

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

29—30 November 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A

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.

Reflection

© Dianne Bergant CSA

We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart.

Leo's Lens

© Nick Brodie

Pope Leo wants us to rediscover the urgency of the Church's vocation to care for the poor and fight against all forms of poverty.

We have a duty, the Pope says, to 'stand at their side and work actively for their integral development.' In short, it is not enough to give to the poor. We have to lift them up.

'Charity has the power to change reality', he affirms, adding that 'it is a genuine force for change in history.'

This aspect of the Christian life cannot be postponed. As the Pope says, 'the dignity of every human person must be respected today, not tomorrow.'

Moreover, he continues, 'the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our consciences.' There is no room in authentic Christian discipleship for 'theoretical excuses' that become obstacles to action 'to resolve the concrete problems of those who suffer.'

Dogmatic belief in the efficacy of trickle-down economics and unregulated capitalism, the Church teaches, is misguided belief. We should never fall prey to the delusion that injustice is somehow a product of the natural economic order. We Christians are called to challenge such misplaced assumptions.

'We need to be increasingly committed', the Pope emphatically declares, 'to resolving the structural causes of poverty.'

[Quotes from Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te, 4 October 2025]

RECENTLY DECEASED

Alf Mason

Funeral Monday 1 Dec 10am

St Theresa's

Greg Logan

Bob Hore (Gerard's Uncle)

Janette Ansell

(Patricia Steven's sister)

ANNIVERSARIES

Noel McMahon	Craig Page
Kenneth Powell	Ron Ryan
Francis Sewell	Joe Short
Molly Daniel	Tom Howe
Antoun Tanous	Stan Gleeson
James Archibald	Noel O'Neill
Eileen Heenan	Frank Sewell

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners

Robert Gillespie	Betty Bagley
Noel Murphy	Susan Quirk
Anne Thomas	Marie Ah See

Friends and Family

Lawrie Atzeni (Vivienne Ruffini's brother)
Imogen Atkins (niece of Lelia Fallon)
Catherine Castelli (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 Granddad)
Jennifer Fogarty (Beverley Patterson's Friend)
Erica Armagnacq (Bill Armagnacq's Daughter 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)
Max Shearer (Grandson - Judy Shearer)
John Mullen (Helen McNaught's nephew)
Fr Peter McGrath .CP
Molly Schmidt (Aileen Collins' friend)
The Dowling Family
Marty Heysen (Meg Hicks' brother-in-law)
Judy March

St Theresa's Parish

MASSES

MON	NO MASS
TUE	NO MASS Office closed
WED	9.00am Mass With Sacrament of Anointing
THU	NO MASS Office Closed
FRI	9.00am Mass In WMC hall at Mater Dei
SAT	6.00pm VIGIL MASS
SUN	9.30am MASS
If you are Gluten intolerant and require a special host, please advise the Mass Coordinator.	

READINGS

First Sunday of Advent—Year A

First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*
All nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. v.1. (R.)* Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*
Live honourably, the day of the Lord is near.

Gospel Acclamation: *Mark 11:9,10*
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 24:37-44*
The Lord is coming when we least expect.

Next week's readings
Second Sunday of Advent —Year A

First Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10*
Second Reading: *Romans 15:4-9*
Gospel: *Matthew 3:1-12*

NOTICES

Baptisms



Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of the month after Mass at 11.00am or during Mass at the 6.00pm Vigil



Christmas Mass Times

St Theresa's, Toowoomba

Wednesday, 24 December
6pm Vigil Christmas Eve

Thursday, 25 December
9.30am Mass Christmas Day

Mary MacKillop Highfields

Wednesday, 24 December
4pm Vigil Christmas Eve

Thursday, 25 December
8am Mass Christmas Day

Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections Books have arrived! If you have ordered an advent reflection book they are now available for collection from the parish office or following mass. The cost of the books are \$8.00 and we kindly ask that you pay for them at time of collection. Thank you. We do have extra copies available if you forgot to add your name to the order.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Mukuru Promotion Centre (MPC), a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in Kenya, is organising a fundraiser to help the marginalised youth in the slums by promoting their artistic talents via Christmas Cards. Each card has an inspiring verse focusing on the true message of Christmas, written by Sr Maureen Mohen RSM. By purchasing a packet of 10 cards and envelopes for \$15, you not only receive beautiful Christmas cards designed by young Kenyan artists but also make a significant impact on the lives of marginalised youth in Nairobi slums. See flyer for more. To order contact Sr Kathy Kettle Mb: 0418 926 590
Email: kkettle@mercy.org.au

