

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.

17—18 October 2026

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

GOSPEL REFLECTION

© Nick Brodie

Pope Leo's Lens

'Our time is in great need of precisely this', Pope Leo says, 'men and women who have the courage to do good even when it comes at a cost.' As Jesus showed us: sometimes we are forced to make a choice, but we need not respond in the way the world expects.

Our way is a surprising one. 'Draw near to those who are alone, support those who are weary, seek out those who have drifted away', the Pope says. 'Have the courage to forgive, to begin anew and to engage in dialogue. Goodness is not always recognised and often demands sacrifice; yet it is precisely this daily courage of charity that makes our proclamation of the Gospel credible.'

Indeed, as we draw ever closer to Christ, we learn 'the joy of our vocation and learn to love as he loves.' The Pope encourages us to be 'a church that walks together behind the same Lord, listening, welcoming and recognising in the other a brother or sister and a companion along the way, never a rival.'

Unlike those who seek to sow division, we are called 'to discover that following Christ does not diminish freedom, but brings it to fulfilment; that faith does not restrict life, but opens it to a greater horizon.'

[Quotes from Address to Korean Priests and Consecrated Men and Women, 5 October 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/october/documents/20261005-sacerdoti-religiose-corea.html>]

Francis Focus

'You hypocrites!', said Jesus, before asking 'Why do you set this trap for me?' These days there are plenty of attempts to catch Christians out with tricky questions. Even Popes gets awkward queries, seemingly designed to force a controversial 'yes' or 'no' answer.

When critics questioned Pope Francis about the Synod in Rome, he wisely responded that the asking of such questions revealed a desire to work with him. Speaking of today's Gospel, Pope Francis once pointed out that 'Jesus places himself above the controversy.' Turning the Pharisees' intended trap into a teaching, Jesus shows his followers that we cannot cut ourselves off from wider society, nor should we too easily fall into conflict with it. But, as the Pope further elaborated, Jesus' point is bigger than that. Jesus uses the opportunity to remind everyone to focus on giving 'to God what belongs to God.'

Part of what this means, Pope Francis reminded us, involves love of neighbour. The flipside of the image of the state is the image of God. And who is made in the image and likeness of God? Me, you, us! This Gospel story isn't just about avoiding conflict, its deeper message steers us back to the commandment to love God and each other. And a big part of that involves listening to each other sincerely, and not striving to catch each other out.

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

Next Week's Readings—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51.
(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

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	NO MASS
THURS	NO MASS
FRI	NO MASS
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** by Friday 16 October
stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or 4637 1500

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. www.twb.catholic.org.au

SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese—23–24 October

As we prepare for the Synod, please continue to pray the Synod prayer and keep all those attending, and our diocese as a whole, in their prayers. *Bishop Ken.*

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.

OFFICE CLOSED—Friday, 23 October

RECENTLY DECEASED—Kathleen Coonan & Alison Lyndon (Funeral—19 October at 11.00am)

ANNIVERSARIES 17–23 October

Catherine Dowling, Mervyn Erbacher, Nora Hannon, Pat Otago, Margaret Keenan, Merle Pigott, Jane Risson, Sr Marletta Black pbvm, Christopher McAuliffe, Nance Murphy and Kay Peart.

HEALING FOR THE SICK—Pope Leo XIV

Parishioners: Helen McNaught, 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.

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*

SAINT OF THE DAY—Teresa of Avila

Feast Day 15 October

(March 28, 1515 – October 4, 1582)

Saint Teresa of Avila lived in an age of exploration as well as political, social, and religious upheaval. It was the 16th century, a time of turmoil and reform. She was born before the Protestant Reformation and died almost 20 years after the closing of the Council of Trent.

The gift of God to Teresa in and through which she became holy and left her mark on the Church and the world is threefold: She was a woman; she was a contemplative; she was an active reformer.

As a woman, Saint Teresa of Avila stood on her own two feet, even in the man's world of her time. She was "her own woman," entering the Carmelites despite strong opposition from her father. She is a person wrapped not so much in silence as in mystery. Beautiful, talented, outgoing, adaptable, affectionate, courageous, enthusiastic, she was totally human. Like Jesus, she was a mystery of paradoxes: wise, yet practical; intelligent, yet much in tune with her experience; a mystic, yet an energetic reformer; a holy woman, a womanly woman.

Teresa was a woman "for God," a woman of prayer, discipline, and compassion. Her heart belonged to God. Her ongoing conversion was an arduous lifelong struggle, involving ongoing purification and suffering. She was misunderstood, misjudged, and opposed in her efforts at reform. Yet she struggled on, courageous and faithful; she struggled with her own mediocrity, her illness, her opposition. And in the midst of all this she clung to God in life and in prayer. Her writings on prayer and contemplation are drawn from her experience: powerful, practical, and graceful. She was a woman of prayer; a woman for God.

