



THE BULLETIN

ST THERESA'S PARISH

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.

17-18 January 2026

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

HOMILY

© Richard Leonard SJ

Some of us remember the provocative and frightening 1991 film *Silence of the Lambs*.

The image in the title refers to a childhood memory of CIA agent, Clarice Starling. In her interviews with the psychopath Dr Lecter, he gets her to talk about how she still wakes at night hearing the cry of the lambs as they were led to slaughter on her uncle's farm. This is a pivotal moment in Thomas Harris' book and the film. It is the leverage Dr Lecter needs to unsettle and unravel Clarice's well-formed defences. Clarice is revealed as vulnerable, because of the grief she carries from the violent deaths she has seen.

I remember empathising with Clarice's memory of the lambs. When I was a child I saw many sheep slaughtered on my family's properties. I can still see my uncle selecting one of them, holding it in the pen before its execution and then watching him do the deed. The scene should have been enough to turn me into a vegetarian! Alas, I got over my pity for the animal and enjoyed roast lamb a few nights later.

John's use of the metaphor of the sacrificial lamb in reference to Jesus in today's Gospel is meant to engender a similar empathy to that of the childhood memories of Clarice Starling. While there are many jokes about the stupidity of sheep, lambs still claim a spot in the hardest heart. They are pure, white, fluffy and defenceless. They demand nurture. And like their parents they don't seem able to smell danger very easily. They follow where they're led, even to execution.

For the agrarian Jews of Jesus' time the sacrifice of a lamb demonstrated how serious they were about atoning for their sins. Jewish law dictated that a lamb had to be killed at least once a year, at Passover. Such a sacrifice cost the shepherd big time. Lambs were currency. This was tithing writ large.

Saying Jesus is the Lamb of God is a shorthand way of telling us two things. The first is that Jesus is God's most precious gift; God's own self, given to the world that we might know how serious God is about us. God can give us nothing more than Jesus. As a result of Jesus' innocent suffering and death there is no need for any lambs to be religiously slaughtered ever again. We need to keep hearing this message because some Christians get caught into glorifying Jesus' suffering so much they get trapped in their own world of pain and go looking for more. Jesus never sought out suffering. He bore what came his way. And the same must be true for us. Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. Most of us don't need to look for more suffering in our lives because we share in the Lamb of God's sacrifice in the ordinary downs of our lives.

Secondly, John would have known that 'talya', the Aramaic word for sheep, is the same word used for servant. The first hearers of this Gospel would have known it too. Jesus, then, is the servant who brings us the truth we need for life, who answers our deepest desires to know that our existence has meaning and purpose and he opens up for us the life beyond this one, where there will be no more weeping or sadness.

Jesus shows us that when we are baptised into his death and enter his service we also share in his resurrection and glory because he bears, and bears away, the sins of the world.

The Perfume of Holiness

© Fr Michael Tate

What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of people: 'Holier than thou'! It means being so close to God that God's holiness rubs off. We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.....

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: *Isaiah 49:3. 5-6*

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10.*

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:1-3*

Gospel: *John 1:29-34*

Next Week's Readings—3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: *Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3*

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14.*

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*

Gospel: *Matthew 4:12-23*



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 Saturday, Vigil or 9.30am Sunday.



MASS TIMES

MON	NO MASS
TUES	NO MASS
WED	9.00am
THURS	NO MASS
FRI	9.00am MASS
SAT	6.00pm
SUN	9.30am

If you are Gluten intolerant and require a special host, please advise the Mass Coordinator.

PARISH FUNDRAISER – 4 MARCH 2026

The first Parish Fundraiser for the year will be a Repertory Theatre production, 'The Game's Afoot' - a murder mystery whodunit. Our very own parishioner, Mike Taylor is the production's director. To help make the fundraiser a success we are **seeking donations** of cash towards the purchase of drinks and snacks which will be sold on the evening and other consumables such as plates, cups, napkins etc. We are also **seeking donations** of prize items for the multi-drawer raffle which will be drawn on the evening. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards urgent church building repair and maintenance. Watch the bulletin for further updates.

Tickets go on sale from this weekend until sold out!

