



THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

25-26 NOVEMBER 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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.

Reflection

The Roman Emperor Constantine was baptised in 337. He put it off for years.

In the early Church Christians could only confess their sins once in their lives, so Constantine remained a catechumen until he was nearing the end. When he thought his death was imminent, and that he could probably sin no more, he asked for baptism, received Holy Communion and later confessed his sins. It was a watershed moment for the Church.

In 313 Constantine declared that Christianity was to be the new state religion. No one could hold any other belief. It was meant to unify the Empire as trade, law, taxation and Roman culture had done. I think we should admit that this move has been a mixed blessing for the Church ever since.

On the positive side of the ledger, it finally sealed the end of the persecution of the earliest Christians. The blood of the martyrs had been so eloquent that their witness caused even a few emperors to ask what sort of love would see so many followers be prepared to die for their beliefs. It also saw the Church become a significant player in shaping the values of society, especially in the West. There is no question that Christianity moderated, cultivated and humanised some of the worst Roman excesses.

On the cost side, the Church became very powerful very quickly. Bishops started to wear the purple robes of the senators. Churches took on the shape of the Roman basilicas, while the government of the Church mirrored that of the Empire. Our liturgy imported all sorts of practices that were popular in the Roman temples. Tragically, for the next few hundred years, conversions were demanded at the end of a sword. No religious dissent or pluralism was tolerated. It's in this context that Islam arises against Imperial Christianity in the 6th Century.

It cannot surprise us that after Constantine's conversion the image of Christ the King becomes one of the most popular ones used in religious art. Up to this time the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was the most represented. After 313, however, Jesus is dressed in royal robes, with a crown, sceptre and orb. Mary is often presented in similar dress and starts to be called the Queen of Heaven. The problem with all this is not that imperial language was now being used in reference to Jesus. He described himself as a King. The problem comes in how Christianity starts to forget that Jesus also pointed out that his kingdom was 'not of this world' and that his courtiers could be recognised by how they feed the hungry, water the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit prisoners. Jesus' reign, and his courtiers, are of an altogether different order to that usually prized in worldly kingdoms.

That's why today's feast is so important. On the last day of the Church's year we are challenged by Christ our King to give our true allegiance to what really matters. Not ambition, greed, status and power, but the quiet revolutionary work of making the world a more just and peaceful place for everyone to live.

To the degree that we do this we are co-heirs to the Kingdom Jesus lived, died and was raised for, and we are witnesses to the real meaning of Christ's reign in our lives.

© Richard Leonard SJ

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

Susan Quirk

June Murphy

Brian Carter

Peter Conaghan

Anne Thomas

Glenda Walsh

Friends and Family

Madeline (Sally) Gray

(Kathy Sternes' Mother)

Mary Gleeson (Anne McNally's sister)

Geraldine Hurley (Gay Jorgensen's Sister)

Iain Bruce (Rylee & Joseph Hunt's Grandad)

Jennifer Fogarty

(Beverley Patterson's Friend)

Di Winterton

Erica Armagnacq (Bill Armagnacq's Daughter in Law)

Margaret Chiesa

Janette Ansell (Patricia Stevens sister)

Will Wildig (Meg Hicks' Brother in Law)

Geoff Doyle (Mary Otto's brother)

Anna O'Toole (Maryanne Long's friend)

Phil Connolly (Glen & Bernadette Whisson's friend)

Shona Kraayvanger

(Gabrielle Adam's daughter)

Indiana Harman

(Ray & Madeline Taylor's Granddaughter)

Louis Gandini (Lina Pervan's brother)

Connie Bamgart (Lina Pervan's friend)

Simon Riethmuller (Shirley's son)

Max Shearer (Grandson - Judy Shearer)

John Mullen (Helen McNaught's nephew)

Fr Peter McGrath .CP

Molly Schmidt (Aileen Collins' friend)

Peter Brown (Denis' brother)

The Dowling Family

ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce Luck

James Brady

Anne Sutton

Michael Walsh

Patricia Parsons

Noel McMahon

Craig Page

Ron Ryan

Francis Sewell

Molly Daniel

Joe Short

St Theresa's Parish

MASSSES

MON	NO MASS
TUE	NO MASS
WED	9AM MASS
THU	NO MASS
FRI	9.30 AM MASS William Morris Centre
SAT	6PM VIGIL
SUN	9.30AM MASS
If you are Gluten intolerant and require a special host, please advise the coordinator.	

