

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

12 JANUARY 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

YEAR A

MISSION STATEMENT

St Theresa's Catholic Parish is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community committed to living and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Under our baptismal mission and inspired by the Spirit, we are bread for one another and nourished we reach out to make a difference in the world.

When Jesus approaches John for baptism, John recognises him as the Messiah that John has been preaching about, the one for whom he was preparing the way. Recognising the significance of the moment, John tries to reverse roles and force Jesus into a superior role to himself. But Jesus says let's just do it like this for now and 'do all that righteousness demands'. In the gospel of Matthew, whenever Jesus speaks about fulfilling the demands of righteousness or doing what is righteous, he is speaking about carrying out the will of God; acting in accordance with the covenant relationship between God and the people.

It would have been easy for Jesus to accept John's offer to exchange places. In many ways perhaps he would have liked to do so as a way of acknowledging the great work John had done. But part of the demands of righteousness that Jesus needed to fulfil was to be the sort of Messiah that did not sit within normal expectations. Part of his fulfilment of God's will was to be a servant Messiah rather than a powerful, avenging Messiah for which many of the people hoped and prayed. To have exchanged places with John would have been to say, here I am, I am greater than John and I am here to show you all the way. Rather, by submitting to John's baptism he does indeed show the way – the way of humility and gentleness. We are assured of the rightness of Jesus' actions immediately because, upon his rising from the water, the voice of God affirms favour and approval upon Jesus. In the first test of his will, Jesus has acted in accordance with the will of God.

Living the Gospel – The demands of righteousness
To carry out the will of God in our life – that's a pretty big ask. It was a hard task for Jesus to act in accordance with God's will in the face of all sorts of difficulties, disappointments and despair. For us to even try to emulate Jesus requires firstly openness to the fact that God has a desire for us to live our lives in a particular way, in right relationship with God and with others. It requires a certain humility to open ourselves to God's will and prayerful discernment of God's will in our life.

Have you thought? – A sacramental moment
When we speak about receiving the sacraments, we speak about them as particularly graced moments when God is especially present in our life. The moment of Jesus' baptism was a particularly sacramental and graced moment: God spoke in approval of Jesus and bestowed God's favour upon him. It would be nice for the rest of us if God's presence could be so easily recognised at such times! However, in the absence of a voice from Heaven, we need to be fully present ourselves to sacramental moments and fully present to the moments that celebrate the sacramentality of our everyday lives.

Gospel Focus – Leave it like this
There is comfort to be found in the words Jesus spoke to John, 'Leave it like this for the time being'. We can sometimes be frustrated by the slow pace of change in the world and in our own lives – we often want things to happen immediately, if not yesterday! But Jesus' words convey a sense that there is an order to things a right time for them to come about. 'Leave it like this for the time being' says, let things unfold in their own time without being anxious; work for change, but there is a proper time for things.

© Greg Sunter

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Wanda Beardmore

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

Francois Frichot Neville Preece
Len Pauli Moya Schaefer
Eric & Vi Howe
Rosemary & Brian Carter

Friends and Family

Kate Sturgeon (Rita Sturgeon's
Granddaughter)
Peter Brown (Denis Brown's
Brother)
Stella Artuso (Paul & Kathryn
Marangelli's Niece)
Anna Sellar (Trish & Terry Sheely's
daughter)
Bernadette Welch
(friend of Bette Flamsteed)
Kathleen le Gras (Sister of Sr Una)
Shona Kraayvanger
(Gabrielle Adam's daughter)
Joe Short (Powell family group)
Indiana Harman
(Ray & Madeline Taylor's
Granddaughter)
Louis Gandini (Lina Pervan's brother)
Robert Gandini (Lina Pervan's brother)
Connie Bangart (Lina Pervan's friend)
Peter & Elaine Dillon
(Vivienne Price's father & mother)
Patricia Jenkins (Thel Jolley's cousin)
Roslyn Morton (Patrick's sister)
Simon Riethmuller (Shirley's son)
Max Shearer (Grandson - Judy
Shearer)
John Mullen (Helen McNaught's
nephew)
Archie Mullen (Helen McNaught's
brother)
Rev. Brian Sparksman
Fr Peter McGrath .CP
John Morgan (Kathy Sternes Uncle)
Veronica Grinke (Friend &
neighbour of Kathryn & Paul
Marangelli)
Molly Schmidt (Aileen Collins' friend)

ANNIVERSARIES

Andrew Clark Darcy O'Reilly
Carl Erbs Liam O'Reilly
Pam Griffin
Rev. Fr William Hall
Bridget Walsh
Janet Taylor
Anthony Volmer
Molly Walsh
Rex Murphy
Brian Walsh
Helen Armagnacq
John Carroll

MASSES

READINGS

BAPTISM

MON	NO MASS
TUE	NO MASS
WED	9am MASS
THU	NO MASS
FRI	9am MASS
SAT	6pm MASS
SUN	9.30am MASS

RECONCILIATION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE MASS OR BY APPOINTMENT

If you require a Gluten Free host, please advise the coordinator.

