

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

15 – 16 MARCH 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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 © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same.' Somewhat different packaging but, really, they all believe in the same things.

But, do they, even about the human person?

What if you believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul', more or less trapped or imprisoned in the body? The best thing would be for the soul to be freed from the body, leaving the old carcass behind, and enjoying heaven as a soul.

Well, that may put you in an ancient Greek tradition, but it is certainly not Christian.

What do we believe?

There is a hint in the pictures of the Stations of the Cross. Notice the haloes of light, a golden glow, around the head of our Lord Jesus Christ. Artists down through the centuries have tried to portray the Divine Light which suffuses the body of Christ (and of the Saints). These portrayals hark back to today's Gospel.

Jesus' *body* was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. This was an utterly bodily experience with Jesus' *body* totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, body and soul. That is our *ultimate* destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

We have all heard of St Francis of Assisi or Padre Pio. Both saints exhibited the stigmata. Their devotion to the crucified Lord was so intense that they exhibited the wounds of the Cross in their bodies.

But, what if a saint, what if you or I, was intensely devoted to the transfigured Christ? Could one share in that transfigured experience?

Here is a story from the Russian mystical tradition.* It is a passage taken from 'The Revelations' of Saint Seraphim of Sarov, written at the beginning of the 19th Century. One of his followers was conversing with him on a winter morning when the Saint appeared to his follower to be as dazzling as the sun. Saint Seraphim whispered to him:

'Why then, my friend, do you not look me straight in the face? Look freely and without fear; the Lord is with us.'

The story goes on in the words of the follower:

'Encouraged by these words, I looked and was seized by holy fear. Imagine in the middle of the sun, dazzling in the brilliance of its noontide rays, the face of the man who is speaking to you. You can see the movements of his lips, the changing expression of his eyes, you can hear his voice, you can feel his hands holding you by the shoulders, but you can see neither his hands nor his body – nothing except the blaze of light which shines around, lighting up with its brilliance the snow-covered meadow, and the snowflakes which continue to fall unceasingly.

"What do you feel?" asked Father Seraphim.

"An immeasurable well-being," I replied.

"But what sort of well-being? What exactly?"

"I feel", I replied, "such calm, such peace in my soul, that I can find no words to express it."

"My friend, it is the peace our Lord spoke of when he said to his disciples: 'My peace I give unto you,' the peace which the world cannot give; 'the peace which passeth all understanding.' What else do you feel?"

"Infinite joy in my heart."

My friends, that is the promise our Heavenly Father gives to you and to me personally and individually.

You and I can be, with God's grace will be, radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with 'immeasurable well-being', 'infinite joy in our hearts.'

* I took this story from 'The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church' by Vladimir Lossky, St Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York 10707, 1976, pages 227-229.

RECENTLY DECEASED HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners:

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

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

Paul Morton **Leo Roessler**
Margaret Stuart
Patrick Dunne
Alec Koltermann
John Waldron
Tracey Leonard
Marilyn Northeast
Noreen McGarry
Laureen Mueret
Joachim Kayiba

St Theresa's Parish

MASSES		READINGS	NOTICES
MON	NO MASS	<p>2nd Sunday of Lent Year C</p> <p>First Reading <i>Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18</i> The Lord establishes a covenant with Abraham.</p> <p>Responsorial Psalm: <i>Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R.v.1</i> The Lord is my light and my salvation.</p> <p>Second Reading <i>Philippians 3:17 – 4:1</i> Our citizenship is in heaven.</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</p> <p>Gospel: <i>Luke 9:28-36</i> Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John.</p> <p>Next week's readings: 3rd Sunday of Lent Year C <i>Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15</i> <i>1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12</i> <i>Luke 13:1-9</i></p>	<p>BAPTISM</p> <p>Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of the month after Mass at 11.00am or during Mass at 6pm vigil or 9.30am Sunday</p>  <p>POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION MARCH 2025</p> <p>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.</p>
TUE	NO MASS		
WED	9am MASS Feast of St Joseph		
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 # New Confirmation Date



The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist will be celebrated in our parish in June. **Confirmation** will now be **Wednesday 25th 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

Pope Francis draws our attention to Peter, James and John. Understandably weary, they were struggling against sleep and almost missed the Transfiguration entirely!

'The drowsiness of the three disciples appears to be a discordant note', the Pope muses. These three disciples later fall asleep at Gethsemane! 'This sleepiness in such important moments is surprising', the Pope remarks.

In this regard, the apostles can help us think about Lent. 'It is a period', the Pope suggests, 'in which God wants to awaken us from our inner lethargy, from this sleepiness that does not let the Spirit express itself.'

In their sleepiness these apostles make good role models for us. Despite their exhaustion, they remained open to the working of Grace. 'We might think', the Pope says, 'that it was the light of Jesus that reawakened them.'

