

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.

10—11 October 2026

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

GOSPEL REFLECTION - Pope Leo's Lens

© Nick Brodie

'In order to build a peaceful society,' Pope Leo says, 'we must not only reform structures but also renew our hearts.' Each one of us is called to reflect on the 'ethical and cultural crisis' that besets our world, and the part each of us plays in it.

The Pope wants us to see that the path of the Kingdom of Heaven is one which rejects much that the worldly hold dear. In our time, he laments, there has been 'the loss of a sense of limits, the desire for domination, the pursuit of immediate profit, and the inability to recognise the God-given dignity of each human person.'

As the Pope reflects, Jesus 'invites us to transform harm into life', seeking to 'reorder our desires, heal our wounds and help us grow in virtue.' Good and bad are invited to the feast, but truly attending means being transformed.

We are thus invited to enter the feast 'where hearts are renewed, new possibilities begin to open.' Each one of us is called to become an agent of joyful peace, which 'begins in the heart and flows outward to our relationships, communities and the broader world.'

'Let us imagine', the Pope encourages us, 'a world in which the energies currently invested in war are directed toward integral human development, to overcoming poverty, protecting human dignity and reconciling divided peoples. Such a vision reflects faith in the coming of God's Kingdom.'

[Quotes from Message for 11th World Day of Creation, 15 August 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20260815-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>]

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

Next Week's Readings—29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1.4-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10.

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

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** by Friday 16 October

stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or 4637 1500

(include dietary requirements) .

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Mass of the Holy Spirit

at the beginning of the Diocesan Synod—All welcome!

You are invited to participate in the Opening Mass
for our Diocesan Synod

Thursday, 22 October

6.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral.

We specially encourage people within the Toowoomba
area to be present and share in the prayer that
commences the Synod.

This Mass will also be live streamed via the Catholic
Diocese of Toowoomba website.

SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese—23–24 October

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

What We Heard

LISTENING TO THE LIFE OF OUR DIOCESE

Across the Diocese of Toowoomba, people shared openly about their experience of faith and Church — what they value, the challenges they encounter, and their hopes for the future.

Their responses reveal a deep love for our faith and communities, gratitude for those who serve, and a desire to see our Diocese continue to grow and flourish. From this listening, seven interconnected themes emerged.

Together, they reflect what is already giving life across our Diocese, where people see opportunities for growth, and what they hope we might carry forward together. These voices invite us to listen carefully as we discern how we can deepen our life as disciples, accompany others in mission, and strengthen our shared life as Church.

Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth

Across the Diocese of Toowoomba, people expressed a desire to know Jesus more personally and grow in understanding of their Catholic faith. Prayer, Scripture, the sacraments and the example of faithful people continue to nourish diocesan life. Participants valued opportunities to learn together and spoke of faith as something that shapes daily relationships, choices and service.

Alongside these gifts, there was a call for more accessible and consistent formation across the Diocese. People sought retreats, small groups, spiritual accompaniment and clear teaching for all stages of life. Looking ahead, the hope is for communities where growing in faith is an ongoing part of belonging, and where people are encouraged to share that faith with confidence.

“Help people to form personal relationships with God and put him first” — Diocesan listening session

Children, Young People and Families

Children, young people and families were a central concern throughout the listening. Catholic schools provide significant places of care, connection and encounter with faith in the Diocese of Toowoomba. Young people valued the Church’s sense of community, its service to others and the opportunity to have their voices heard.

However, participants described gaps between school, home and parish life, and limited pathways for continuing involvement beyond school or sacramental preparation. Young people asked for meaningful spiritual experiences as well as friendship. The hope for the future is for stronger partnerships, support for parents and communities that accompany emerging generations over time, including families connected with state schools. Young people want opportunities to contribute to Church life now.

“Youth groups for spiritual connection, not just fun” — Youth listening session

Welcome, Belonging and Inclusion

Friendship, hospitality and the experience of being known are valued gifts within the Diocese. People spoke of the importance of community beyond Sunday Mass, where relationships deepen and people support one another. Migrant communities were recognised as bringing faith, energy and rich cultural traditions to parish life.

Yet belonging is not experienced equally by everyone. Responses called for ongoing welcome, personal invitations and greater understanding across cultures and generations. They also raised the experiences of First Nations people, people with disability, divorced people and LGBTQI+ people. The desire is for communities where people are listened to, their dignity is respected and their gifts are welcomed, especially those who feel disconnected or on the margins.

