

# THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

22—23 MARCH 2025

THIRD 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 © Richard Leonard SJ

The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, 'What effect would adultery have on your marriage?'

In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together.

Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by saying, 'Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault' or 'I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless'. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship.

The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again.

Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Merv Otto

## HEALING FOR THE SICK

### Parishioners:

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Phil Wareham | Noel Murphy    |
| Neil Lynch   | Susan Quirk    |
| Anne Thomas  | Dr. Rob Rimmer |
| June Murphy  |                |

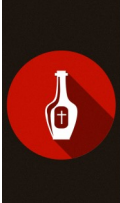
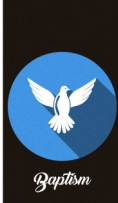

### Friends and Family

**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)

## RECENTLY DECEASED

### Anniversaries

Archie Kretchmass  
Peter Kalinowski  
Tom Dowling  
John Herbert  
helen Lyons  
Bert Jelley  
Denise Kennedy  
Joe Leonardi  
Roger Ley

| MASSES  |  | READINGS  | NOTICES  |
|---|--|---|--|
| MON   | NO MASS  | <p align="center"><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C</b></p> <p><b>First Reading:</b> <i>Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15</i><br/>The Lord calls Moses from a burning bush.</p> <p><b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> <i>Ps 102:1-4. 6-8.11. R.v.8 (R.)</i> The Lord is kind and merciful.</p> <p><b>Second Reading</b> <i>1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12</i><br/>We must learn from the example of our ancestors.</p> <p><b>Gospel Acclamation:</b><br/>Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!<br/>Repent, says the Lord;<br/>the kingdom of heaven is at hand.<br/>Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!</p> <p><b>Gospel:</b> <i>Luke 13:1-9</i><br/>The parable of the fig tree.</p> <p align="center"><b>Next week's readings</b></p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year C</b><br/><i>Joshua 5:9-12</i><br/><i>2 Corinthians 5:17-21</i><br/><i>Luke 15:1-3. 11-32</i></p> | <p align="center"><b>BAPTISM</b></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> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div> <p align="center"><b>POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION MARCH 2025</b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>For families in crisis.</u></b></p> <p>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   | <b>Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord</b> |   |  |
| WED   | <b>9am MASS</b>                                  |   |  |
| THU   | NO MASS  |   |  |
| FRI   | <b>9am MASS</b>                                  |   |  |
| SAT   | <b>6pm VIGIL MASS</b>                            |   |  |
| SUN   | <b>9.30am MASS</b>                               |   |  |
| <p><b>If you are Gluten intolerant and require a special host, please advise the coordinator.</b></p> |  |   |  |

**Francis' Focus** © Nick Brodie

In today's Gospel reading, Pope Francis explains, we see that 'Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God' for the world's misfortunes. God does not send disasters to punish people. God is not vindictive, but ever merciful. And we are all called to respond to God's mercy, the Pope says, 'especially during this time of Lent.' This includes learning how to stop blaming God. We should try to turn our attention to those times when, as the Pope puts it, it is 'our selfishness that tears apart relationships; ... our wrong and violent choices that unleash evil.' We are called to become the kind of people who can acknowledge our own faults. 'But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy,' the Pope adds, 'and he wants to help us here.' This is why Jesus 'encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God.' The fig tree is an obvious symbol for each one of us. 'More time is given to it,' the Pope says, 'another possibility. I like to think', he adds, 'that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity.'

**WINTER SHELTER PLANNING MEETING**

There will be a Winter Shelter Planning Meeting  
**Wednesday, 26 March**  
**6.00pm**  
**St Theresa's Parish Office**  
 55 Curzon St, Toowoomba  
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**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.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> June** and **First Eucharist** will be **21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> June.**

**Ars Cantorum**  
 presents

**Towards Easter**  
 a concert of Eastertide Music  
 more information can be found on the Parish Notice Board  
 enquires 0439 355 089

# Campbell St Catholic Corner

EDITION #2  
FEB-APRIL 2025



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.