'Like them, we too are in need of God's light,' the Pope affirms. And that light, he adds, 'makes us see things in a different way: it attracts us, it reawakens us, it reignites our desire and strength to pray, to look within ourselves, and to dedicate time to others.' We might sometimes feel sleepy, in faith as in work, but we can still be witnesses to the Transfiguration if we are really open to the light of Christ.

JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF VOLUNTEERING—March 2025

PRAYER: Loving God, May we be inspired by the great witness to mercy provided by those who volunteer their time, skills and resources in the service of others. In doing so, these generous individuals make the love of Christ visible in the world. May we imitate their example, as we ask to be humble instruments in your hands in order to alleviate the world's sufferings, and to share the joy and hope of the resurrection. Amen. St Teresa of Calcutta, patron saint of volunteers, pray for us!

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

Campbell St Catholic Corner

EDITION #2
FEB-APRIL 2024



Thank you to our sponsors and supporters for helping us publish our second Edition.



MATER DEI
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enjoy the read and children remember to count the eggs.



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



III. A journey of hope: three proposals

10. In teaching us to pray the "Our Father", Jesus begins by asking the Father to forgive our trespasses, but passes immediately to the challenging words:

"as we forgive those who trespass against us" (cf. *Mt* 6:12). In order to forgive others their trespasses and to offer them hope, we need for our own lives to be filled with that same hope, the fruit of our experience of God's mercy. Hope overflows in generosity; it is free of calculation, makes no hidden demands, is unconcerned with gain, but aims at one thing alone: to raise up those who have fallen, to heal hearts that are broken and to set us free from every kind of bondage.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION MATERIALS

Project compassion boxes and envelopes are available for collection in the foyer.

Please support the work of Caritas Australia.

DATE CLAIMER

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday 23 May 2025

DIOCESAN STAFF UPDATES

The diocese welcomes

Ms Erin Kehoe-O'Shea as Fundraising Development Manager and

Ms Madeline Wallace as Diocesan Archivist.

Erin is located at Bishop's House and

Madeline is located at the Marian Centre.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Second Sunday of Lent 15th & 16th of March 2025

13-year-old Toefuata'iga (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah), a student in the Upolu region of Samoa, experienced water scarcity at her school. The absence of a reliable and hygienic water supply has not only affected students' education but also impacted their health. Despite being surrounded by water, many Samoans struggle with consistent access to clean drinking water, and resort to relying on rainwater or neighbours who have access to a water pipeline. Climate change is leading to longer, drier periods. The Samoan Water pipeline frequently shuts down due to natural disasters and maintenance. Additionally, it is often unsafe for consumption after heavy rains. "School would finish early, when there wasn't any water, we wouldn't have classes," Toefuata'iga shared.

Access to water is about more than convenience. It is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and to helping students like Toefuata'iga fulfil her dreams: "I would like to become a good teacher. To teach the children so they will have a brighter future."

Toefuata'iga also told a personal story: "If the water we drink is dirty, we get sick." This was particularly hard on her family. "My grandmother needed water, so we went and got her some. We did not know it was dirty..." Three days later her grandmother fell ill.

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

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Fr John Fowles has commenced as Parish Administrator of St Mary's Goondiwindi. **Fr Bony Abraham** has moved to Warwick as Associate Pastor to assist Fr Periya Savarimuthu during the absence of Fr Franco Filipetto (sabbatical leave).

Fr Francis Kritsada is at St Patrick's Cathedral. Fr Francis is here for 12 months to improve his English language skills, and he will assist in various ministries throughout the Toowoomba area.

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
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

Monday	17 March Monday Lenten group 10am at the Parish Office Meeting Room
Tuesday	18 March Sacramental preparation session after school at Mater Dei
Tuesday	18 March St Vincent de Paul, St Theresa's Conference 4pm Parish Meeting Room
Wednesday	19 March Sacramental preparation session after school in Parish office meeting room.
Wednesday	19 March Wednesday Lenten group 5.30pm starts at 39 Collins St, Mt Lofty.
Thursday	20 March Liturgy team meeting 2.30pm
Friday	28 March Office Closed. Toowoomba show Public holiday
Sunday	30 March SPRED led Parish Mass 9.30am



NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday : 9am - 4pm
Tuesday : **CLOSED**
Wednesday : 11am – 4pm
Thursday : 11am – 4pm
Friday: 10am— 4pm

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES

Thank you to those people who have volunteered for church linen washing, money counting, sound desk operators & office administration.

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

Weekly money counters—Monday or Wednesday

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.

**KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS
TOOWOOMBA BRANCH CENTENARY:
6/4/25 @ 9:00am, St Patrick's Cathedral Tmba.**

MARONITE MASS

Fr Fadi Salami, Maronite Priest will celebrate Mass in the Maronite Rite on **23rd March at St Anthony's Church, Memory Street at 11.00am.** Father is offering the Mass for all the members of the Lebanese Community who have died since the beginning of last year. All are warmly invited to attend. Please bring a plate of finger food to share over lunch and a chat after Mass.

Care & Concern Meeting 2nd Monday of the Month

Care & Concern Meeting

Monday 14th April 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

