

THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

6-7 December 2025

SECOND 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

© Fr Michael Tate

Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the coming towards us ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

Leo's Lens

© Nick Brodie

'The worth of our societies, and our own future,' Pope Leo declares, 'depends on the answers we give' to situations where human equality, dignity, and opportunity are diminished. We are only truly as equal as our neighbour. Our dignity must be reflected in their dignity. And our opportunity should never be their disadvantage. 'All the members of the People of God', he says, 'have a duty to make their voices heard' wherever and whenever opportunity presents. We are all called 'to point out and denounce such structural issues' as homelessness, pollution, and other afflictions of our world.

Our faith demands that we do not keep silent in the face of injustice. After all, the Pope notes, 'the Gospel message has to do not only with an individual's personal relationship with the Lord, but also with something greater.' Rather than simply praying to enter the Kingdom of God, we are called to help manifest it and bring it to others.

This calling, the Pope adds, requires 'an attentiveness to others.' Because 'the poor have learned many things that they keep hidden in their hearts', he says, we 'certainly have much to gain from the source of wisdom that is the experience of the poor.' We must always be open to listening to those in need and hearing their cries.

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

Pope Leo's prayer intention for December 2025

Let us pray that those Christians living in the midst of war or conflict may be seeds of peace.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Greg Logan

Funeral Monday 8 December at 11.00am

ANNIVERSARIES

Darryl McNamara

Rev. John O'Brien

Tony Sheridan

Peter Burke

Neville Dredge

Terry Connor

Mick Grayndler

Jack Hurley

Gordon Walton

Ann Lowe

Micheal Butler

Bernadette Aleeson

Harold Humphrey

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
THU	NO MASS Office Closed
FRI	9.00am Mass
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

Second Sunday of Advent—Year A

First Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. Peace and justice will triumph.

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17.* (R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading: *Romans 15:4-9*
Live in harmony with one another.

Gospel Acclamation: *Luke 3:4, 6*
Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 3:1-12*
John the Baptist begins to preach in the desert.

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

First Reading: *Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*

Second Reading: *James 5:7-10*

Gospel: *Matthew 11:2-11*

NOTICES

Baptisms



This week we welcome into our parish
Walter Mason



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

Advent Reconciliation Service Rite of Forgiveness

Monday, 22 December
at 6.00pm

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

St Therasas' Parish—Christmas Giving Tree

An initiative by the Parish Pastoral Council in conjunction with the St Theresa's Vincent de Paul conference.

Again this year we have a Christmas Tree in the foyer with tags tied to the branches. Each tag has the gender and age of child requiring a Christmas gift.

Please take a tag, buy an appropriate gift and return it to the tree, unwrapped with the tag taped to the gift.

Volunteers will then wrap the gift, and put it into family groups which are indicated on the tag. This is why it is important to return the tag with the gift. Thank you for your generous support in making Christmas a joyous occasion for these families.

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.

Christmas Ministry Roster Availability

The ministry rosters for the Christmas Eve Vigil and Christmas Day are currently be compiled
Please write your name on the sheets located in the church foyer if you are available to help at either of these masses.

PRINT COPY: DILEXI TE (I HAVE LOVED YOU)

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more.
By visiting <https://secure.stpauls.com.au>

COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2026

www.columban.org.au/donate/shop/columban-art-calendar/



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



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.

DATE CLAIMER: SPRED 40th Anniversary

In 2026 SPRED celebrates 40 years in the Toowoomba Diocese. When: Sunday, March 15
Where: St Theresa's. More details to follow.

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.

IGNITE YOUTH - SUMMER CAMP 2026

8-11 January 2026 at 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). 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/summercamp

Cathedral Restoration Project

Raffle 29—Sept-Dec 2025. Every ticket supports the restoration of our beautiful stained-glass windows at St Patrick's Cathedral. Learn more and purchase tickets: www.playforpurpose.com.au/catholic-diocese

ADVENT RESOURCES—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 2: 7 December – Repentance,

Week 3: 14 December – Joy.

Week 4: 21 December – Love

<https://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/advent/>

Diocese of Toowoomba Announces Synod: A Call to Listen, Discern, and Renew

The Diocese of Toowoomba is embarking on a journey of faith and renewal with the announcement of a Diocesan Synod, convoked by Bishop Ken Howell on the Solemnity of Christ the King. At the 9:00am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop Ken proclaimed the Synod and signed the Decree, co-signed by Chancellor, Fr Peter Dorfield. A pre-recorded message convoking the Synod was also shared in parishes across the Diocese.

The synod process will unfold through 2026, culminating in the Synod gathering in October. All members of the diocesan family, clergy, religious, and laity, are invited into a year of prayer, dialogue, and discernment.

Since arriving in the Diocese two and a half years ago, Bishop Ken has listened closely to the stories and hopes of parishioners and the broader community. While recognising challenges such as fewer Masses and demographic shifts, he delights in the enduring spirit of faith, hope, and love that defines the region. "There is abundant potential for growth and renewal," he said, "especially as we seek to move beyond the barriers that sometimes stand in our way."

The Synod will be a moment of grace: a time to reflect on where the Diocese has come from, listen to the voices of the people, and discern a shared mission for the future. It will also respond to the Australian Plenary Council and build on the insights of recent Synods in Rome.

Preparation begins in the New Year with listening sessions across the Diocese to ensure every voice is heard. Bishop Ken encouraged all to participate: "Please know that you have something unique to offer. In a synodal Church, every step forward is taken together."

As the community looks ahead, all are invited to pray for the Synod's fruitfulness and ask the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire the journey.

For updates and details, visit www.twb.catholic.org.au/synod
By Ingrid McTaggart, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

CAROLS ON THE BALONNE:

Tuesday, 9 December at St George Ampitheatre, St George. Starting with a 6.00pm BBQ, 6:30pm Carols. The Combined Churches of St George present "The Carols on the Balonne". All are welcome to join for BBQ and carols.

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—December

Sat/Sun 6/7 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent
Sun 7 Dec	Parish Morning Tea after mass
Mon 8 Dec	Funeral Greg Logan at 11.00am
Mon 8 Dec	Parish Advent Program at 10.00am
Fri 12 Dec	Infin8 Care Mass 10.30am at Infin8
Sat/Sun 13/14	Third Sunday of Advent
Sat/Sun 20/21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mon 22 Dec	Parish Advent Program at 10.00am
Mon 22 Dec	Advent Reconciliation at 6.00pm
Wed 24 Dec	Christmas Eve—Mary MacKillop 4.00pm
Wed 24 Dec	Christmas Eve—St Therasas' 6.00pm
Thurs 25 Dec	Christmas Day—Mary MacKillop 8.00am
Thurs 25 Dec	Christmas Day—St Therasas' 9.30am

Campbell St Catholic Corner

EDITION #4 Is now available

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING ON THE ABC

The ABC will broadcast the Pope's Christmas Mass from the Vatican on 25 December at 9:30am – 11:30am. It will also be available on iView for about a month after the Mass.

There are also the following Christmas programs that might be of interest:

Sunday 21/12 @ 11:30am:

Songs Of Praise: Carols For Christmas Eve.

Tuesday 23/12 @ 7:30pm

The Piano UK: at Christmas

Thursday 25/12 @ 5:00pm

Royal Carols: Together at Christmas 2025

Thursday 25/12 @ 7.30pm

The King's Christmas Message 2025

Thursday 25/12 @ 7:40pm

The Royal Variety Performance 2025

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—30 November 2025

Collection—Envelopes: \$345.00 & Loose: \$560.60

Direct Deposits: \$1835.00 & Tap & Go: \$165.00

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

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