

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

24 MAY 2020

ASCENSION

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.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

'I am with you always.'

Today is a strange feast. A celebration of a real absence and a real presence. The Galilean Jesus of Nazareth as known by his disciples is no longer with us. This historical Jesus is absent and today acknowledges that absence. And yet, the Risen Christ known to those of faith continues to be a living presence in our midst. This is the real presence we celebrate today.

The graphic story of Jesus' Ascension is found only in Luke's Gospel where the Jesus of history is carried up to heaven and so begins a second phase as the Spirit empowers the community to continue the mission of Jesus. Luke then opens his second volume, The Acts of the Apostles with this same experience of the Ascension, followed by the coming of the Spirit during the Jewish Festival of Pentecost. This is Luke's perspective.

Matthew's theology is different. There is no description of Jesus leaving, in fact Matthew's Gospel ends with the promise of Jesus, 'I am with you always'. These words 'I am with you' echo the words spoken to Joseph when Jesus' birth is first announced, 'He shall be called Emmanuel – a name that means *God-is-with-us*.' The entire Gospel is framed by this image of God-with-us. This is who Jesus is for the first disciples, and this is who Jesus is for all who continue in their footsteps.

Matthew's Jesus is modelled on the great Jewish prophet and teacher Moses, which is evident in this scene. Where the followers of Moses were those within Israel, Jesus commands that discipleship now be extended to 'all nations'. God's covenant with Israel is now open to all people.

Where belonging to Israel was sealed with the ritual of circumcision, Jesus gives his disciples a new ritual for those who would belong to his community, namely, the ritual of baptism. Where Judaism was founded on the teaching and Law of Moses, the community of Christians is founded on the teaching of Jesus.

You might recall that in Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.' (Matt 5:17-18) But in Matthew's account of the crucifixion there are signs that mark the end of the world. There is an earthquake and the tombs open and those once dead return to life. For Matthew the Cross marks the passing away of heaven and earth and the beginning of a new age. Jesus' commission to his disciples establishes the membership, the initiation ritual, and the ethic for a new community in the new age. A community for 'all nations,' who participate in one baptism and follow the teaching of Jesus.

These final words of Matthew's Gospel I find most encouraging. We are told that when the disciples saw Jesus, some worshipped him, but some still doubted. This small nucleus of the Christian community holds both people of faith and disciples with room to doubt. This is the community who, in spite of its frailty hears the words, 'I am with you always.'

Let us be heartened by these words of a God who continues to be with us, even in our failings.

© Mary Coloe

ST THERESA'S MASSES ON YOUTUBE—new time slot

Wednesday mass each week is available on our YouTube channel at 9.30 am.

Our YouTube channel is available on this link. Just click on the link printed here to access directly. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKTEMLMUB7sC4kfQ4V9oQ7Q>

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there,

And unite myself wholly to you.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Barry Erbacher (Mary Kearney's Uncle)

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

Francois Frichot **Len Pauli**

Neville Preece

Moya Schaefer

Brian Carter

Friends and Family

Kim Ireland (Kathy Sternes friend)

Peter Brown (Denis Brown's Brother)

Kate Sturgeon (Rita Sturgeon's Granddaughter)

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 Bamgart (Lina Pervan's friend)

Peter & Elaine Dillon

(Vivienne Price's father & mother)

Patricia Jenkins

(Thel Jelley'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)

Molly Schmidt (Aileen Collins' friend)

ANNIVERSARIES

Hilda White **Alan Mayo**

Craig Bosley **Mary Kreis**

Terry Ahern **Barry Doyle**

Cecelia Lyons **Carmel Cross**

Mary Minogue **Mary Murphy**

Stella Jeppesen **Nancy Wilson**

Gerard Carroll

Timothy Brady

Deborah Leigh Gordon

Ellen Elizabeth Blackie

Ascension It's been 40 days since Easter Sunday, it is Ascension Day: the risen Lord is 'rising upwards.' So let's recall what Matthew says about this day .

