

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

1—2 MARCH 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

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.

Gospel Reflection

This Sunday's short first reading comes from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, sometimes known as Sirach, because it was written by Ben Sirach the Wise. These brief four verses concern speech, a common theme in Wisdom literature, and indeed a problem known to peoples of all times and places: words or language can be the worst of things or the best of things.

Ben Sirach certainly knew this. He knew human speech to be the best of things: able to praise God and build others up. Yet he is also acquainted with the vagaries of human speech and, in many and varied places in his reflections, denounces all sins of speech: lies and gossip, thoughtless swearing, quarrels, and most of all, hypocrisy.

And yet, human speech has a power that can never be resisted for too long. Eventually, it will return to its proper use. Sooner or later, those who attempt to use speech to hide their thoughts or deceive others will be caught out in the snare of speech. They are unmasked by the very words they try to hide behind. And in this, we see the real measure of a person. We are not deceived by the golden-tongued lies of the liar: Do not praise a person before they have spoken, since this is the test of them.

Lest we think Ben Sirach's reflections are of little importance, it is good for us to remember that the act of speaking enjoys a privileged place in the pages of Sacred Scripture: God speaks...and the world comes into being. Unlike the dumb idols of the pagans, the words spoken by God are creative, bringing into being our world and all that is in it. Created in the image of God, we humans are gifted with speech. Despite the evil use we may make of it, speech retains the imprint of its divine origin. And so, speech will ultimately reveal the truth, whether we like it or not.

The section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain which we read this Sunday begins with a condemnation of those who seek to guide others: the blind cannot lead the blind! Jesus challenges his disciples to be fully trained like their master. When we look to Jesus as our Master, the example he gives to us is more than clear.

Then, using trees and fruit as an analogy, Jesus picks up this theme of the outward showing or even betraying what is going on deep inside of a person. Those who listened to Jesus for the first time would have been familiar with fruit trees growing wild in the countryside and also those under cultivation. If a tree is good and healthy, so will be its fruit. The converse is also true: rotten trees produce rotten fruit. To avoid the hypocrisy of which Jesus is so critical in this Gospel Reading, the intentions of our heart must be free of double-dealing and deceit.

Here, young children give us a good example. Often, in all innocence, a young child will speak the truth about another person or a situation, sometimes much to their parents' embarrassment or the discomfort of others. We might say that their filter is not turned on. The truth is a young child has yet to learn how to use language to dissemble or hide or lie. Sometimes those living with dementia have the same brutal honesty. The filters they once learned to use to hide behind or cover-up are now long gone. They speak the truth, however untimely or unpalatable it might be.

As disciples, we are called and challenged to be fully trained after the example of our Master, Jesus: free from hypocrisy, with child-like (not childish) simplicity and honesty in our dealings with others.

This Sunday, we stand on the threshold of Lent. A journey which asks us and challenges us to be free of hypocrisy and deceit. A journey which calls us once more to peel away the layers which encrust our hearts, so that they may be broken open once more to know the tender compassion of our God.

Doran, Anthony. "Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 2 March 2025." Pastoral Liturgy 55, no. 1 (2024): 1-5. <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy/vol55/iss1/22>

RECENTLY DECEASED

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

Merv Otto **Noel Murphy**
Susan Quirk **Anne Thomas**
Dr. Rob Rimmer **June Murphy**
Neil Lynch

Friends and Family

Jeanette Grant (Susanne Gilshenan's friend)
Ann Lowe (Susanne Gilshenan's friend)
Imogen Atkins (niece of Lelia Fallon)
Catherine Castelli (Pat Powell's sister)
Mary Relf (Pat Powell's Sister)
Naser (Mary Tanous' brother)
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)
Janette Ansell (Patricia Stevens sister)
Geoff Doyle (Mary Otto's brother)
Anna O'Toole (Maryanne Long's friend)
Phil Connolly (Glen & Bernadette Whisson's friend)
Ros Carlson (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)
Max Shearer (Grandson - Judy Shearer)
John Mullen (Helen McNaught's nephew)
Fr Peter McGrath .CP
Molly Schmidt (Aileen Collins' friend)

