

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
APRE: Kristin Byrne

Palm Sunday ~ Passion of the LORD ~ 24th March 2024

THE MASS OF THE OILS

The Mass of the Oils (also known as the 'Chrism Mass') is a highlight of the year for the diocese. The local Church is made manifest when a large number of the faithful gather around their bishop for Eucharist.¹

What makes this Mass especially significant is its connexion with the mission of the Church. It is not only about us celebrating who we are in the pews but also the work of the Gospel which we carry on in Christ's name.

This is captured in a special way through the public recommitment of the priests and also three oils blessed. Oil is used as a tangible sign of the action of Christ. Rather than speaking about grace in an abstract or theoretical way, oil makes it tangible. We use oil every day in everything from soaps, sunscreens, cars, cooking, medicine, *etc.* My classmate even uses it to keep his beard in check! In the sacraments, this ordinary, everyday oil becomes a window into the divine and extraordinary life offered by God.

Oil of the Sick – Christ came to reconcile the world. He showed this often through His healing ministry. The Church carries on His work of reconciliation and healing in many ways; for many of us this, healing and reconciliation is shown through love of neighbour and care for the poor or marginalised. Be they in hospital or at home, the Church continues to offer the sacrament of anointing of the sick to strengthen, protect, comfort, and heal those who call on her (*c.f.* James 5:14-16).

Oil of Catechumens – This oil is mark of care and companionship that is used for babies immediately before their baptism and for adults in the weeks or even months prior to baptism during the *catechumenate* or the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* (RCIA). Many attending the cathedral in recent weeks would have seen these rites in action as three adults have presented themselves in preparation to be received into the Church this Easter.

Oil of Chrism – This is used for priests, prophets, and kings. It was this kind of oil with which King Charles was anointed while under the special canopy before he was crowned. The consecrated oil is used following Baptism, for Confirmation, and at presbyteral and episcopal Ordination. The scent reminds us that the working of the Spirit is often unseen.



This HOLY WEEK as you see and interact with these Holy oils, may you feel the true presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in your Life.

-- NPW

READINGS:

Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult, and I know I will not be ashamed.

Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

The Passion.

¹ This year The Mass of the Oils is celebrated in Toowoomba at St Pat's on Monday 25 March at 5:30pm. All are welcome.

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: Val Sharpe, Fr Patrick Brady [1954].

Recently deceased: Trish Betros, Terry McNamara

Congratulations to the candidates that received their first sacrament of penance this week. May God's mercy always be known to you, we continue to pray for you on your sacramental faith journey.

Thank you to our sacramental team; Kristin Byrne & Erin McVeigh.

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.

EASTER ROSTER is out on the foyer table, if you are here for any of the Holy Week Masses and can fill a need, please put your name down! It is much appreciated.

THANK-YOU goes to our parish liturgy and music teams! They have given so much of their time to assist in running these Holy Week services. You are all valued and appreciated! Thank you! 😊



As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent.



This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities. There is still time to donate! Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations**.

Please donate to Project Compassion You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	8.30am STM 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	
Monday 25 March	9:00am STM 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass 5:30pm Chrism Mass @ St Pat's
Tuesday 26 March	5.30pm Mass STM 9:00am SPC Mass	9:30am Adult Faith ~parish meeting room 7pm Lenten prayer group -church foyer
Wednesday 27 March	7am Mass SPC	10am Open Door ~parish meeting room 7pm EASTER CHOIR PRACTICE
Thursday 28 March Mass of the Lord's Supper	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass STM	9:30am Lenten prayer group ~parish meeting room
Friday 29 March PASSION of the LORD	10:00am Stations of the Cross 3:00pm Passion service	+Confession available after Stations of the Cross
Saturday 30 March Holy Saturday	6pm VIGIL Mass STM	
Sunday 31 March Easter Sunday of the Resurrection	8.30am Mass STM 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	<i>happy Easter</i>

Planned Giving: Loose \$483, Envelopes \$732, Direct Debits \$2072, Quest \$150

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.

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