



THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

9-10 DECEMBER 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

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.

Two Gospels

An inscription has been found dating back to nine years before Jesus of Nazareth was born. It celebrates the birthday of the Emperor Augustus whom it describes as a god and announces that his birth was the beginning of 'gospel' (good news) for the world.

Around the mid 60s, in the midst of a terrible persecution of Christians in Rome, a document was written by St Mark which took aim squarely at this pretension of such Roman Emperors. It has a title which announces itself: 'Beginning of the "gospel" (good news) about Jesus, Christ, the Son of God.'

St Mark is telling us that a great contest is going to unfold between the emperors of this world and the figure of Jesus. And the superior Gospel will be that of Jesus because he *is* the Christ, he *is* Son of God. There will be a battle as to who will reign over the world, a battle which will not be won by overwhelming military power but with ... with what, by whom? Here, St Mark immediately introduces the strange figure of John the Baptist to start to supply the answer. He was a man living in dire poverty scavenging for the honey of wild bees and eating grasshoppers. He attracted quite a following to the River Jordan where he would immerse his disciples in water. The Greek word for plunging someone into water is 'baptiseo'. So John was called, 'John the Immerser', or 'John the Drencher' = 'John the Baptist'.

But John realised that the baptism he performed was only half the story. It symbolised the washing away of sins. It put the past in the past and prepared his followers for the future, but he could not bring about that future. John knew he did not have the power to effect a completely new future for humanity.

But what if someone came on the scene who *could* inundate people, flood their lives with Divine Power? John's baptism would pale by comparison. This is why John says: 'Someone is following me, someone more powerful than I am ... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

There is someone who can immerse, dip, drench people in the Holy Spirit, in the dynamic life of God. John does not identify the 'Someone', but we know that the 'Someone' is the One announced in the heading: 'Jesus Christ, Son of God'.

He is the One who will inaugurate the reign of God, and the reign of the Emperor will be superseded. That is *the* Good News. That is *the* Gospel.

There is a superior dynamism at work in human history: the Holy Spirit. Christians have been immersed in that Spirit when they were baptised as the Lord commanded, '... in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The emperors of this world, over the centuries and even today, the emperors of this world: political supremos, social elites, financial overlords, force or brainwash people to do them homage, to bend the knee, like Augustus, to treat them as gods. But there is a worldwide community with a different allegiance. Sometimes, actually quite often, we need to remember that we are a worldwide community of dissidents: a worldwide community which sees that most emperors have no clothes. This is the worldwide community baptised into 'the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' This Spirit-filled community, the Church at its best, introduces a new dynamic into human history.

That is bad news for most emperors. It is very good news, very good Gospel for the whole world, for the whole of human history.

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HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

Susan Quirk	
June Murphy	Anne Thomas
Brian Carter	Glenda Walsh
Peter Conaghan	

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

Mick Grayndler

Gordon Walton

Michael Butler

Jack Hurley

Bernadette Gleeson

Ann Lowe

Harold Humphrey

Dale Hutchens

Russell Weber

Lionel Risson

Bill Schaefer

Rose Wilson

Mollie Pauli-Meadows

St Theresa's Parish

MASSSES

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

READINGS

Second Sunday of Advent Year B

First Reading: *Isaiah 40: 1-5,9-11*
Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *PS 84: 9-14*
Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: *2 Peter 3:8-14*
We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people will see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel: *Mark 1: 1-8*
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Next week's readings: 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11
Luke: 1: 46-50, 53-54
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

NOTICES

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome into our parish

Hugh Cameron Krelle
Wilbur Peter Fraser-Krelle
&
Catalina Rodriguez-Letters
through the Sacrament of Baptism



Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of the month either during Mass at 9.30am or after Mass at 11.00am

ST THERESA'S ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Advent Reconciliation Liturgy
Wednesday 20 December at 6pm



DATE CLAIMER - FR. RICHARD LEONARD SJ

Living Liturgy: Being Sent Out on Mission to the World.

When: Wednesday 13 March 2024,

Where: Hanly Room St Stephen's Cathedral Brisbane
Further information & registration details available mid January

Any enquiries contact
Liturgy Brisbane on (07) 3324 3314.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER NEWSPAPER

From 2024 the print edition of the Catholic Leader will move to a subscription-only model.

Once you have subscribed, the paper will be conveniently delivered to your door each month. Subscribe now to take advantage of the special offer and also to go into a weekly prize draw! Call us on (07) 3324 3555 or log onto

<https://catholicleader.com.au/subscribe/>



ACBC RESOURCE: TO WITNESS AND TO ACCOMPANY WITH CHRISTIAN HOPE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has published a document to assist priests, chaplains and pastoral workers who are asked to provide pastoral support to Catholics who are considering euthanasia. In preparing the document, the bishops consulted widely with a range of people, including theologians, ethicists, liturgists and medical doctors. The bishops have also worked with the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The document has been posted online at: <https://bit.ly/WitnessandAccompany>

POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



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 4 pm Vigil Mass
<u>Christmas Day:</u>	Monday 25 December	7.00am Mass

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.

SPRED VOLUNTEERS: Interested in volunteering?

A SPRED volunteer is someone like you. Contact SPRED for more info/register interest spred@twb.catholic.org.au, M: 0459 683 642, SPRED office: 4632 8427

Volunteer Formation Sessions are held in February each year.



WRITE FOR RIGHTS

11/12/23 @ 6:00pm, St Anthony's Community Centre 3 Memory St Tmba.

RSVP is optional but appreciated. Phil Armit parmit@optusnet.com.au or text 0411164973

Flyer on the noticeboard in the foyer



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

Sunday	10 December Maronite Mass with Fr Fadi Salami 11am St Anthony's Parish
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

