

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter ~5th May 2024

LOVE

Many a book, film, poem and song has been written about love. It is a small word but represents so much. We give love, show love, fall in love. It surrounds us, consumes us, it lifts us up. Love is not all warm and fuzzy feelings and happily-ever-after's. It is a choice we have to make, every chance we get.

The Gospel today tells us of the sacrificial nature of love. *"No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends."* If we consider this deeply, we see that Jesus goes beyond this because he gave his life for both friends and foes. What a difference is there now between this faithful love of Jesus and other kinds of false and fickle love. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything.

If that's the case, we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to know the fullness of love, and in doing so, the ideal is to love everybody, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, hobbies, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble!

St Thomas More wrote, in 'A Treatise upon the Passion, Christ's love unto the End'; *"Who can be sure of many of his friends when our Saviour himself was, at his capture, left alone and forsaken by his?... Let us in time, then, learn to love as we should, God above all things, and all other things for him. ...For whatever we love that makes us break God's commandment, we love better than God, and that is a love deadly and damnable."*

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48:

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

Second Reading:

1 John 4:7-10

God is love.

Gospel:

Jn 15:9-17:

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

My prayer this week is that we seek to be sincere in our love and come to know the fullness of the love of God.

God bless ~Jacinta



PLEASE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill: Marc Slevin, Wendy Edwards, 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 William Murphy[1983], Fr Brian Moran[1997], Fr Vincent Maher[1979]

I invite you to keep in your prayers the priests of the Diocese as we gather with our Bishop in the coming week. On the 15th and 16th May, Sr Monica Cavanaugh will facilitate the exploration of the priorities and key areas for discussion in relation to the clergy in our Diocese. Bishop Ken is keen to deepen his understanding of the Diocese and listen to the needs of the different places within our vast territory. Discussion will follow the Synodality model which insists on hearing everyone’s voice. After this time together as a presbyterate there may be further opportunity to look towards a more inclusive gathering of parishioners to gain a broader understanding of the Diocese. The Plenary Council has recommended there be regular synods in every diocese to form a vision and direction on a Diocesan level. Please keep Bishop Ken and the priests of the Diocese in your prayers. *Fr. Michael.*

Catholic Mission invites you to join World Mission May Rosary Prayers sessions- see the poster in the foyer.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The next Healing Mass for anointing of the sick will be held Friday 24th May 9:30am.
- St Thomas More’s will be hosting 3 nights for The Winter Shelter this year in conjunction with our SVDP conference. More information to come. A sign-up sheet will be in the foyer next week if you would be able to volunteer for this worthy cause.
- Save the date! The Feast of St Thomas More is the 22nd June, we will be celebrating with a commissioning mass celebrated by Bishop Ken and having a potluck dinner in the hall. More details to follow.

Please note: Jacinta will be working out of the office at St Pat’s whilst a new Admin. Assistant is being sought. All phone calls will be redirected through, and Jacinta will be coming through the office twice a day. Should you wish to see her, email at parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au or drop in to the parish centre at the cathedral. Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly Diary

Sunday 5 May 6th Sunday of Easter	8.30am STM 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	Hospitality cuppa after mass
Monday 6 May Labour day Holiday	9:00am STM 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass
Tuesday 7 May	5.30pm Mass STM 9:00am SPC Mass	Funeral of Ted Cavanagh 11am SPC
Wednesday 8 May	7am Mass SPC	10am Open Door ~parish meeting room <i>3.30pm Sacramental Preparation lesson in church</i>
Thursday 9 May	7am Mass SPC	
Friday 10 May	9.30am Mass 7am Mass SPC	
Saturday 11 May	5pm Mass STM 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat’s
Sunday 12 May Mother’s Day	8.30am Mass STM 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	

Planned Giving: Loose \$554 Envelope \$885 Direct Debit \$2292 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.

<i>WEEK 2 ROSTER</i>	<i>SATURDAY 11 May</i>	<i>SUNDAY 12 May</i>
<i>MASS CO-ORDINATORS</i>	G. Harvey	M. & M. Bourke
<i>WELCOMERS</i>	S. McNelley	R./J. Akins, M. Gill
<i>ORGANIST/SINGER</i>	M. Dickenson & J. Farrell	D. Phillips, J. Killmister, T. Delany
<i>READERS</i>	S. McNelley, F. Mitchell, J. Olive	T. Carter, M. Dodd, S. Pfeiffer, L. Cargnello
<i>COMMUNION MINISTERS</i>	M. Lobo, G. Harvey, B. O’Keeffe	M. Bourke, M. Stevens, S. Kruger, D. Gardiner
<i>MONEY COUNTERS</i>	H. & A. Gregson, W. & C. Dingle	