

# 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.*

21—22 March 2026

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

## POPE LEO'S LENS

Pope Leo wants us to remember that we are not children of 'a distant, inaccessible and immovable God ... but a God who is close to us and accompanies us on our journey in the world, even in the darkest places on earth.'

This mystery has profound implications for how we understand our Christian calling.

'Is God for me the living God, close to me in every situation, the Father to whom I turn with filial trust?', the Pope asks. 'Is he the Creator to whom I owe everything I am and have, whose mark I can find in every creature?'

Such reflection prompts the Pope to ask further questions: 'Am I willing to share the goods of the earth, which belong to everyone, in a just and equitable manner? How do I treat creation, the work of his hands? Do I exploit and destroy it, or do I use it with reverence and gratitude, caring for and cultivating it as the common home of humanity?'

'Love for God without love for neighbour is hypocrisy', the Pope declares emphatically. 'In following Jesus,' he says, 'the ascent to God passes through descent and dedication to our brothers and sisters ... In the face of disasters, wars and misery, we bear witness to God's mercy to those who doubt him only when they experience his mercy through us.'

[Quotes from *Apostolic Exhortation In Unitate Fidei*, 23 November 2025: [https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost\\_letters/documents/20251123-in-unitate-fidei.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_letters/documents/20251123-in-unitate-fidei.html)]

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## REFLECTION

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

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### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 37:12-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 129.

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:8-11

**Gospel:** John 11:1-45

### Next Week's Readings—Palm Sunday

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

**Gospel:** Matthew 21:1-11

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-7

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24.

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

**Second Reading:** Philippians 2:6-11

**Gospel:** Matthew 26:14 – 27:66



**HOLY WEEK**  
**Palm Sunday—Easter Sunday**

**CHRISM MASS**—30 March  
 5.30pm St Patrick’s Cathedral

**PARISH RECONCILIATION**  
 1 April—6.00pm

**HOLY THURSDAY—LAST SUPPER**  
*combined with Mary MacKillop Parish*  
 2 April—6.00pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**—3 April  
 Stations of the Cross—10.00am  
 Veneration of the Cross—3.00pm

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
 4 April—Easter Vigil—6.00pm

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
 5 April—9.30am

**PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026**

The parish Lenten Program is held every Monday during Lent at **10.00am in the Parish Office**. All are welcome to attend.

**Sacramental Program 2026**

Preparation sessions for the Confirmation and First Eucharist program are underway. Sessions are held Monday’s at 3.15pm and **Wednesday’s sessions at 5.30pm have finished and will recommence after the school holiday break.**

These sessions are in the parish office meeting room. If you have any questions contact the parish office or Monica Brennan, the pastoral associate by phone: 4639 4588 or email: [stthere-sas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:stthere-sas.pastoralassociate@twb.catholic.org.au)

**Holy week and Easter liturgy Rosters**

The rosters for volunteers for various ministry roles for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday Veneration of the Cross, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday morning are available in the foyer.

Please take the time to look at them and add your name. We appreciate your support over these special liturgical celebrations.

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.	

**CHRISM MASS:** Three oils are blessed during the Chrism Mass. The **Oil of Catechumens** (also known as the oil of exorcism, which is used in Baptism), the **Oil of the Sick** (used in the Anointing of the Sick) and the **Oil of Holy Chrism** (used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders).

The oil of holy chrism is particularly important since it is used in the sacraments that anoint with the Holy Spirit. It is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, an aromatic resin reminding us that as Christians we are called to give off the **‘fragrance’** of Jesus Christ, ‘the smell of life leading to life’ (*2 Corinthian 2:14, 16*).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, ‘From the beginning until the end of time the whole of God’s work is a blessing’ (§1079). The only thing God has ever wanted to do is bless his people: bless them with life in abundance. Jesus is the one who brings this abundant life, and through the sacraments we are blessed with it. The oils symbolise this. In blessing the oils, and in using them to bless others, we see and smell Christ at work, blessing those lost and far away with his divine, abundant life.

*Excerpts* <https://melbournecatholic.org/>

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**ANNIVERSARIES** —21–27 March

Archie Kretchmann, Mervyn Otto, Peter Kalinowski, Tom Dowling, John Herbert, Helen Lyons Bert Jelley, Denise Kennedy, Joe Leonardi, Roger Ley, Steve Barnett and Phillip Wareham.

**HEALING FOR THE SICK**

**Parishioners** Jan Mayo, Isabel Gall, Robert Gillespie, Betty Bagley, Anne Thomas, Susan Quirk, Marie Ah See. John & Thérèse Erbs & Elizabeth Curtis.

**Friends and Family** June Pascoe, Darrell Callinan, Nicholas Grunden, 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, Dowling Family, Marty Heysen, Fr Peter McGrath CP and Judy March.



Any singers who may want to join the choir for the **CHRISM MASS** are welcome. Contact Pam Duane either by phone/message on 0428 195 255. or email: [cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au). If you require music scores on the day (or earlier), please let me know in advance. **St Patrick's choir rehearses on Tuesday nights at 6pm in the cathedral.** Looking forward to hearing from and meeting singers and musicians from other parishes.