CARITAS - EMERGENCY APPEAL ASIA STORM RELIEF

Due to the devastating storms hitting Vietnam and the Philippines, Caritas Australia have launched an emergency appeal. For information on the current situation and the support we're providing review these:
To support Caritas Australia's Asia Storms Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/asia-storms or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Pope Leo's prayer intention for November 2025

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sunday, 30 November from 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Toowoomba Hospice, 57B O'Quinn Street Tmba
Cost: Gold coin donation

Kick off the festive season with Toowoomba Hospice. Bring your family and friends for an evening of carols performed by the Toowoomba Municipal Band and High-Altitude Harmony, plus a visit from Santa. Food and drink are available, as well as a raffle. Bring a chair or blanket for a fun evening supporting Toowoomba Hospice.

An Invitation to a Historic Moment – Cardinal Bychok Visits Toowoomba

We are excited to announce a truly historic occasion for our Diocese! This coming March 2026, the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba will welcome His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok CSsR, Australia's Cardinal.
We are hosting two exclusive events:

Dinner – Thursday, 26 March 2026
Breakfast – Friday, 27 March 2026

Each event will feature a live interview with His Eminence, conducted by Michael Crutcher, former editor of *The Courier-Mail*.

Tickets are now on sale via:

<https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/cathedral/>

All proceeds will support the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral, preserving this sacred landmark as we prepare to celebrate the Diocese's centenary in 2029.



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



WE need more business sponsors to contribute if the publication is going to continue. Please contact the



Welcome to our RCIA candidates

Over the last 2 weekends we have welcomed Sarah McAllister and Kym Croughan into our parish as RCIA candidates who have commenced their journey to become full initiated members of the Catholic faith. Both ladies are teachers in our Catholic schools and have a home in the community of St Theresa's. We continue to pray for them as they continue their journey.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR ACYF ATTENDEES

This weekend a group of young people and the young at heart will be travelling from our Diocese to Melbourne to join some 6000 people for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (30/11-2/12/25). We pray for a safe journey and a fulfilling encounter with others and Christ. Please keep Bishop Ken Howell, Rachel Pingel (Youth Ministry Officer), Fr Bony Abraham (Warwick Parish) and our ACYF group in your prayers during this time.

IGNITE YOUTH - SUMMER CAMP 2026

Date: 8-11/1/26

Where: QCCC Mapleton, 70 Obi Obi Rd Mapleton (Sunshine Coast region)

Cost: \$370 pp, also costs for travel and merch (late fees apply after 2/1/26, [buy tickets](#))

Summer Camp is four unforgettable days away, filled with fun and getting closer to Jesus. Huge outdoor games, swimming, amazing rallies, dance parties and 300 new friends to make! Aimed at young people in Grades 7-12 in 2026, Summer Camp is run by a team of experienced and emerging Catholic youth leaders who will accompany young people on a journey to discover more about themselves, Jesus and His hope for their lives.

Find out more and register at igniteyouth.com/

SAVE THE DATE: ST MARY'S WARWICK CENTENARY

15 March 2026. Mark your diary for 2026. St Mary of the Assumption Church Warwick will be celebrating 100 years! More details of events to follow.

ADVENT RESOURCES FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN SISTERS

This Advent, we invite you to join our community in prayer and reflection through a special series of weekly videos. Across December, we'll light a candle and share a weekly prayer to shine a light on four key themes of Advent.

Our videos will be released weekly on a Sunday:

Week 1: 30 November – Justice

Week 2: 7 December – Repentance

Week 3: 14 December – Joy

Week 4: 21 December – Love [You can view each video on the dates above here.](https://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/advent/) <https://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/advent/>

Cathedral Restoration Project

Raffle 29—Sept-Dec 2025. Every ticket supports the restoration of our beautiful stained-glass windows at St Patrick's Cathedral. Buy a Play for Purpose raffle ticket for your chance to win a \$300,000 First Prize Pack - including a Toyota Prado Kakadu and \$188,000 in gold bullion. 394 other prizes to be won! Learn more and purchase tickets: www.playforpurpose.com.au/catholic-

Palms

A number of overseas communities in Asia and the Pacific are seeking Australian Catholics for Global Mission. For those of the faithful who hear the call we are offering an opportunity to live and use their professional expertise to mentor others in an overseas community.