The Baptism of the Lord Year A
First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7
 Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.
Responsorial Psalm: 28:1-4,9-10
 The Lord will bless his people with peace.
Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38
 God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.
Gospel Acclamation: Mark 9:8
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
 Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17
 When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.
Next week's readings.
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Isaiah 49:3,5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

Baptisms are celebrated on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month either during Mass at 9.30am or after Mass at 11.00am.



Consolation Message

May the gates of heaven open up to reveal strength and comfort in your times of trial and sorrow.
God will comfort you.



REFLECTION

The baptism of Jesus inaugurates his ministry as the anointed one of God. The passage from Isaiah indicates the kind of messiah he will be. He will not exercise harsh justice, nor will he wield the sword of vengeance on the battlefield. He will be a servant, who, though mighty is gentle; one chosen by God, yet committed to the needy and the marginal; the Son of God who attends to the least within the community. The messiah of God may have come from an insignificant village like Nazareth, but he was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. The messiah of God does not conform to the expectations of a proud and self-absorbed society. Filled with the Spirit of God, he acts out of a gentle, compassionate spirit.

For whom did the messiah of God come? For those whom society discarded. He came for people who are broken and suffering, for those who are blind or imprisoned. He came for people who are so easily pushed to the margins – the homeless, the unemployed, the abandoned children, the helpless elderly, the mentally and chronically ill. He also came to people who, like Cornelius, do not belong to our inner circles, people who threaten us, people we might actually despise. He came for the strangers among us, those who have different cultural customs, those who worship in different ways. He came for people we have pushed out as well as for those we have refused to let in. The messiah of God came for all people without distinction.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of *The Bible Today* (1979-2005), *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (1990-2014), *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (1992-2001), *New Theology Review* (1997-2003), *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2003-2005), and *Chicago Studies* (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.

BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

Australia is currently facing an unprecedented bushfire crisis in many parts of the country. The Australian Bishops have announced that **special collections** will be taken at **Masses on Australia Day weekend** to support affected communities. They have also urged Catholics to pray constantly for those affected, for those fighting the fires and for an end to the bushfires.

To access prayer resources or for more information, visit www.catholic.org.au/bushfires



NOTICES

WHAT'S NEWS

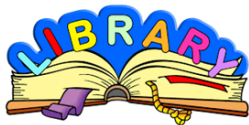
SOUND DESK VOLUNTEERS -CAN YOU HELP

Our worshipping community at St Theresa's values the contribution made by our volunteers who operate the sound desk, controlling sound and visuals. Recently with some families moving from our parish and various other commitments, we have lost some valuable members of the ministry who are available on Sundays. We are looking for teams of 2 to come on board and be part of this ministry. Training will be provided and an experienced person will lead you through during the initial masses that you are the sound desk operators. Please consider this ministry and contact the parish office by phone Ph:4639 4688 or email office@sttheresas.org.au or monica@sttheresas.org.au if you wish to belong to this ministry or have any questions about this ministry.



LIBRARY MINISTRY.

The library was started several years ago as a means of bringing spiritual reading matter to the members of the Parish.



What is its relevance today? Twice a month the Saturday evening crew manage the library, diligently putting out the stands.

However the number of people who use it, or even look at it, is very few.

Should we be looking at putting something on the Parish web page such as title names, or websites for prayer; and dispense with a hard copy library?

PLEASE give feed back through the suggestion box or to Monica ASAP so we can plan for 2020. The last week for library this year will be 7/8th December as it closes for school Christmas break.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: LOCAL LISTENING & DISCERNMENT

Date: 15/2/20 Saturday
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Where: To be confirmed dependent on numbers. The event will be held in Toowoomba.

A gathering is on offer to people interested in participating in the Listening and Discernment Phase for the Plenary Council but have missed this opportunity in their parish or agency.

Register your interest at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSY83FC> Registration will be open until 31/1/20, at this time people will be notified of venue.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Mary Otto on 0447 074 807 or email rcia@twb.catholic.org.au.



AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

To celebrate Australia day and to raise funds for the bushfire crisis, St Theresa's parish community will join together in fellowship

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY SUPPER AFTER MASS

After 6pm Mass join in some supper of Tim Tams and lamingtons with tea and coffee.



Australia Day

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY SPECIAL MORNING TEA

After 9.30am mass, have a tea and damper morning tea.

A donation box will also be provided with all funds going to the bushfire crisis appeal.



All are welcome.

Let's celebrate our culturally diverse nation.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Thank you to all the members of the Children's Liturgy team. We have had a wonderful response from the children and families within our parish. There will be no children's liturgy over the Christmas holiday break.

Children's liturgy will commence again on Sunday 9 February 2020.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us. If you are interested, please contact Monica at the office Ph.: 4639 4688

JOHN WALLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton:

When: 8 March at 2pm

Where: St Theresa's Parish Centre
Cnr Curzon & Campbell Sts, Toowoomba.

For enquiries or bookings contact Sr Mary Cleary 4634 9786, marycleary5@bigpond.com

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE APPEAL

Thank you to all who so generously donated to this year's appeal. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Also thank you to Joann Hodal who has once again organised and coordinated the appeal. This year there were a record number of 120 packages, thank you.



CONTACTS

Parish Priest:

Fr Brian Noonan ph:4696 7094
e-mail: brian.noonan@sttheresas.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monica Brennan
Ph.: 4639 4688 Fax 4639 6538
e-mail: monica@sttheresas.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Janet Weier
Ph.: 4639 4688 Fax: 4639 6538
e-mail: office@sttheresas.org.au

Church: Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts, Toowoomba

Office: 55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba

Parish Website www.sttheresas.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Brian Noonan, Michael Murtagh, Tim Burgess, Gay Jorgensen, Vanessa Horton, Bernadette Zimbwa, Gailene Jurgs, Matt Boyd, David Wilson, Monica Brennan.

Finance Committee

Fr. Brian Noonan, Pat Morton, Warren Dredge, Ray Taylor, Shane Blakeley, Brian Wilson, Pat Richardson, Alfia Ginardi.

Liturgy Team

Fr. Brian Noonan, Jan Mayo, Peter Kenny, Carole Rogan, Libby Rosentreter, Monica Brennan, Suzanne Cavanagh.

Musicians

Norma Kenny, Kathy Sternes, Elizabeth Stewart, Libby Rosentreter.

Baptism Team:

Cath Kelly, Jenny Ryan, Tracy George, Bernadette Hede, Alison Daniel, Anne Anderson, Jan Watkins, Maureen Burke, Angela Irvine, Mary Otto, Jane Burgess, Catherine Cooper.

Sacramental Team:

Monica Brennan, Vanessa Horton, David Wilson, Gay Jorgensen.

Consolation Team:

Fr Brian Noonan, Lyn McRae, Peter Kenny, Bette Flamsteed, Pam Merritt, Alf Mason, Moya Schaefer, Josephine Nolan, Liz Phelan, Monica Brennan

Welcome & Hospitality Team:

Paul & Kathryn Marangelli, Carole Rogan, Maureen Burke.

Family Groups:

Contact Parish Office 4639 4688

Care & Concern Team

Coordinator: Pamela Merritt

RCIA

Coordinator: David Wilson



NOTICE

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY

Wednesday **12 January 9am** Morning mass
re-commences
Friday **24 January 9am** Mater Dei staff opening
mass with parish
Sunday **26 January** Australia Day
Special Tea and Damper morning tea
after 9.30am Mass
Monday **27 January** Australia Day public holiday
Parish office closed.



PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE AND DROUGHT:

Eternal God,
In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life.
We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our fire-ravaged and drought-stricken land, on our starving and displaced animals, on our failing crops and burning farms, towns and forests. Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. Strengthen and comfort the victims of the fires, those who have lost family, friends, property and stock. Protect our volunteer firefighters and all members of essential services.
In your loving providence, send abundant rain to quench the fires and to restore our parched earth. Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.
Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.

Second & Fourth Tuesdays /month

St Vincent de Paul St Theresa's
Conference, 4pm, Contact 0408 808 437

First Tuesday/month

Care and Concern Meeting, 9.30am Parish Office.

First Wednesday /month

Parish morning tea at 9.45am, Cobb & Co Museum

Second Sunday

Mad Toowoomba Group from 7.00pm at
St Anthony's. Parish Centre.
(Grade 7-12 people) PH: 4636 0461

