

# THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

3-4 FEBRUARY 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.*

## The Divine Touch

I recall that when Romania was liberated from Communist rule, the television showed heart-breaking scenes of malnourished children and young adolescents in orphanages. Generally, they lay listless on their beds or simply rocked backwards and forwards: isolated, solitary in a crowded dormitory.

It soon emerged that these youngsters were suffering from what we might call 'touch deprivation'. No-one had ever cuddled them, placed a comforting hand on their shoulder, caressed them. It was only when these things were done that they began to be healed, made human, brought to life because somebody said: 'Your body is precious, let me hug you'.

The persons who cuddled them were imitating Jesus in a profound and contemporary manner. What was the situation in today's Gospel?

Jesus had just recruited Simon and his brother, Andrew, to follow him as an itinerant preacher roaming around the countryside and towns of Galilee. They had abandoned the family business of fishing. When they paid a visit to Simon's home, they found Simon's mother-in-law sick in bed with such a fever she could be given up for dead. We read that Jesus, learning about her distressed state, went to her and 'took her by the hand'.

'Took her by the hand' – our Lord broke the taboo which forbade physical contact between a woman and a male who is not an immediate relative.

Why? Because he knew what she needed. Not 'an aspirin and a good lie down', but she needed to be reassured that she was not quarantined, isolated from family and friends. In reaching out and taking her by the hand and lifting her up, Jesus not only cured a pathology, but healed a dis-ease. She was ill at ease, feeling cut off from human society. Once healed, she got back to bustling around the house. Almost certainly you have seen Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It has as its centrepiece the act of the creation of humanity.

It depicts two great hovering figures. God is stretching out his hand and just touching the outstretched hand of Adam. The Divine touch brings the earth-creature, 'Adam' in the Hebrew, into a humanised relationship with God.

Jesus, the Divine person in the midst of the mess of human history, stretched out his hand and took Peter's mother-in-law by her hand, restoring her to a fully human sociable life, a life of relationships.

How is the Divine touch to be made real today?

Through the companions of those orphans in Romania.

Through you, Through me. He has no other way. You and I have to offer him our hands to reach out and heal.

We practise it symbolically at Mass at the greeting of Peace – and sometimes more than symbolically! There has been a bit of a fight in the family, some silly dispute which could fester. With a peck on the cheek or a half-embarrassed handshake along with 'Peace be with you', the isolating distance is overcome.

We need to take that symbolic action out into the world.

Through your outstretched hand. Extending your hand can make someone more fully human. *You* know who needs that healing touch. *You know* who is within your reach. Do it, and it may be the most touching thing you ever do.

In that person's life, it may be the touch of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

## RECENTLY DECEASED

**Fr Kevin Bates sm**

(Terry & Trish Sheely's friend)

## HEALING FOR THE SICK

### Parishioners:

**Susan Quirk**

**June Murphy**

**Anne Thomas**

**Brian Carter**

**Glenda Walsh**

**Peter Conaghan**

### Friends and Family

**Christine Gilshenan**

(Susanne Gilshenan's Sister)

**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)

**Erica Armagnacq** (Bill Armagnacq's Daughter in Law)

**Margaret Chiesa**

(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

**John Cartwright** **Dan Brady**

**Kath Mulheran** **Tony Arday**

**Elizabeth Long** **Greg Lyons**

**Ian McQuillan**

**Mercia Arnold**

**Kathleen Howe**

**Vera Flynn**

**Evelyn Schaefer**

**Ronald Cumming**

**Vince Shine**

**Neil Murdoch**

**Eric Howe**

# St Theresa's Parish

## MASSES

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

## READINGS

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**First Reading:** Job 7:1-4. 6-7  
Life is a drudgery.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3  
Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23  
Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1:29-39  
He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

**Next week's readings: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year B**  
*Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46*  
*1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1*  
*Mark 1:40-45*

## NOTICES

### BAPTISMS

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



### Condolence Message

**Day by day, we will let go of this loss, but we will never let go our love.**



### LENTEN PROGRAMS 2024

Orders for the two resources for individual reflection or group sharing have closed. If you missed ordering, there may be some extra copies as a few more were ordered of each program.

Presently, there are **3 Lenten groups** being offered using the program from **Wollongong Diocese: "Pietà"**. The groups will be **Mondays at 10am in Parish office, Wednesdays at 5.30pm in Parish office and Fridays at 9.30am (after mass) in the chapel.**

If others wish to meet at different times, please contact the parish office.

If groups wish to meet to use the Brisbane program "A Resurrected Life", please contact the parish office.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist will be celebrated in our parish in May and June.

Confirmation will be Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May and First Eucharist will be 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> June.

All children in year 4 or above including secondary students are invited to be part of the program.

Program Information Night is Wednesday, February 7th at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

Monica will be at the parish centre from 5.30pm.

Invitation letters and flyers are in the foyer, please take one if you are interested.

Our sacramental team members are Kathy Doherty, Gay Jorgensen, David Wilson and Monica Brennan.

