

# 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 Easter ~21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

### BEARING FRUIT

The daughter of a fruiterer, I love fruit, it is in our families blood. And I recognise good fruit! It is not until you get to know growers that you see the work that goes into a good harvest. Only coming into my gardening era now, I am reminded of the old *Karate Kid* movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai by his Sensai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree, and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It an act of love. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

**First Reading:**  
**Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31**  
Saul joins the apostles.

**Second Reading:**  
**1 John 3:18-24**  
We are in God and God in us.

**Gospel:**  
**John 15:1-8**  
Jesus the vine, the Father, the vine grower.

Pray this week that we can reflect on the growth we are making, and give thanks for the fruit we bear..

God bless ~ Jacinta

**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, Glenna Kasmer, Janice Lockhart, Thomas Lawton, Terry Tyers, Christine Prescott & her son Donncha Boles, James Babineau, Wini Collins, Pauline Anderson, Maria Krulik, Joan Leonard, Sister Dorothy Bayliss RSC, Bill Phillips, Peter Erbacher and Betty Saal.

**In loving memory:** Fr John Concannon [1937], Fr Reginald Prior [1962]

**Recently deceased:** Mary Pemberton, Ted Cavanagh, may they rest in peace.

**On the count down...NEXT WEEK The VIGIL MASS will start at the earlier time of 5pm and continue during the colder months of May, June, July and August.**

**Upcoming funerals...**

**Mary Pemberton, St Thomas More’s Parish, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 11am.**

**Ted Cavanagh, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 11am.**

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver are holding a Mother's Day Cent Sale in St Patrick’s Cathedral Centre, on Saturday May 11. All proceeds go to the Missions. Sisters can be contacted on 07 46321818.

Jessica Tierney, our parish secretary is finishing this week, 1<sup>st</sup> May will be her final day in the office. Please Join us after mass next Saturday night to wish her the best. Jessica and her family will remain parishioners here so it is not goodbye!

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICER:** Applications are invited for the position of Parish Administration Officer at St Patrick’s Cathedral and St Thomas More’s. This is a permanent part-time position. As this role is spread over 2 locations you may like to consider applying for any of the following:

1. St Patrick’s Cathedral, 123 Neil St, Toowoomba (12hrs)
2. St Thomas More’s Parish, 71A Ramsay St, South Toowoomba (12hrs)
3. Combined 1 & 2.

Position Description is available by contacting St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Office on 4637 1500 or [admin@stpats.org.au](mailto:admin@stpats.org.au). Applications close 10/05/2024.

**Weekly Diary**

<b>Sunday 28 April</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>8.30am STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	
<b>Monday 29 April</b>	<b>9:00am STM</b> 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass
<b>Tuesday 30 April</b>	<b>5.30pm Mass STM</b> 9:00am SPC Mass	<b>11am Funeral of Mary Pemberton</b> 7pm Parish Finance council meeting
<b>Wednesday 1 May</b>	7am Mass SPC	7:15-8:15 Breakfast Club 10am Open Door ~parish meeting room <i>3.30pm Sacramental Preparation lesson in church</i>
<b>Thursday 2 May</b>	7am Mass SPC	
<b>Friday 3 May</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> 7am Mass SPC	*year 4 STM
<b>Saturday 4 May</b>	<b>5pm Mass STM</b> 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat’s Craft Stall <b>Hospitality &amp; Farewell to Jessica Tierney</b>
<b>Sunday 5 May</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>8.30am Mass STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	<b>Hospitality Cuppa after mass</b>

**Planned Giving:** Loose \$392, Envelopes \$553, Direct Debit \$2302 and 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.

<b>WEEK 1 ROSTER</b>	<b>SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>MASS CO-ORDINATORS</b>	A. Emery	T & T Sullivan
<b>WELCOMERS</b>	B. O’Keeffe, A & E Boulus	M Dodd
<b>ORGANIST/SINGER</b>	D. Phillips, D. Turner	M Keating, S Holcombe
<b>READERS</b>	A. Emery, A. Grimshaw, F. Mitchell	S Wilson, J Foley, D Gardiner
<b>COMMUNION MINISTERS</b>	B. O’Keeffe, A. & K. Boulus,	W Dingle, T Carter
<b>MONEY COUNTERS</b>	R & N Mauch, D & A Gatfield	
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<i>Nomads</i>	<i>Shalom</i>