

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.

3—4 October 2026

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

GOSPEL REFLECTION - *Pope Leo's Lens*

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'Christians do not flee from complexity,' Pope Leo says, 'for God himself has called them to follow his Son.' We Christians live, as the Pope puts it, 'in a world that is already inhabited, already in motion, already marked by both human misery and goodness.' In it, we are meant to be God's light in the darkness.

'As disciples of Christ,' the Pope reminds us, 'you know well that the Christian community is not a refuge into which we withdraw in order to protect ourselves from our age. On the contrary,' he says, 'the Church is a place of welcome, respect, revelation and meaning for everyone.' We must never reflexively or selfishly reject anyone God sends our way. Moreover, as the Pope also points out, the Church 'is called always to be a Church "going forth"' in service. Crucial to this, the Pope recognises, is the 'missionary presence of the lay faithful, who are the living front line of the Church at the crossroads of everyday life.'

'Therefore,' he encourages us, 'place communion with the successor of Peter and with the Church before your personal preferences, so as to foster the unity of God's people.' None of us has to go into the vineyard alone. We should go 'together', and through our togetherness 'we will bear prophetic witness to the possibility of a reconciled world.'

[Quotes from Homily at Notre Dame, Paris, 25 September 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260925-francia-vespri.html>]

SEASONS OF CREATION

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. This year, the theme for the Season is "Living Water."

Seasons of Creation—Reflection

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While giving a homily on this Gospel passage in 2015, Pope Francis said that 'what was rejected becomes strength'. It could be a theme for his pontificate. A few weeks later he released his ground-breaking teaching 'Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home', which met with swift and public criticism from certain quarters – including from some high-profile Catholic ones.

How often did vocal critics react to the Pope's actions, teachings and endeavours with a mentality typified by those 'chief priests and elders' to whom Jesus originally directed the parable of murderous tenants?

Pope Francis, as the successor of Saint Peter, and 'Vicar of Christ' – literally meaning 'Christ's deputy' – too often found himself being rejected in decidedly un-Christian ways for conveying his Master's message of mercy and love. Like the beaten, murdered and stoned servants in the vineyard, there were, and still are, frequent moments of resistance to what Pope Francis taught.

Whether it be his call for a humble Church that accompanies the poor, or his hopes for a listening Church that recognises the gifts of all its members, or his advice about a mature understanding of the role and meaning of liturgy, the message of today's Gospel is surely pertinent: we need to ask for the grace to listen to the message before reflexively striking out at the Master's messenger.

OCTOBER 2026 THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses. **Leo P.P. XIV**

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20.

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Next Week's Readings—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22.

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese—23–24 October 2026

We pray for the delegates attending the synod that they will be truly open to the prompting of the Spirit.

BAPTISMS

Baptism are celebrated during 5.00pm 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.

Becoming a Catholic

St Theresa's Parish welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life—anyone who has a desire to learn about and enter into a life of faith in Jesus Christ. To learn more contact Fr Brian Noonan or the parish office.

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.

The Jubilee Celebration of Ordination

Wednesday, 21 October

11.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral

Bishop Ken Howell and the Toowoomba Council of Priests warmly invite the community to celebrate **60 years** of ordination of **Fr John Quinlan** and **50 years** of ordination of **Frs Peter Doohan** and **Brian Noonan**. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral, followed by refreshments in St Patrick's Cathedral Centre.

Please **RSVP** to stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or 4637 1500

Parish Council Membership

Parish Council Nomination Forms are still available in the Church Foyer. Please consider nominating someone or yourself for this very important Parish Ministry. **Nominations close 5 October 2026.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE APPEAL

During the month of October, Joann Hodal will be organising the collection of items, which with many hands will be made into domestic violence care packages from St Theresa's. These care packages are simple but practical ways to give a helping hand to families and individuals who are the victims of domestic violence in our community.

Toiletries, toothpaste and personal hygiene items etc are ideal donations as a gift of dignity. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted. Baskets will be available in the foyer for you to place your donations into. They can also be left at the parish office during office hours. We thank you all sincerely for your continuing support for this community outreach project.

19 September—7 October OFFICE CLOSED

OCTOBER

3 Oct Infin8 Prayer Liturgy
4 Oct Feast of Francis of Assisi—End of Season of Creation month
5 Oct King's birthday Public Holiday—**office closed**
12 Gospel Reflection Group recommences at 10.00am each Monday
22-23 Delegates gather for the SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese

ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS—will begin on the week of the First Sunday of Advent (29 November) and continue through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January). The parish will be offering Advent Reflection Groups with details to follow shortly and order forms for books orders.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED—Madeline Gwen (Sally) Gray

ANNIVERSARIES 3–9 October

Michael O'Davis, Vidio Marchetti, Jean Wilkinson, Patrick Dunne, Mary Ryan, Jack Herbert, Frank Murphy, Irene Leonardi, Clothilde Zardo, Keith Rasmussen, Neal Jackson-Hope, Lorraine Hill, Christine Dent, Arthur Shooter, Bruno Borserio, Gwen Savage, Emmett Fitzgerald, Irene Shine, Stephanie Taylor, George Cartwright, John Reavey & Fr Ray O'Leary.

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners: Alison Lyndon, Roger Douglas, Isabel Gall, Anne Thomas, Susanne Gilshanen, Martin & Annette O'Brien, Paul McRae.

Friends and Family: Maree Howe, Ron Grunden, Carmel Hicks, Jim Curtis, Margaret Mary Lawson, Darrell Callinan, Jan Boyd, Aye Aye Hla, Imogen Atkins, Catherine Castelli, Naser, Mary Gleeson, 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, Marty Heysen, Fr Peter McGrath CP, Judy March and Pam Newman.