

# 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.*

24-25 January 2026

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

### POPE LEO'S LENS

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'Responding to today's challenges may sometimes seem beyond our capabilities,' Pope Leo says, 'but this is not the case.' He calls on us to 'work together to set humanity free from the encircling gloom' that 'threatens to "cancel" hope.'

Reflecting on St John Henry Newman's hymn, Lead, Kindly Light, the Pope wants us to 'disarm the false reasons for resignation and powerlessness.' He wants us to 'share the great reasons for hope in today's world.' Even in the darkness, we see a great light.

With our eyes focused on the true light of this world, we are called to be pointers to it.

'Let us', the Pope says, 'reflect upon and point out to others those "constellations" that transmit light and guidance at this present time, which is darkened by so much injustice and uncertainty.'

Indeed, our own lives should become living reflections of that light. 'Life shines brightly not because we are rich, beautiful or powerful', the Pope says. 'Instead, it shines when we discover within ourselves the truth that we are called by God, have a vocation, have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves.'

'Every single creature has a role to play', he continues. 'The contribution that each person can make is uniquely valuable.' For that reason, we should also always be open to the light shining in those we meet.

*[Quotes from Homily for the Mass in which St John Henry Newman was proclaimed Doctor of the Church, 1 Nov 2025: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20251101-messa-giubileo-formatori.html>]*

### REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Discipleship is not something that we take upon ourselves. We are called to it. Some people are very conscious of this call. They are aware of it in their aspirations and dreams; they recognise it in the events of their lives. They hear the call as clearly as Simon, Andrew, James and John heard the voice of Jesus. For others, the call to discipleship is not so clear. They may experience an undefined restlessness, a dissatisfaction with their lives. People can respond to the call in one of two ways. They can consider the mere suggestion of discipleship an intrusion into their plans, or they can drop what they are doing, leave their former concerns behind and follow Jesus.

There is a misunderstanding about being called and leaving everything behind. Although the gospel says that the four men left their occupation of fishing in order to follow Jesus, this kind of 'leaving behind' was not, and still is not, required of all, for it is in the ordinary events of life that our salvation unfolds. For most people, this is precisely where they are to function as disciples. Still, disciples of Jesus are called to leave behind certain ways of living as they follow him. They are called away from lives of pettiness and division. They are called away from the kind of factionalism that seems to have threatened the unity of the Corinthian community. They are called away from narrow-mindedness and mean-spirited competition. It is much easier to leave nets than to leave the web of one's prejudices.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

### Next Week's Readings – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading:** *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Ps 145:7-10.*

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

**Gospel:** *Matthew 5:1-12*

## BAPTISMS

**25 January 2026**

we welcome into our parish

**Jimmy Johnstone  
&  
Jack Dempsey**

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 Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of the month after Mass at 11.00am or during the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil or 9.30am Sunday Masses.

## MASS TIMES

MON	NO MASS
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TUES	NO MASS
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WED	9.00am
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THURS	NO MASS
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FRI	9.00am MASS
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SAT	6.00pm
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SUN	9.30am
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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 until sold out!**

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**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.

## 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](mailto:sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au) or [sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au)

## RECENTLY DECEASED

## ANNIVERSARIES

Kathleen le Gras, Ken McGuirk, Ken Murphy, Carol Martel, Kent Schaefer, Patricia Shine, Michael Fogarty, William McAuliffe and Laurie Schneider.

## 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.



**# PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026—ORDER FORMS #** This year the parish will be offering a choice of two Parish Lenten programs:

The Woollongong Program ‘*Compassio*’ and the Brisbane Program ‘*The Journey Home*’ with reflections by Bishop Mark Coleridge. Both programs are perfect for deepening the Lenten journey.

The cost of the program will be \$10.00. Order forms are located in the church foyer or by calling the parish office. The parish Lenten Program will commence Monday, 16 February with more details to follow.

**The closing date for numbers is this coming Friday, 30 January.**

#### **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](http://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, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

#### **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

#### **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 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](mailto:sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au)

Website: [www.sttheresas.org.au](http://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](mailto:bnoonan@twb.catholic.org.au)

**Pastoral Associate—**Monica Brennan

[sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:sttheresas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Secretary—** Cheryl Rens

[sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:sttheresasparish@twb.catholic.org.au)



## 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. In recognition of this historic anniversary, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a **Special Year of St Francis**

10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027

.....In a statement announcing the decree's promulgation, the Franciscan Friars invited Catholics to take part in the Jubilee celebrations, expressing the hope that St Francis' example would inspire participants 'to live with authentic Christian charity towards our neighbour and with sincere longings for concord and peace among peoples'.

In their statement, the friars also hoped that this year of St Francis might 'be for each one of us a providential occasion for sanctification and evangelical witness in the contemporary world, for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church'.

**"Give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries"** ... intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

In a letter dated 10 January to the ministers general of the Conference of the Franciscan Family, Pope Leo said St Francis' message of peace was needed now more than ever.

'In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace,' the Pope wrote.

That peace, the Pope added, 'is not limited to the relations between human beings' but extends to 'the entire family of Creation'.

'This insight resonates with particular urgency in our time, when our common home is threatened and cries out under exploitation,' he wrote. 'Peace with God, peace among human beings, and with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation.'

Pope Leo concluded his letter with a prayer to St Francis, asking the saint's intercession 'to give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.....For the complete article visit:

[www.melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-proclaims-jubilee-to-mark-800th-anniversary-of-st-francis-death](http://www.melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-proclaims-jubilee-to-mark-800th-anniversary-of-st-francis-death)

### **VATICAN STATE APP - Vatican Governorate releases new app dedicated to St. Carlo Acutis**

The new official app from the Governorate of the Vatican City State is dedicated to St. Carlo Acutis and his IT skills. The application offering the contents of its official website in a quick and intuitive way, making it possible to consult news, announcements, and official communications website [www.vaticanstate.va](http://www.vaticanstate.va) and has been designed to make access to information even easier, quicker, and more user-friendly on mobile devices. Download from your app store by searching for **"Vatican State"**.

### **Planned Giving—18 January 2026**

Weekend Collection  
Envelopes: \$470.00 & Loose: \$521.90  
Direct Deposits: \$1082.00 &  
Tap & Go: \$65.00

St Theresa's Catholic Parish  
(Planned Giving Only)

**BSB: 064786 Account No: 100014392**

### **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**

Infin8 Catholic Residents Mass & Prayer Liturgy

### **Upcoming Parish Events January—February**

#### **January**

26 Monday **PUBLIC HOLIDAY—Office Closed**

28 Wednesday Mater Dei, school recommences

#### **February**

1 Sunday SPRED—Welcome Mass & Book Collection 4pm

2 Monday Gospel Reflection Group—10.00am at the Parish Office. All Welcome

3 Tuesday Abrahamic Gathering Mosque 5.45pm

4 Wednesday Parish Morning Tea following 9.00am Mass 9.45am at Cobb & Co

5 Thursday Parish Council Meeting at 6.00pm

7 Saturday Infin8 Catholic Prayer Liturgy 9.30am

7 Saturday Music Workshop/Meeting—4.00pm

7-8 Sat & Sun Commissioning of Mater Dei School Staff during Mass

11 Wednesday Parent Info Night Eucharist/Confirmation 5.00pm