Sacramental Program 2026

In 2026, St Theresa's parish will offer Confirmation and First Eucharist in June and First Reconciliation in August.

Parent information nights will be advertised in the parish bulletin and Mater Dei school newsletter as well as physical paper copies will be available in the church foyer and parish office.

The first Parent information night for Confirmation and First Eucharist will be Wednesday 11 February at 6pm. Children who are in year 4 or above are welcome to receive these sacraments.

The second Parent information night for First Reconciliation will be Wednesday, 22 July at 6pm. Children who are in year 3 or above are welcome to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions please contact the parish office or Monica Brennan, the pastoral associate by phone: 4639 4588 or email: sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au or sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au

PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026—ORDER FORMS

This year we will be offering a choice of 2 Lenten programs: The Woollongong Program '*Compassio*' and the Brisbane Program '*The Journey Home*' with reflections by Bishop Mark Coleridge. The cost of the program will be \$10.00. Order forms are located in the church foyer or by calling the parish office.

The closing date for numbers is Friday, 30 January.

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Helen Armagnacq, Millicent Smith, Stuart Ashton, Hayley Ryan, Patricia Court, Lily Curran, Mick Roche, Nelle Laffy, Francene Anson (Skippen), Audrey Rasmussen, Lily Ball, Irene Gatt, Robert Johnston, Fred Hoysted, Kevin Rowland (SNR), Fred Taylor, Benjamin Davey, Fr. William Behm & Kevin O'Shea.

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners—Robert Gillespie, Betty Bagley, Anne Thomas, Susan Quirk, Marie Ah See & Elizabeth Curtis

Friends and Family—Aye Aye Hla, Lawrie Atzeni, Imogen Atkins, Catherine Castelli, Naser, Madeline (Sally) Gray, Mary Gleeson, Geraldine Hurley, Iain Bruce, Jennifer Fogarty, Erica Armagnacq, Geoff Doyle, Anna O'Toole, Phil Connolly, Shona Kraayvanger, Indiana Harman, Louis Gandini, Connie Bamgart, Max Shearer, John Mullen Molly Schmidt, The Dowling Family, Marty Heysen, Fr Peter McGrath CP & Judy March.



ABRAHAMIC FAITHS GATHERING: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 to be held at Garden City Mosque, 217 West Street, Harristown at 5.45pm, followed by a light dinner. The evening will begin with a short presentation by each faith group on : “What is still considered sacred?” Presenters are: Mohammad Aminul Islam, Imam of Garden City Mosque; Ariel Heber, President and Community Liaison, QLD Jewish Community Services Inc. and **Emma Stinson, Year 12 St Ursula’s student and member of St Theresa’s Catholic Parish, Toowoomba.** Further details contact John Agnew 07 4666 3225 or see flyer in the church foyer. Organised by Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together.

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 – 26 March 2026 & Breakfast – 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.

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION PROJECT—Raffle 30—Dec 2025—March 2026 Every \$10 ticket helps restore St Patrick’s Cathedral’s stained-glass windows—and gives you the chance to win a \$300K First Prize Pack, including two luxury cars and \$140K in gold bullion! Learn more and purchase tickets: www.playforpurpose.com.au/catholic-diocese

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.

SAVE THE DATE: SPRED 40 YEARS IN TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE: Sunday, 22nd March 2026 at St Theresa’s Parish Toowoomba. The wonderful ministry of SPRED is celebrating 40 years in our Diocese in 2026. Mark the date in your calendar; more details to follow in the new year.

JUBILEE OF MIGRANTS CROSS: 22 June -5 July 2026 Mark your diary! The *Jubilee of Migrants Cross* will make a pilgrimage through our diocese 22 June -5 July 2026 a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the faith, diversity, and shared journey of all God’s people

JANUARY 2026 THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Let us pray, that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.
Leo P.P. XIV

Parish Ministries

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr Brian Noonan, Monica Brennan, Elizabeth Curtis, Allison Busiko, Greg Hallam, Gerard Hore, Julie Raitelli, David Rogan, Martin Stinson, Dave Wilson. Bernadette & Glen Whisson.