**CHRISM MASS** live streamed <https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/live-stream-masses/>

**SPRED COMMUNITY MASS CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE: Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, 11.00am** at St Theresa's Parish. Followed by a catered luncheon in Mater Dei School Hall. For seating and catering please **RSVP by Monday, 2 March.** Either via phone 07 4632 8427 or email: [spread@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:spread@twb.catholic.org.au).

**FR MICK MCCLURE FAREWELL FROM HELIDON CELEBRATION: Sunday, 22 March - 2.30pm** at St Joseph's Church, Gunn St Helidon. All are warmly welcome to join the Helidon community in giving thanks for the dedicated ministry of Fr Mick McClure. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ken Howell, and refreshments will follow. Please RSVP to Helidon Parish by 15/3/26 for catering [helidon@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:helidon@twb.catholic.org.au)

**EASTERTIDE MUSIC—Presented by Ars Cantorum:** Featuring the Easter cantata *'Blessed'* by Joel Raney and supporting works with Easter themes. Friday, 27 March at 7pm, St James Church, Mort Street. **Sunday, 29 March at 2pm, St Patrick's Cathedral.** Light refreshments to follow. Tickets \$25, school children free. For more details flyer in church foyer or 0439 355 089 or [arstoowoomba@gmail.com](mailto:arstoowoomba@gmail.com).

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS: GOOD FRIDAY—3 April at 7.30am.** Starting at the steps of St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba. Participants will visit several stations around the Toowoomba CBD to reflect on the Passion of Christ and link it to the current injustices in the world. All are invited to participate. Please wear good walking shoes, suitable clothes for the weather and bring a water bottle. Inquiries contact David on 0428 130 895 or [dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au). Social Justice Commission—Toowoomba Diocese. (please wear good walking shoes, water bottle etc).

**SAVE THE DATE: BISHOP HOWELL'S PARISH PASTORAL VISIT: 12-14 June 2026:** St Theresa's Parish & Mater Dei School.

**SYCHAR : House of Prayer & Spirituality—Toowoomba:** Sychar welcomes all who thirst for inner growth and spiritual nourishment. To find events visit [www.twb.catholic.org.au/ministry/sychar/](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au/ministry/sychar/) or call **0458 223 603.**

**SAVE THE DATE: DIOCESAN SYNOD: Friday, 22—Saturday, 23 October.**

### MARCH 2026 THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Let us pray, Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue, and diplomacy instead of violence. *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, Gay Jorgensen & Elizabeth Stewart.

### Musicians

Norma Kenny, Elizabeth Stewart, Kathy Sternes, Libby Rosentreter, Charlotte & 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](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)

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

21—22 March 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

### Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

### DOLLAR MATCH DAY IS RETURNING!

Next **Wednesday, 25 March**, every donation Toowoomba East Catholic Parish raises online for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion will once again be **MATCHED** by a generous supporter, up to a cap of \$67,500 – doubling your donations and their impact! That's right...

A \$50 donation will become \$100

A \$100 donation will become \$200

Dollar Match Day starts at 10.00 (AEDT) and will run until our \$67,500 matched funding cap is reached. Make sure you set a reminder and get ready to act fast, as this opportunity is open to all our schools, parishes and individual fundraisers – and once the funds are gone, they're gone! **\*Donations will be matched up to \$1,000 per individual donation.**



## 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.



### Autumn Afternoon of CHORAL MUSIC:

Sunday, 29 March at 2.00pm. Toowoomba Community Baptist Church, 100 Glenvale Rd. Glenvale. Entry by donation to support **Winter Shelter Toowoomba** \$2 and over tax deductible.

Enquiries: Kent 0417 976 098

### POSITION VACANT

#### FINANCE ASSISTANT

The Diocese of Toowoomba is currently seeking to employ a Finance Assistant on a part-time basis for 30 hours per week. The responsibility of the Finance Assistant is to provide high-quality finance support to the operation of the Diocese and its entities.

Applications close Friday, 27 March 2026 at 5:00pm.

For position description or to apply SEEK: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/90914886>.

**Planned Giving 14-15 Mar :** Envelopes: \$420.00 Loose: \$718.65 Direct Deposits: \$1512.00 & Tap & Go: \$320.00  
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.

#### Care & Concern Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of 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 Friday or Saturday of the Month

Infin8 Catholic Residents Mass & Prayer Liturgy

### Upcoming Parish Events

#### March—April

23 Monday Parish Lenten Program 10.00am Parish Office

25 Wednesday **NO Sacramental Preparation**

**27 Friday Show Holiday—OFFICE CLOSED**

**28 Mar—5 Apr HOLY WEEK** (*see times on 2nd page of bulletin*)

3-7 April **OFFICE CLOSED**

3-19 April School Holidays

8 Wednesday Parish Morning Tea—9.45am at Cobb & Co

8 Wednesday Parish Council Meeting

11 Saturday Infin8 Care—Prayer Liturgy at 9.30am