The Dowling Family

Samy Boulis (Sam Tanous' brother-in-law)
Kate Hopkins (friend of Good Samaritan College)
Marty Heysen (Meg Hicks' brother-in-law)

ANNIVERSARIES

Noreen Lalor **Josh Clark**
Bianca Ruffini **Tess Turner**
Marguerite River **Chris McNally**
Pat Nolan **Patricia Johnston**
Daniel Gainey **Barry Ridsdale**
Julie Canavan
Lyn Bailey
Daphne Smith
Joan Lalor
Nola Churchett
Anton 'Toni' Oberman

MASSES		READINGS	NOTICES
MON	NO MASS	<p>8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</p> <p>First Reading <i>Sirach 27:4-7</i> Speech shows state of mind.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm: <i>Ps 91:2-3, 13-16 R. v.2</i> Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.</p> <p>Second Reading <i>1 Corinthians 15:54-58</i> Death has no victory.</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!</p> <p>Gospel: <i>Luke 6: 39-45</i> Take the plank from your eye. \</p> <p>Next week's readings: 1st Sunday of Lent Year C <i>Deuteronomy 26: 4-10</i> <i>Romans 10: 8-13</i> <i>Luke 4:1-13</i></p>	<p>BAPTISM</p> <p>This weekend we welcome into our parish Winifred Isabella Muhldorff through the sacrament of Baptism</p>
TUE	NO MASS		
WED	9am MASS/LITURGY Ash Wednesday		
THU	NO MASS		
FRI	9am MASS		
SAT	6pm VIGIL MASS		
SUN	9.30am MASS		
<p>If you are Gluten intolerant and require a special host, please advise the coordinator.</p>			

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025



The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist will be celebrated in our parish in June. **Confirmation will be Wednesday 18th June and First Eucharist will be 21st /22nd June.** There will be 2 group sessions each week.

Session 1 on Tuesday after school at Mater Dei school, **starting Tuesday 4 March**

Session 2 on Wednesday after school in the St Theresa's Parish Office, **starting Wednesday 5 March**

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.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au

Francis' Focus © Nick Brodie

'Wars begin from the tongue', says Pope Francis. Reflecting on today's Gospel passage, he draws our attention to the importance of choosing our words carefully, lest they become 'bad fruit'.

He also reminds us that words can be destructive. If we are 'grumbling, gossiping, speaking ill of others', he says, then we are engaging in activity that 'destroys the family, destroys school, destroys the workplace, destroys the neighbourhood.'

Commenting on how words can amplify attitudes, the Pope wants us to remember that 'through our tongue we can also feed prejudices, raise barriers.'

This is especially true online. Stressing that these days 'words travel fast', the Pope remarks that 'too many of them convey anger and aggression, feed false news and take advantage of collective fears to propagate distorted ideas.'

Christians should 'be reflective, not reactive' when engaging with other people online. We should always 'be mindful of posting and sharing content that can cause misunderstanding, exacerbate division, incite conflict, and deepen prejudices.' We should look for those digital splinters that might be distorting our own perspectives before we jump online to accost others. Ultimately, the Pope wants us to remember that our words always affect another person.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2025

For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESSES

All parishes within the Toowoomba Diocese are changing to twb.catholic.org.au email addresses. The website and directories are currently being updated.

St Theresa's new office email address is sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Monica's email is sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au



Thank you to our sponsors and supporters for helping us publish our first Edition. We hope you enjoy the read. If you wish to sponsor our next publication (March/April 2025), please take an advertising flyer from the noticeboard in the foyer or contact a member of the Parish Council or the Parish Office.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES

Thank you to those people who have volunteered for money counting and sound desk operator.

St Theresa's is still looking for volunteers for the various ministries below:

Weekly money counters—Monday or Wednesday

Church linen washing persons—usually for a 3 month period

Monthly Sunday roster organizer

Sound desk operators.