If you have any enquiries, please contact a member of the team or contact the parish office on 4639 4688 or email [monica@sttheresas.org.au](mailto:monica@sttheresas.org.au)

### 2024 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The **World Day of Prayer** service this year will be held on **Friday 1st March 2024 at 10am** at **Middle Ridge Uniting Church, 264 Stenner Street.**

This year's theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another In Love" Ephesians 4:1-3 and the service has been prepared by Christian Women in Palestine.

You are invited to a **planning meeting** being held at **Middle Ridge Uniting Church on Friday 2nd February at 10am.** Please RSVP to [mruc@bigpond.com](mailto:mruc@bigpond.com) if you will attend the planning meeting.

Margaret Spinks from Middle Ridge Uniting Church is the contact person for this year. Please consider supporting this community as St Theresa's were well supported when we held the World Day of Prayer.

# St Theresa's Parish

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY HIGH TEA



St Mary MacKillop Parish Highfields is having a High Tea Fundraiser on Friday 8 March from 11.45am-3.30pm at the Highfields Cultural Centre. Cost \$85/ticket.

Please join us to listen to inspiring women from our local community while enjoying a glass of bubbles and a catered high tea. Funds raised will be donated to a local charity that supports women and to support our local parish. Bookings close Monday 4th March. The poster in the foyer also has the QR code for access to book tickets.



## BUS TRIP MARIAN VALLEY



**When:** Sunday 11th February. Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes  
 Bus departs Neil St, outside Cathedral @ 7:30am  
**Cost:** \$40pp  
**For bookings:** Contact Theresa on **0434 528 904**



**FIRST TERM SCHEDULE: 22 JANUARY – 28 MARCH 2024**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CLOSED	<p><b>Discovering the Lost Tradition of Mystical Christianity</b></p> <p>Seven sessions drawing inspiration from Richard Rohr's "The Naked Now".</p> <p>9.45 am for prompt 10.00 am start until 12.30 pm. 6 Feb – 19 March (Flyer available)</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Christian Meditation</b> 4.00 pm -4.45 pm</p>	<p><b>Chrysalis</b> 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm 31 January ff</p> <p>-----</p>	<p><b>Centering Prayer in the tradition of Fr Thomas Keating</b> 10.00 am – 11.00 pm. 8 February ff</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Quadratos</b></p> <p>3.30 – 5.00 pm 8 weekly sessions 1 February – 21 March</p> <p><b>Men Seeking Wisdom</b> 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm</p> <p>For information, contact</p> <p>Robie Jayawardhana  <a href="mailto:rjayawardhana@gmail.com">rjayawardhana@gmail.com</a>                      OR                      Jason Obst  <a href="mailto:Job70644@bigpond.net.au">Job70644@bigpond.net.au</a>                      OR                      Peter Nolan  <a href="mailto:nolan8@bigpond.com">nolan8@bigpond.com</a></p>	<p><b>Anam Cara</b> (a spiritual conversation group in the Ignatian tradition) weekly 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm 12 January 2024 ff</p> <p><b>Walking a Sacred Path of Being</b></p> <p>23 Feb 2024</p> <p>Iled by Sue Thomas (Spiritual Director, Veriditas Advanced Labyrinth Facilitator &amp; Trainer) 9.00 am for 9.30 am start until 2.30 pm.</p> <p>(Flyer available)</p>

## 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>

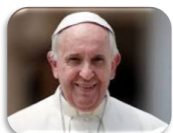
## **DATE CLAIMER - FR. RICHARD LEONARD SJ**



**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**



## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR 2024



**For the terminally ill**  
 We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.





# 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](http://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 FEBRUARY/MARCH

Saturday	<b>3 February</b> Prayer Liturgy with Communion Inif8 10.30am
Sat/Sun	<b>3-4 February</b> Mater Dei Teachers' Commissioning Ceremony during Masses
Wednesday	<b>7 February</b> Parent Information night Confirmation & 1st Eucharist 6pm
Sat/Sun	<b>10-11 February</b> Commitment Ceremony for Confirmation & 1st Eucharist Candidates
Sunday	<b>11 February</b> Local Launch of Project Compassion @ St Patrick's Cathedral, 9:00am Mass
Wednesday	<b>14 February</b> Ash Wednesday Mass St Theresa's celebrated with Mater Dei in Parish Centre @ 11.30am
Friday	<b>1 March</b> Mass Inif8 10.30am

### POSITION VACANT:

St Anthony's Parish is seeking applicants for the position of Administration Support Officer for up to 20 hrs/wk. Details are available on Seek.com or apply directly at the Parish Office. A full Position Description is available from the Parish Office – [admin@stanthonysparish.com.au](mailto:admin@stanthonysparish.com.au)  
<https://www.seek.com.au/job/73278289>

### RETREAT INVITATION

You are invited to a Retreat in March 2024  
*Refresh your faith*

Please join a retreat organized by St Vincent de Paul, but open to all parishioners, in the new year  
*Challenging, stimulating, contemporary*  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
The venue will be in Crow's Nest with opportunity to stay overnight, otherwise travel from home for one or both days.

More information will be provided at the end of January. Claim these dates NOW.

Ph: 0418 352 969      [ada.boland@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:ada.boland@svdpqld.org.au)

### Care & Concern Meeting

*Care & Concern Meeting Monday 12 February 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*