Prayer, Worship and Sacramental Life

The Eucharist, prayer and the sacraments hold a treasured place in the faith of people across Toowoomba’s diocesan communities. Participants sought deeper understanding and fuller participation in worship. They also asked for sacramental opportunities that take account of working lives, family commitments and the distances experienced in rural communities.

Different hopes were expressed about how worship might develop. Some emphasised reverence, consistency and traditional practices; others sought more contemporary music, accessible language and greater involvement of children and young people. These differences remain part of the listening. Looking ahead, people desire prayer and worship that deepen their relationship with God and nourish their life together as a community of faith.

Service, Outreach and Pastoral Care

The Diocese's life of faith is visible in the generosity of parishioners, school communities and ministries serving others. Participants valued outreach through organisations and initiatives such as St Vincent de Paul, Rosies and Winter Shelter, alongside the quiet care offered in homes, hospitals and local communities.

There was a desire to strengthen this presence among people experiencing poverty, homelessness, illness, grief and isolation. More trained pastoral carers supported volunteers and partnerships with other churches and community groups were suggested. Care for creation was also raised. The hope is for a Diocese that continues to move beyond its own gatherings, sharing Christ's love through practical service, personal invitation and faithful accompaniment.

"More time spent with people on the margins;" — Parish or group response

Gifts, Leadership and Ministry

Priests, religious, lay leaders and volunteers contribute generously to the life of the Diocese of Toowoomba. Their commitment was appreciated, while participants recognised that responsibilities often rest with a small number of people. There are also gifts within communities that remain unrecognised or unused.

People sought clearer invitations into ministry, formation, mentoring and shared responsibility between clergy and laity. Greater recognition of women's contributions and meaningful participation by young people were recurring hopes. Encouraging vocations and caring for those already serving were also important, including support and induction for overseas priests. For the future, participants envisaged a Church that equips people to contribute and sustains them spiritually and practically in their service.

Connected and Sustainable Communities

The Diocese of Toowoomba encompasses communities with different strengths, needs and circumstances. Participants valued their local identity and history of faith, while expressing a desire to feel more connected with the wider Diocese. Rural and remote communities sought greater contact, pastoral support and opportunities to share in diocesan life.

Ageing congregations, fewer priests, stretched volunteers and financial pressures prompted questions about the future. People called for collaboration between parishes, schools and agencies, shared resources and administration, and thoughtful planning. They wanted resources to support people and mission, with local communities involved in decisions that affect them.

Stronger communication continued listening and healing of past diocesan hurts were also part of this hope. Participants wanted to hear about the good already happening, build trust across differences and see their contributions lead to action. The future they described is one of communities supporting one another in a shared mission.

"That the church needs to continue having listening sessions and acting upon them." — Youth listening session

FROM LISTENING TO PRIORITIES

These themes inform the three priorities for our Synod: Our Life – Formed as Disciples; Our Mission – To Make Disciples of All Nations and Our Future – Uniting for Renewal in God's Mission. Together, they provide a starting point for discerning how we respond to what has been heard.

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.

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.

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.

The Virtue of Hope—Clifford Hennings, OFM
The optimist believes everything will work
itself out. As Christians we are not
optimists; we are people of hope. This
means placing your trust in the God who
saves. He is always at your side.

Prayer

**Come, Holy Spirit,
ease my weary mind
with the confidence
that you are near.
I place myself
under the shelter of your wings.
I do not know
what lies ahead,
but with you at my side
I dare to go forth in hope. Amen.**

Parish Calendar—OCTOBER

12 & 19 Gospel Reflection Group 10.00am
18 Mission Sunday
22-23 Delegates gather for the SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese

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

RECENTLY DECEASED—Martin O'Brien & Peter Sheridan

ANNIVERSARIES 10–16 October

Damian Flynn, Richard Neal, Julia Hannon, Jack Stacey, Denis Davey, Alf Franzmann, Karen Pannach,
Colleen McMahon, Patrick Flynn, Pauline Coll sgs, Marie Taylor, Anthony Risson, Carmel Mitchell, Agnes Clark,
Cliff Schneider, Dot Bice, Fred Powell & Laurie Neeson.

HEALING FOR THE SICK

Parishioners: Alison Lyndon, Roger Douglas, Isabel Gall, Anne Thomas, Susanne Gilshanen, 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, Judy March and Pam Newman.