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Gospel **Mt 28:16-20**

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS Today we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven, which took place 40 days after Easter. The Gospel passage, which concludes the Gospel of Matthew, presents the moment of the Risen One's final farewell to his disciples. The scene is set in Galilee, the place where Jesus had called them to follow him and to form the first nucleus of his new community. Now those disciples have traversed the "fire" of the Passion and of the Resurrection; at the visit of the Risen Lord they prostrate themselves before him, although some remain doubtful. Jesus gives this frightened community the immense task of evangelizing the world; and he reinforces this responsibility with the command to teach and baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' Ascension into heaven thus constitutes the end of the mission that the Son received from the Father and the beginning of the continuation of this mission on the part of the Church. From this moment, from the moment of the Ascension, in fact, Christ's presence in the world is mediated by his disciples, by those who believe in him and proclaim him. This mission will last until the end of history and every day will have the assistance of the Risen Lord, who assures: "I am with you always, to the close of the age".

His presence brings strength during persecution, comfort in tribulations, support in the difficult situations that the mission and the proclamation of the Gospel will encounter. The Ascension reminds us of Jesus' assistance and of his Spirit that gives confidence, gives certainty to our Christian witness in the world. He reveals to us the reason for the Church's existence: the Church exists to proclaim the Gospel, for this alone! So too, the joy of the Church is proclaiming the Gospel. The Church is all of us baptized people. Today we are called to better understand that God has given us the great dignity and responsibility of proclaiming him to the world, of making him accessible to all mankind. This is our dignity; this is the greatest honour of each one of us, of all the baptized! On this Feast of the Ascension, as we turn our gaze toward heaven, where Christ has ascended and sits at the right hand of the Father, we strengthen our steps on earth so as to continue our journey — our mission of witnessing to and living the Gospel in every environment — with enthusiasm and courage. However, we are well aware that this does not depend first and foremost on our strengths, on our organizational abilities or human resources. Only with the light and strength of the Holy Spirit can we effectively fulfil our mission of leading others to know and increasingly experience Jesus' tenderness. Let us ask the Virgin Mary to help us contemplate the heavenly benefits that the Lord promises us, and to become ever more credible witnesses to his Resurrection, to the true Life.

Prayers for the community

All: Jesus promises us that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we shall be his disciples to the ends of the earth. Let us pray to God for the grace to respond courageously to this challenge.

For the world-wide church, our local diocese and our parish. May we and the church at every level, continue to bear witness to the Gospel with grace and courage. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

For young Christians, that they will turn to God for strength, remembering that Jesus is at their side at all times. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

For our parish community, that it may be inspired by the joy and hope of Christ's Ascension into heaven. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

For all those who are sick, that God may be their strength and grant them good health and also bless all those who care for them. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

For the gift of spiritual alertness, that we may always be aware of God's presence in our lives and in the lives of others. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer**

Pray for your own intentions. **Together we pray the Our Father**

Final prayer and Blessing

Through the resurrection of his Son, God has redeemed us and made us his children.

May the Lord bless us with joy and fill us with fruits of the Spirit.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS- FEAST DAY 24 MAY

From the Australian Catholic Bishops 2020

"The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord."

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Australians' lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day next week ... Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on May 24, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension. The entrustment of Australia to Mary Help of Christians can therefore take place on the 24th or the 25th, the bishops agreed.



O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

24 / 25 May 2020

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

A special ecumenical prayer service will be live streamed from St Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will stream from 9:00am 27/5/20 (Wednesday) from [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Website](#).



LAUDATO SI' WEEK

The 16th to 24th May is Laudato Si' Week to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical (the 24th is the anniversary date). Caritas has created a collection of nature-based activities for the whole family that seeks to encourage a shared sense of awe and contemplation about nature,

leading to a renewed sense of commitment and action towards the protection of the planet and people. These activities take into consideration the current pandemic circumstances, including restricted movements from the home, and the burdens of home learning and working from home responsibilities. These activities are a gentle way in which families can take some time to connect with nature and each other. [The new resource can be found on Caritas' website as a PDF.](#)



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S MENTORING INTERVIEW SERIES

Catholic Women's Mentoring are excited to be launching an interview series in the near future.

But before they do, they'd love your input...

- ☐ Who are some Catholic women in Australia you would like to see interviewed?
- ☐ What format would you prefer? A recorded video interview or a Live video you can watch in real time
- ☐ What are some topics you'd like to see covered?