Finance Committee

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

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, Jan Watkins, Anne Anderson, 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

Care & Concern Team

Damian Carroll 0409 662 047

RCIA

David Wilson 0451 131 849

St Vincent de Paul

For Assistance
1800 846 643

Parish Contact Details

St Theresa’s Church—Cnr Campbell & Curzon Sts, Toowoomba

Parish Office— 55 Curzon Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Phone: 07 4639 4688 sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au

Website: www.sttheresas.org.au

Office Hours—Monday 11.00am – 5.00pm

Wednesday 11.00am – 5.00pm & Friday 11.00am—4.00pm

Parish Priest—Fr Brian Noonan

Ph: 0458 967 094 bnoonan@twb.catholic.org.au

Pastoral Associate—Monica Brennan

sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary— Cheryl Rens

sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au



POPE LEO'S LENS

© Nick Brodie

While the familiar often feels comfortable, the Gospel reminds us to seek always to be ready for the Christ who approaches us from unexpected directions. This, Pope Leo explains, is why the Church's rediscovery of the synodal pathway is so important.

As the Pope says, the Church has reached a moment in its history when 'it is necessary to engage in a genuine synodal exercise, that is, to walk together in order to question ourselves, to begin some experimentation and to initiate a serene and frank discernment.'

This is a critical moment for us. The Pope wants us to realise that, if embraced willingly, 'these experiences can help us to discern the future.' The smallest of conversations can lead to great things.

The Pope offers the example of people struggling to find sufficient and dignified work. He urges us 'to be a Church close to the world of work, compassionate and embodied, so that the proclamation of the Gospel may become a concrete presence of consolation and hope.' In this light the Pope wants us to consider how we might adopt 'the style of proximity, listening to the struggles and hardships of the people.'

We should always remember that John urged his followers to look at 'the Chosen One of God' when he saw Jesus approaching.

[Quotes from Address to Pilgrims from the Dioceses of Tuscany and Others, 11 October 2025:]

HEART ON COUNTRY - WEAVING CULTURE, FAITH AND LEARNING: 12-14 August 2026 at Toowoomba

(Including time at the Bunya Mountains). Educators from across Australia are warmly invited to the Queensland First Nations Catholic Education Conference Heart on Country. This transformative three-day event will explore how culture, faith and learning can be woven together to create inclusive, empowering educational environments for First Nations students. For more details see flyer in church foyer or visit: www.toowoombacatholiceducation.rsvpify.com

Diocesan Office—SCAM EMAILS

New year, new scams! Be on the lookout for a fresh batch of scam emails appearing to come from Bishop Ken Howell or his Executive Assistant, Karen Morris.

Although this new scam email appears to target parishes, everyone should be mindful of suspect emails, especially those requesting information or making requests that seem out of the norm.

Remember....

* Legitimate emails from clergy, parishes and diocesan staff will always come from a TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU email address.

* Bishop Ken and diocesan staff will never solicit sensitive information via email without prior contact.

* Bishop Ken and diocesan staff will never ask for gift cards to be purchased as payment or donation. If an email feels "off" or out of the ordinary, even if it appears to come from a TWB email address, please don't hesitate to contact the Diocesan Office on 07 46327589 to confirm its legitimacy (do not respond to the original email).

SCAM PHONE CALLS or TEXT MESSAGES

Over the last couple of weeks a few of our parishioners have received SCAM phone or text messages from Fr Brian Noonan requesting money or gift vouchers be sent. Fr Brian would like to confirm that he and all our priests would never request money through a text message or phone call.

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

Upcoming Parish Events—January

26 Monday PUBLIC HOLIDAY—Office Closed

23 Friday Combined Spirituality Day for
Teachers of Mater Dei & Good
Samaritan College culminating in mass
at St Theresa's Parish Centre

28 Wednesday Mater Dei, school recommences

Gospel Reflection Group recommences 2 February

Planned Giving—11 January 2026

Collection—Envelopes: \$335.00 & Loose: \$537.30
Direct Deposits: \$1545.00 & Tap & Go: \$260.00

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

BSB: 064786 Account No: 100014392