READINGS

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe Year A

First Reading: *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17*
You, my flock. I judge between sheep
and sheep.

Responsorial Psalm: *PS 22:1-3,5-6*
The Lord is my shepherd: there is
nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: *Corinthians 15:20-28*
He will hand over the kingdom to God
the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name
of the Lord! Blessings on the coming
kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 25: 31-46*

He will take his seat on the throne of
glory, and he will separate men one from
another.

Next week's readings: 1st Sunday of Advent Year B

Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 33-37

NOTICES

BAPTISMS

This week we welcome into
our parish

Evangeline Collins Cameron
through the Sacrament of
Baptism



Congratulations to

Angelina Nunes-Killoran

who will receive the
Sacrament of
First Reconciliation this
weekend.



WELCOME BACK BJ

Welcome back BJ... he'll be back with us now until Christmas Day. Your presence has been missed.

Here is a note from BJ to share with the community

"I have had diverse and rich experiences since I left the parish, but I ask that people kindly refrain from asking the question 'How was your retreat?' Any answer I could possibly give wouldn't do justice to the experience nor to the intimate and personal nature of the retreat. But I am happy to speak about the retreat centre, other retreatants, the spiritual exercises, and other related questions. I look forward to being back with you!" BJ.

Pope Francis Focus

'May Jesus teach us this logic,' said Pope Francis after reflecting on this passage. As we reach the end of another liturgical year, Matthew's Gospel is clear about the questions Christians must ask themselves: Did we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, or welcome the stranger? Have we shared our goods and our time with those who need them?

These questions must also, the Pope makes clear, help the Church measure its mission. When reorganising the Roman Curia in 2022 the Pope cited this passage. He wrote 'that our duty is, in imitation of Christ, to serve our brothers and sisters, especially those in greatest need, and that Christ's face is seen in the face of every man and woman, particularly those who suffer in any way.'

The Pope similarly mentioned this chapter of Matthew during another renewal initiative: the 2023 session of the Synod in Rome. The faithful People of God, he said he liked to think, were called together by the Beatitudes and this chapter of Matthew. After all, the questions to Jesus that elicited this important teaching were all in the plural.

It is not only me and you who have to find Christ in the needy but all of us, together. © Nick Brodie

ACCOMMODATION SOUGHT

Mature Catholic Primary Teacher relocating to Toowoomba
seeking to rent Granny Flat/Private Accommodation Dec 2023/ Jan 2024
References available.

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany
he flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



St Theresa's Parish

DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday so on 24 December, the morning mass is 4th Sunday of Advent and then in the afternoon we celebrate Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.
As St Theresa's shares Fr. Brian with St Mary MacKillop Parish Highfields, some decisions needed to be made so that Fr. Brian did not exhaust himself over that weekend.

At our recent Parish Council meeting, it was decided, in consultation with Fr. Brian, that St Theresa's would have a Vigil Mass on 23 December and no morning mass on 24 December for the 4th Sunday of Advent. St Theresa's would then have a 6pm Vigil mass Christmas Eve and 8.30am Mass on Christmas Day.

This will enable Fr. Brian to celebrate 8am Mass on Sunday 24 December at Highfields and then 4pm Christmas Eve vigil mass at Highfields before needing to drive into Toowoomba. Highfields will then have 7am Mass on Christmas day.

ST. THERESA'S PARISH CENTRE

<u>4th Sunday of Advent:</u>	Saturday 23 December	6pm Vigil Mass
<u>4th Sunday of Advent:</u>	<i>Sunday 24 December</i>	<i>NO MASS 9.30am</i>
<u>Christmas Eve:</u>	Sunday 24 December	6pm Vigil Mass
<u>Christmas Day:</u>	Monday 25 December	8.30am Mass

MARY MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE CENTRE

<u>4th Sunday of Advent:</u>	<i>Sunday 24 December</i>	8.00am Mass
<u>Christmas Eve:</u>	Sunday 24 December	3.45 pm Carols
<u>Christmas Day:</u>	Monday 25 December	4 pm Vigil Mass
		7.00am Mass

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS

Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Date: 1/12/23 Friday

Time: 6:30pm

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba

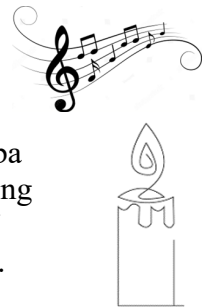
Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Toowoomba. Buy your tickets now to discover the music of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Hans Zimmer at the Cathedral under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Best of Hans Zimmer

Date: 1/12/23 Friday

Time: 8:30pm

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba



CHRISTMAS MASSES ROSTER



Christmas Mass rosters are available in the foyer.
Volunteers are asked to write their name against the ministry which they would like to be involved in on the sheet provided.

