment through Heritage and People's Choice Ltd, the BSB may have changed. Should you require to update your planned giving details, please take a form from the foyer table. Thanks

<b>Sunday 17 March</b>	<b>8.30am STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	
<b>Monday 18 March</b> <i>St Patrick</i>	<b>9:00am STM</b> 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass
<b>Tuesday 19 March</b> <i>St Joseph</i>	<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 20 March</b>	7am Mass SPC <b>9:30am Reconciliation STM</b> 5:30pm Reconciliation SPC	7:17-8:15am Breakfast Club in church foyer 10am Open Door ~parish meeting room 3:30pm Sacramental preparation lesson ~ church
<b>Thursday 21 March</b>	7am Mass SPC 6pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation STM	<b>9:30am Lenten prayer group ~ parish meeting room</b>
<b>Friday 22 March</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> 7am Mass SPC	*Prep STM joining parish mass (subject to change)
<b>Saturday 23 March</b>	<b>6pm Mass STM</b> 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat's
<b>Sunday 24 March</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	<b>8.30am Mass STM</b> 7am, 9am,5.30pm SPC	

**Planned Giving:** Loose \$587, Envelopes \$917, Direct Debit \$1630, Quest \$130

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.