

# 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: Jacinta McGovern  
Hours: 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

## The ASCENSION of the LORD ~12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Among Catholics, May is most well-known as "Mary's Month," a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is no coincidence that this Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day, a day to honour and show appreciation to our mothers. There is no better role model for us to cast our eyes upon than our holy mother, Mary.

This weekend's scriptures illuminates the final day on earth for Jesus. He sends the apostles with a commissioning to *'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.'* And Jesus ascends to heaven.

When contemplating the reading of the Ascension, Pope Francis notes two aspects to ponder; 'On the one hand it directs our gaze towards heaven,' he says. 'On the other, it reminds us of the mission of the Church.'

The Pope points out that these two aspects are interconnected. In this feast we do not remember Jesus' bodily departure so much as celebrate his continuing presence in the world through the Christian community. As today's Gospel declares, Jesus is in heaven. Yet, by 'working with/through' his disciples (as we all are called to be), Jesus is also still present in the world.

When I think of proclaiming the good news, it is more than what I write in this bulletin every week, or going to mass, receiving the sacraments, it is the way we behave every day. What we do, think, say and how we treat others is what makes our actions "Christian" -like Christ! Actions speak louder than words. My mother taught me that.

Do you know who taught you to behave kindly, to share, to listen, love and be considerate? Quite often our first teacher of faith, or Christian actions is our mother. I was reflecting upon this especially this week in the lead up to Mother's Day and being the month of May- "Mary's month" and I deepened my awe of our holy Mother. She was Jesus' first teacher. I will leave you to ponder that meaning in your own life.

This week as you send your appreciation to your mother and act as witness' of the Good News to all, send a prayer to Holy Mary.

God bless ~Jacinta



### **First Reading:**

#### **Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11:**

*Why are you standing here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven.*

### **Second Reading:**

#### **Eph 1:17-23:**

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

### **Gospel:**

#### **Mk 16:15-20:**

*The Lord Jesus was taken to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

**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.

**Recently deceased:** Grant Schultz

**In loving memory:** Val Meara, Fr Garret Murphy [1962], Fr Michael Herbert [1970], Fr Thomas Nolan [1950], Msgr Edward Concannon [1987].

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 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- The next Healing Mass for anointing of the sick will be held Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.



**THANK YOU** to members of the parish who supported the craft stall or made donations last weekend. The team at Protea Place are very grateful for the contribution of \$1500 we were able to provide. THANK YOU to our craft ladies for their time, talent, and generosity of social justice needs.

***Weekly Diary***

<b>Sunday 12 May</b> <b>The Ascension of the Lord</b> <b>Mother’s Day</b>	<b>8.30am STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	
<b>Monday 13 May</b>	<b>9:00am STM</b> 5:30pm Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass <b>Men for all Season’s Group -guided tour outing</b>
<b>Tuesday 14 May</b> <b>St Matthias</b>	<b>5.30pm Mass STM</b> 9:00am SPC Mass	9.30am Adult faith ~ parish meeting room
<b>Wednesday 15 May</b> <b>Clergy Day</b>	7am Mass SPC	7:15-8:15 Breakfast Club 10am Open Door ~parish meeting room 3.30pm <i>Sacramental Preparation lesson in church</i>
<b>Thursday 16 May</b> <b>Clergy Day</b>	7am Mass SPC	
<b>Friday 17 May</b>	<b>9.30am Mass</b> 7am Mass SPC	Rosary in Chapel before Mass *Year 3 STM joining parish mass
<b>Saturday 18 May</b>	<b>5pm Mass STM</b> 7am Mass SPC	8am-9am Reconciliation St Pat’s
<b>Sunday 19 May</b>	<b>8.30am Mass STM</b> 7am, 9am, 5.30pm SPC	

**Planned Giving:** Loose \$571.75 Envelope \$619.20 Direct Debit \$2503.50 Quest \$150

Thank you for your generous donations.

Planned Giving Options: Direct debit or envelopes please contact 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 3 ROSTER</b>	<b>SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>MASS CO-ORDINATORS</b>	C. Bathurst	R. Mauch
<b>WELCOMERS</b>		T. & H. Donnollan
<b>ORGANIST/SINGER</b>	M. Dickenson, K. Ferguson	D. Phillips, T. Delany
<b>READERS</b>	K. Boulus, J. Hintz, K. Byrne	H. Whittaker, S. Kruger, M. Bermingham
<b>COMMUNION MINISTERS</b>	C. Bathurst, A. Emery, J. Doherty	P. Albion, S. Pfeiffer, M. Dodd
<b>MONEY COUNTERS</b>	J. Doherty, V. O’Reilly	

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](mailto:parishleader@stthomasmores.org.au) or drop in to the parish centre at the cathedral. Thank you for your understanding.