[Visit Catholic Women's Mentoring Facebook Page to have your say and get future updates on the series.](#)



A BLESSING FOR YOU AT THIS ASCENSION TIME

*In the leaving, in the letting go, let there be this to hold onto at the last:
the enduring of love, the persisting of hope, the remembering of joy,
the offering of gratitude, the receiving of grace, the blessing of peace.
By Jan Richardson*



CONTACTS

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Office: 55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba

Parish Website www.sttheresas.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Brian Noonan, Michael Murtagh, Tim Burgess,
Bernadette Zimbwa, Gailene Jurgs, Matt Boyd, David
Wilson, Trish Kennedy-Lee, Lauren Newman,
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, Libby
Rosentreter, Monica Brennan, Gay Jorgensen.
Suzanne Cavanagh, Elizabeth Stewart.

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, Angela Martlew, David Wilson,
Gay Jorgensen.

Consolation Team:

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

Welcome & Hospitality Team:

Paul & Kathryn Marangelli,
Maureen Burke.

Family Groups:

Contact Parish Office 4639 4688

Care & Concern Team

Coordinator: Pamela Merritt

RCIA

Coordinator: David Wilson



NOTICE

DAILY MASSES ON LINE

St Theresa's East Toowoomba—Mass Wednesday
Available at 9.30am through our youtube channel—St Theresa's
East Toowoomba. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKTEMLMUB7sC4kfQ4V9oQ7Q>

Archdiocese of Brisbane - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast-schedule/> **8 am Mass daily**

Diocese of Townsville – www.tsv.catholic.org.au or
[youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV](https://www.youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV) **10am Mass daily**

Diocese of Rockhampton – www.rok.catholic.net.au or
[Youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton](https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton) **12noon Mass daily**

Diocese of Cairns - www.cairns.catholic.org.au OR [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdioceseofcairns) **Diocese of Cairns 5.30pm Mass daily**

Archdiocese of Sydney – www.stmarycathedral.org.au
9am Mass daily – at the Cathedral.

See website for other parish masses

Archdiocese of Melbourne – www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass
1pm Daily Mass Monday-Friday – any changes of times can be
viewed on website.

8am Daily Mass Saturday

SUNDAY MASSES ON LINE

Toowoomba Diocese – www.twb.catholic.org.au

9am Mass each Sunday available through direct link via home
page on web site OR search youtube – Catholic Diocese of
Toowoomba OR Facebook- Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

Archdiocese of Brisbane - <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast-schedule/> **8am and 10am Mass each Sunday**

Diocese of Townsville – www.tsv.catholic.org.au or
[youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV](https://www.youtube.com/user/SacredHeartCathTSV) **10am Mass each Sunday**

Diocese of Rockhampton – www.rok.catholic.net.au or
[Youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton](https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton) **9.30am Mass each Sunday**

Diocese of Cairns - www.cairns.catholic.org.au OR [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdioceseofcairns) **Diocese of Cairns 10am and 5.30pm each Sunday**

Archdiocese of Sydney – www.stmarycathedral.org.au
10.30 am Mass daily - at the Cathedral.

See website for other parish masses

5pm Liturgy of the Hours – Vespers and Benediction

Archdiocese of Melbourne – www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass
11am Mass each Sunday

PLANNED GIVING ST THERESA'S

We have had a number of enquiries from parishioners
asking how they can pay their Planned Giving contributions.

One way is to make a Direct Deposit if you wish.

The bank details are listed below.

CBA: Arch Diocese of Brisbane

BSB:064 786 Account Number: 100014392

Please reference your envelope number if you have one.

If you have transferred funds to the

account listed last week, can you

please contact Janet at the office

PH: 4639 4688



OTHER RESOURCE SITES WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED DURING THIS TIME OF ISOLATION

MyParishApp

Visit myparishapp.com to download our parish app.

1. Download myParish App
2. Select St Theresa's Toowoomba after opening the App
and you will receive the bulletin, messages and other useful
resources.

LiturgyHelp

LiturgyHelp have created free access to individual and
family prayer resources for Catholics in social isolation.

1. Go to liturgyhelp.com/aus/pray. Once you have
gone to this site, follow the directions to create a login.
2. Liturgyhelp also have a facebook page which you can
access if you are a facebook user.