Palms is holding two webinars:

GAP YEAR webinar on Thursday 4 December 6pm & 9pm AEDT for Year 12 school leavers and uni students (aged 18-25), along with their parents. This is a chance for you to discover what you are interested in, and to define your purpose - before launching down a career path - while gaining valuable cross-cultural experience.

TIMOR-LESTE ENCOUNTER Information session on Monday 8 December 7.30pm-8.30pm AEDT for those who would like a short taste and tour of Palms placements on our [2026 Palms Encounter](https://palms.org.au/encountersto) <https://palms.org.au/encountersto> Timor-Leste from 14-27 May.

St Theresa's Parish

St Theresa's Parish

St Theresa's Church

Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts, Toowoomba

Parish Office

55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Phone: 07 4639 4688

Email: sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Website: www.sttheresas.org.au

Office Hours

Monday 11.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday 8.00am – 5.00pm
Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm

Parish Priest—Fr Brian Noonan

Ph:4696 7094

bnoonan@twb.catholic.org.au

brianjnoonan@bigpond.com

Pastoral Associate—Monica Brennan

sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary—Cheryl Rens

sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Parish Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council:

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

Musicians:

Norma Kenny, Kathy Sternes, Elizabeth Stewart, Libby Rosentreter, Charlotte Stinson & Emma Stinson.

Baptism Team:

Jenny Ryan, Bernadette Hede, Anne Anderson, Jan Watkins, Jane Burgess, Catherine Cooper, Tracy Stinson, Elizabeth Curtis, Monica Brennan

Sacramental Team:

Monica Brennan, Alison Busiko, 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

Upcoming Parish Events—November/ December

Sat/Sun 29/30 Nov	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 1 Dec	Funeral of Alf Mason 10am
Wed 3 Dec	Sacrament of Anointing in 9am Mass
Thurs 4 Dec	Yr 6 Mater Dei Graduation 1.30pm In the Parish Centre
Fri 5 Dec	Mater Dei end of year mass 9am in WMC Hall (school hall)
Sat/Sun 6/7 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent
Sun 7 Dec	Parish Morning Tea after mass

Campbell St Catholic Corner

EDITION #4 Is now available

PD & Learning

ESAFETY COMMISSION - FREE WEBINARS

To mark this year's **16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence**, <https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/help-end-digital-violence-against-women-and-girls> the eSafety Commission is hosting a series of webinars focused on empowering Australians to recognise and respond to tech-based abuse. Whether you're a parent, carer, team leader or someone who wants to learn more, these sessions will give you practical advice and tools to keep you and others safe. Please note: These sessions are designed for people 18 years and over.

Introduction to Tech based abuse: Knowing how to respond

Tuesday 25 November 2025, 2:00-3:00pm AEDT

To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6447581715452982869>

Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives

Monday 1 December 2025, 12:30-1:15pm AEDT

To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8163762136248928350>

How algorithms influence and reinforce harmful beliefs

Monday 1 December 2025, 12:30-1:15pm AEDT

To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5027562448206325343>

Regular Parish Gatherings & Meetings

Gospel Reflection Group Every Monday

10am at the Parish office meeting room. All welcome

Care & Concern Meeting 2nd Monday of the Month

Care & Concern Meeting Monday's at 3.00pm

Second & Fourth Tuesday of the Month

St Vincent de Paul St Theresa's

Conference, 4pm, Contact 0408 808 437

First Wednesday of the Month

Parish morning tea at 9.45am, Cobb & Co Museum

First Saturday of the Month

Prayer Service at Infin8 Care at 9.30am

Planned Giving—23 November 2025

Collection—Envelopes: \$180.00 & Loose: \$527.20

Direct Deposits: \$791.00 & Tap & Go: \$80.00

St Theresa's Catholic Parish (*Planned Giving Only*)

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