There is only one mass on Christmas eve and one mass on Christmas day.

We will need help adding extra chairs into the parish centre.

Hopefully we can do this on Friday.

Please let the office know if you are able to help with the chairs on Friday 22 December.



PASTORAL CARE: CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CEREMONY

Date: 17/12/23 Sunday **Time:** 2:30pm **Where:** Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance

Each year leading up to Christmas, we take time to remember the young lives our families have loved and lost. Families are invited to bring a decoration to place on the Christmas tree in memory of a loved one. A warm welcome is extended to families who would like to attend. For further details contact Toowoomba Hospital Pastoral Care 07 4616 6415.

St Theresa's Parish

CONTACTS

Parish Priest:

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

Pastoral Associate

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

Parish Secretary:

Janet Weier
Ph.: 4639 4688
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, Tim Burgess, Matt Boyd, David Wilson, Kath Doherty, Trish Kennedy-Lee, Glen/Bernadette Whisson, Greg Hallam, Elizabeth Curtis, Monica Brennan, David Rogan,

Finance Committee

Fr. Brian Noonan, Warren Dredge, Ray Taylor, Shane Blakeley, Pat Richardson, Tim Burgess.

Liturgy Team

Fr. Brian Noonan, Jan Mayo, Peter Kenny, Peter Nolan, Monica Brennan, Gay Jorgensen, Elizabeth Stewart.

Musicians

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

Baptism Team:

Jenny Ryan, Tracy George, Bernadette Hede, Anne Anderson, Jan Watkins, Jane Burgess, Catherine Cooper, Tracy Stinson, Elizabeth Curtis, Monica Brennan

Sacramental Team:

Monica Brennan, Kathy Doherty, David Wilson, Gay Jorgensen.

Consolation Team:

Fr Brian Noonan, Peter Kenny, Josephine Nolan, Monica Brennan

Welcome & Hospitality Team:

Paul & Kathryn Marangelli,
Maureen Burke.

Family Groups:

Contact Parish Office 4639 4688

Care & Concern Team

Coordinator: Damian Carroll

RCIA

Coordinator: David Wilson
0451 131 849



NOTICE

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR DECEMBER

Friday	1 December Mass 9.30am in William Morris Centre at Mater Dei. All welcome
Friday	1 December School year ends Catholic Schools
Saturday	2 December Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday	2 December St Theresa's Catholic Prayers and Communion 9.30am Infin8
Sunday	3 December Season of Advent begins Parish Morning Tea
Wednesday	6 December Parish Office closed
Friday	8 December End of School Year State Schools
Sunday	10 December Spanish Mass 5pm
Wednesday	13 December Parish Office closed
Friday	15 December Infin8 St Theresa's Healing Mass 10.30am Catholic Residents - Christmas Theme
Wednesday	20 December Advent Reconciliation Liturgy 6pm
Monday	25 December Christmas Day

SYCHAR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

You are warmly invited to the Sychar Christmas Gathering which will take a different format this year. An introductory prayer session will be followed by an opportunity to walk the labyrinth in candlelight and/or to share light refreshments in the company of friends.

WHEN: Wednesday 13 December 2023 4.00 pm for prompt 4.30 pm start

WHERE: SYCHAR (House of Prayer and Spirituality)
69 Margaret Street, Toowoomba

RSVP: 8 December 2023

(preferably by email to sycharhouse@outlook.com

Contributions to shared refreshments

(savory or sweet finger food) would be appreciated.

Refer to flyer in the foyer.



Care & Concern Meeting

Care & Concern Meeting Monday 11 December @ 3pm

Second & Fourth Tuesday of the Month

St Vincent de Paul St Theresa's

Conference, 4pm, Contact 0408 808 437

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

