



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.

7—8 February 2026

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

POPE LEO'S LENS

© Nick Brodie

‘Education is not only the transmission of content,’ Pope Leo says, ‘but also the learning of virtues. It forms citizens capable of serving and believers capable of witnessing, men and women who are freer, no longer alone.’

Making these comments, the Pope wants us to recapture the true core of the Church’s mission to educate. He encourages us to make sure our schools become ‘an environment in which faith, culture and life intertwine ... a living environment in which the Christian vision permeates every discipline and every interaction.’

But he also notes what takes place outside of schools and universities. The family, he reminds us, ‘remains the first place of education’.

In these changing times, he suggests, we must avoid any ‘technophobia’ that would see us withdraw from opportunities to put forth the Christian message – not only by teaching, but first and foremost by witness.

We do well then, to foster ‘an educational style that promotes respect, personalised accompaniment, discernment and the development of all the human dimensions.’ We should also embrace an educational mindset that ‘is fulfilled and strengthened also through the contemplation of Creation’.

At certain moments, we are all educators. We therefore have an important vocation to, as the Pope puts it, ‘cultivate a heart that listens, a gaze that encourages, and an intelligence that discerns.’

[Quotes from Apostolic Letter Drawing New Maps of Hope, 27 October 2025: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_letters/documents/20251027-disegnare-nuove-mappe.html]

REFLECTION

Extraordinary things are accomplished through ordinary people.

We live in a world where appearances frequently matter more than they should. Contrary to this predominating tendency, Jesus teaches us that what we do flows from who and what we are. We can enlighten the world with the message of the gospel, because our lives have been transformed by that gospel and now we ourselves are light for others. We can serve others in various ways, only because we have been saved by God’s grace and now we are agents of that grace in the lives of others. Our own renewal becomes the means through which God renews the world.

This may sound grandiose, but it isn’t. It is the truth about the way God works. Extraordinary things are accomplished through ordinary people. Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter; some of the apostles were fishermen; Paul was a tentmaker; we are clerks and teachers, bus drivers and doctors, bank tellers and engineers. Like Paul we come to ministry in weakness and fear and much trembling. It is the Spirit and power of God that work the wonders, and God works them through mundane elements of life such as light and salt.

As children, many of us learned the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. We learned that we can practise them in every walk of life. Today’s readings remind us of this. We may not be asked to perform extraordinary feats, but all disciples of Jesus are called upon to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 111:4-9.

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Next Week's Readings—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34.

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37



BAPTISMS



Baptism are celebrated during the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil or 9.30am Sunday Masses.

Baptisms are also celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday's of the month after Mass at 11.00am.

"Holiness consists simply in doing God's will, and being just what God wants us to be".

- St Therese of Lisieux—

MASS TIMES

MON	NO MASS
TUES	NO MASS
WED	9.00am
THURS	NO MASS
FRI	9.00am
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 COMEDY murder mystery whodunit, with a Sherlock Holmes theme. Our very own parishioner, Mike Taylor is the production's director.

To help make the fundraiser a Huge 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 repairs and maintenance. Watch the bulletin for further updates.

Tickets go on sale until sold out! We have 28 tickets remaining!!

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

The parish Lenten Program will commence Monday, 16 February, 10.00am at the Parish Office. If you have forgotten to add your name to the Lenten Program we do have a few books available.

ASH WEDNESDAY—18 February

Mass—7.00am Mary MacKillop
Mass—9.00am St Theresa's

PRAYER REQUESTS

ANNIVERSARIES

Kathleen Howe, Vera Flynn, Evelyn Schaeper, Ronald Cumming, Vince Shine, Neil Murdoch, Eric Howe, Ivy Hurley, Dan Shine, Tony Cartwright, Fr. James Byrne, Mary Gilshenan, Ethel Martin, Rae Mayo, Stephen Watchman, and Judy Houen,

HEALING FOR THE SICK

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

Friends and Family—Lyn Lee, Hannah Parton, Jan Boyd, 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 and Judy March.