Parishioners are always welcome to join any other ministries not listed as well.

Please contact the Parish office or see Fr. Brian, Monica or Cheryl if you can help.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Theme : Pilgrims of Hope

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE LVIII WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1st JANUARY 2025

Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace

II. A cultural change: all of us are debtor

8. The cultural and structural change needed to surmount this crisis will come about when we finally recognize that we are all sons and daughters of the one Father, that we are all in his debt but also that we need one another, in a spirit of shared and diversified responsibility. We will be able to “rediscover once for all that we need one another” and are indebted one to another



LENTEN GROUPS 2025

There will be 2 **Lenten groups** following the Wollongong program.

1. **Monday at 10am** in the **Parish Office meeting room** and
2. **Wednesday at 5.30pm** at **39 Collins St.**

Anyone can join these groups. There is a sheet in the foyer to write your name if you wish to be part of a group

If anyone else in the parish wishes to offer another group time, please contact the Parish Office.

There are some spare Wollongong Diocese books if you didn't order one and now wish to purchase one.

Please contact the parish office if you want a book. Cost \$10.

ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE

Date: 15/3/25 Saturday Time: 6:30pm

Where: Cathedral Centre, Neil St Tmba Cost: \$50pp

Come and enjoy a great night out to celebrate the Feast Day of St Patrick! Tickets will include a meal, a live Irish Band, and plenty of dancing! Book tickets [through TryBooking](#) or contact the St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Office on 07 4637 1500.

DATE CLAIMER

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT Friday 23 May 2025
5.30pm Sausage Sizzle available
6pm start

World Day of Prayer 2025

Cook Islands
'I made you wonderful'



Friday March 7th

10am South Toowoomba Baptist Church
279 Geddes St, Centenary Heights

6.30pm Lifeworks Uniting Church
615 Boundary St, Glenvale

Contact for South Toowoomba Baptist Church: Faye Wilson - 0439384430
leighwilson07@gmail.com

Contact for Lifeworks: Mary Tibben - anttibben@bigpond.com

PROJECT COMPASSION MATERIALS

Project compassion boxes and envelopes are available for collection in the foyer. Please support the work of Caritas Australia.

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
 New email address
 e-mail: sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Cheryl Rens
 Ph.: 4639 4688
 e-mail: sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.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, Monica Brennan, Elizabeth Curtis,
 Kathy Doherty, Greg Hallam, Gerard Hore, Julie Raitelli,
 David Rogan, Martin Stinson, Bernadette/Glen Whisson,
 Dave Wilson.

Finance Committee

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

Liturgy Team

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

Musicians

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

Baptism Team:

Jenny Ryan, 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
 0409 662 047

RCIA

Coordinator: David Wilson
 0451 131 849



NOTICE

MARCH

Sunday	2 March Morning tea after 9.30am mass
Monday	3 March Monday Lenten group 10am
Tuesday	4 March Sacramental preparation session after school at Mater Dei
Wednesday	5 March Ash Wednesday mass 9am.Mater Dei Yr 3-6 attending
Wednesday	5 March Ash Wednesday liturgy 10am Mater Dei Prep-Yr2 attending
Wednesday	5 March Sacramental preparation session after school in Parish office meeting room.
Wednesday	5 March Wednesday Lenten group 5.30pm starts at 39 Collins St, Mt Lofty.
Friday	7 March Infin8 Care Mass 10.30am
Friday	7 March World Day of Prayer 10am and 6.30pm. See poster in foyer
Saturday	8 March International Women's day High tea Highfields

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Effective from Monday
 10 February

Monday : 9am - 4pm

Tuesday : **CLOSED**

Wednesday : 11am – 4pm

Thursday : 11am – 4pm

Friday: 10am— 4pm



 **PROJECT COMPASSION**
Project Compassion Sunday
 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Care & Concern Meeting 2nd Monday of the Month

Care & Concern Meeting

Monday 10th March 2025 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