## Easter Ceremonies

**Wednesday, 9 April—2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation**

6.00pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre

**Monday, 15 April—ChrisM Mass**

5.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

**Thursday, 17 April—Holy Thursday**

6.00pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre

Combined with Mary MacKillop Parish Highfields.

**Friday, 18 April—Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross

10.00am at St Theresa's Parish Centre

Veneration of the Cross

3.00pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre

**Saturday, 19 April—Easter Vigil**

6.00pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April— Easter Sunday**

Mass 9.30am at St Theresa's Parish Centre

## 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

11. Consequently, at the beginning of this Year of Grace, I would like to offer three proposals capable of restoring dignity to the lives of entire peoples and enabling them to set them out anew on the journey of hope. In this way, the debt crisis can be overcome and all of us can once more realize that we are debtors whose debts have been forgiven.

First, I renew the appeal launched by Saint John Paul II on the occasion of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 to consider "reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations". [17] In recognition of their ecological debt, the more prosperous countries ought to feel called to do everything possible to forgive the debts of those countries that are in no condition to repay the amount they owe. Naturally, lest this prove merely an isolated act of charity that simply reboots the vicious cycle of financing and indebtedness, a new financial framework must be devised, leading to the creation of a global financial Charter based on solidarity and harmony between peoples.

## PROJECT COMPASSION MATERIALS

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

Please support the work of Caritas Australia.



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

## Third Sunday of Lent 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025

Sometimes you hear Indigenous people refer to Jesus as a 'person of Country'. What might this mean?

It is hard to imagine the Gospels without the connection of Jesus to the sea, the river, the desert, the fields and the mountain. His teaching often featured seeds and birds and sheep and corn. In today's Gospel, we hear the parable of the fig tree. The impatient person wants to cut it down. A wiser person is prepared to work with nature by putting manure on the tree and looking after it. This is a story of growth. God is creative. God is patient with us. God gives us another chance. He journeys with us on our pilgrimage of hope.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Lam, a young man from rural Vietnam. Lam's disability made his upbringing difficult. Sometimes people look at those with disability a little like the fig tree. They judge them and dismiss them. Through the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia's partner in Vietnam, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Lam was able to pursue his dreams and become more independent. Today, he is a successful graphic designer, serving clients locally and internationally and earning a stable income every month. He has a creative life.

**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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

## DATE CLAIMER

### PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday 23 May 2025

5.30pm Sausage Sizzle available

6pm start

\$10/person. Primary school students free

Sausage sizzle and bar available

8 to a table.

Individuals welcome to attend and join to make a table.



**CONTACTS**

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Brian Noonan ph:4696 7094

*New email address*

*e-mail: [b.noonan@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:b.noonan@twb.catholic.org.au)*

*brianjnoonan@bigpond.com*

**Pastoral Associate**

Monica Brennan

Ph.: 4639 4688

*New email address*

*e-mail: [sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au)*

**Parish Secretary:**

Cheryl Rens

Ph.: 4639 4688

*e-mail: [sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.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, 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



**NOTICE**

**MARCH**

- Monday** 24 March Monday Lenten group 10am at the Parish Office Meeting Room
- Tuesday** 25 March Safeguarding Meeting, 4.30pm at Parish Office Meeting Room
- Tuesday** 25 March St Vincent de Paul, **NO MEETING**
- Wednesday** 26 March Wednesday Lenten group 5.30pm starts at 39 Collins St, Mt Lofty.
- Wednesday** 26 March Winter Shelter Planning Meeting 6.00pm at the Parish Office Meeting Room
- 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** : 9am – 2pm
- 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 Toowoomba.

**MARONITE MASS**

Fr Fadi Salami, Maronite Priest will celebrate Mass in the Maronite Rite on **23<sup>rd</sup> 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*