AN INVITATION TO A HISTORIC MOMENT—Cardinal Bychok Visits Toowoomba 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 support the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Our **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP)** service is quickly approaching on Thursday 5 March 6:30pm at St Bart's Toowoomba with guest speaker Ashley Saunders, the National Director of Barnabas Aid. Barnabas Aid does a lot of work in Nigeria, our country of focus this year.

VOLUNTEER with IMPACT Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities! Join Palms International Volunteering online in this special session where you'll learn about our diverse assignments suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives. **Session Thursday, 19 February, 6pm–7.30pm AEST. Register palms.org.au/events.**

SAVE THE DATE: BISHOP KEN HOWELL PARISH PASTORAL VISIT: 12-14 June 2026. Bishop Ken will be making a Pastoral Visit to Mater Dei Primary School on Friday, 12 June. The Bishop will be visiting St Theresa's Parish Community and celebrating Mass on Saturday and Sunday, 13-14 June.

SAVE THE DATE: ST MARY'S WARWICK CENTENARY: 15 March 2026. St Mary of the Assumption Church Warwick will be celebrating 100 years!

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.

SYCHAR : House of Prayer & Spirituality—Toowoomba: Sychar welcomes all who thirst for inner growth and spiritual nourishment; who seek to discover their authentic self and awaken to the Mystery of God in whom they live and move and have their being. They will be encouraged to journey to the heart, to experience more deeply the indwelling presence of Christ and their oneness with all creation. Accessing the unfailing well-springs of God's creative Spirit will enable those who thirst to be transformed by the fire of God's love and inspired to embrace God's mission with passion and creativity. To register or find upcoming events visit www.twb.catholic.org.au/ministry/sychar/ or call **0458 223 603**.

FEBRUARY 2026 THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Let us pray, that children suffering with incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope. *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



Special Year of St Francis

800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. (1181 or 1182 – October 3, 1226)

The Peace Prayer of St. Francis (Part II)

Though written in simple language, the Peace Prayer provides rich material for spiritual reflection. The following are some of my thoughts on the Peace Prayer inspired by the lines (printed in bold type) of this prayer and by the example of St. Francis.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love. In his 9th Admonition, called Charity, St. Francis tells his followers, “Our Lord says in the Gospel, Love your enemies (Matthew 5:44). A man really loves his enemy when he is not offended by the injury done to himself, but for love of God feels burning sorrow for the sin his enemy has brought on his own soul, and proves his love in a practical way.”

Where there is injury, pardon. During the violence-ridden Crusades, Francis discovered a path of peace, pardon and non-violence. The “little poor man” went to Egypt to engage in a peaceful dialogue with Sultan Malik al-Kamil (head of the Muslim forces), a meeting in which a spirit of forgiveness, respect and understanding prevailed. Francis would have the same message for those in our times who are so quick to see violence as the only cure for terrorism.

Where there is doubt, faith. When, as a young man, Francis found himself in a fog of doubt as to the nature of God’s care for him, he sought the face of God through prayer in solitary places. God opened Francis’ eyes of faith. The saint saw a vision of Christ gazing at him from the Cross with such a look of love that Francis’ “soul melted,” to use the words of his biographer, St. Bonaventure. The fog of doubt lifted for Francis, and he went through the world setting others free from their own burdens of doubt.

(excerpts: www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-francis-of-assisi)

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace:
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Saint Francis of Assisi astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Planned Giving—1 Feb 2026: Envelopes: \$355.00, Loose: \$649.30, Direct Deposits: \$1420.00 & Tap & Go: \$95.00
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 February

February

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
9 Monday	Gospel Reflection—10.00am Parish Office
11 Wednesday	World Day of Prayer for the Sick Parent Info Night Eucharist/Confirmation 5.00pm
14-15 Sat-Sun	Commitment during Mass for those preparing for Confirmation & First Eucharist
16 Monday	Parish Lenten Program—10.00am Parish Office
18 Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY
25 Wednesday	Council of Priests—St Patrick’s Cathedral Lay Led Liturgy
28 Saturday	Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament—5.00pm