Teresa was a woman "for others." Though a contemplative, she spent much of her time and energy seeking to reform herself and the Carmelites, to lead them back to the full observance of the primitive Rule. She founded over a half-dozen new monasteries. She traveled, wrote, fought—always to renew, to reform. In herself, in her prayer, in her life, in her efforts to reform, in all the people she touched, she was a woman for others, a woman who inspired and gave life.

This was a woman who was warm, outgoing, and unfailingly loyal. She deeply loved her nuns, family, and friends, and longed for their news. Her down-to-earth letters are full of motherly concern about their health and even their financial problems.

Her writings, especially the Way of Perfection and The Interior Castle, have helped generations of believers.

In 1970, the Church gave her the title she had long held in the popular mind: Doctor of the Church. She and St. Catherine of Siena were the first women so honoured.

REFLECTION: Ours is a time of turmoil, a time of reform, and a time of liberation. Modern women have in Teresa a challenging example. Promoters of renewal, promoters of prayer, all have in Teresa a woman to reckon with, one whom they can admire and imitate. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/st-anthony-messenger>

St Teresa's Bookmark

After St Teresa of Avila died, the thoughts that have come to be known as "St Teresa's Bookmark" were found written in her handwriting on a bookmark or scrap of paper in her breviary (St. Teresa's Bookmark).

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things pass away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
They who have God
lack nothing.
God alone suffices

Whether or not Teresa herself composed these lines, they obviously inspired her, just as they have inspired the countless others who have encountered them over the centuries.

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 two Advent Reflection Groups, Monday morning & Wednesday evenings with details to follow shortly. This year the theme of the Program is *‘Presence’* and booklets will cost \$8.00. Please add your name to the list if you would like a copy.

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR 2027—the parish will also look at placing orders for next year’s Columban calendar in October. Each year the parish gives a Columban Calendar at Christmas to all those who are visited in nursing homes or who receive home visits within our parish. An order sheet will be available in the next couple of weeks. Please also consider making a donation towards these Christmas gifts.

SCROLLING OF NAMES—Our annual scrolling of names will be held during mass on 7/8 November. To assist with the liturgy, 2 different sets of sheets have been placed in the foyer. One list is for the recently deceased between Nov 2025 and Oct 2026. The second list is for other loved ones who have died, please include their anniversary of death or approximate date. This will assist us in updating the anniversary book of deceased.

MELBOURNE CUP HIGH TEA: THE DIGNITY PROJECT Sunday, 1 November 2:00pm-4:30pm St Anthony's Parish Centre, Memory St Tmba Cost: Entry via donation. RSVP: 27/10/26 via justice@twb.catholic.org.au or 4636 1737 or 0407 758 988 All welcome, bring your friends! Join us for a fun afternoon of entertainment with music, trivia, raffles, phantom call with sweep and more. Bar to buy drinks. Afternoon tea provided. All money raised will go to support Refugees and Asylum Seekers living in the Toowoomba area. # please bring cash as we have no online banking facilities. Book your free ticket here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DQFYL>.

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH, HIGHFIELDS TRIVIA NIGHT— 21 November at 6.00pm Mary MacKillop School Hall \$20.00 per person 6-8 per team. Tickets must be purchased prior to event. (pizza included in ticket), bar available. Raffles, Games, bring gold coins. Bookings contact Patti at alan.mcnaught@bigpond.com PLEASE JOIN US.

100TH WORLD MISSION SUNDAY—Pope Leo XIV calls us to be ‘One in Christ, United in Mission’, - a call to put Christ at the forefront, as we share His love with those who need it most. The parish will hold our annual Mission Sunday Appeal 30 Oct—1 Nov. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope or going online at catholicmission.org.au/

Planned Giving 10-11 Oct: Envelopes:\$225.00 Loose:\$431.90
Direct Deposit:\$770.00 Tap & Go: \$290.00
St Theresa’s Catholic Parish (*Planned Giving Only*)
BSB: 064786 Account No: 100014392

Parish Pastoral Council
Fr Brian Noonan, Monica Brennan,
Elizabeth Curtis, Allison Busiko,
Greg Hallam, Gerard Hore,
Julie Raitelli, David Rogan,
Martin Stinson
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

Regular Parish Gatherings & Meetings	Upcoming Parish Events																
Gospel Reflection Group Every Monday 10am at the Parish office meeting room. Care & Concern Meeting 2nd Monday of Month Meeting bi-monthly 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	Parish Calendar—OCTOBER <table><tr><td>17-18</td><td>Mission Sunday</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>Gospel Reflection Group 10.00am</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>NO 9.00AM MASS</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>Jubilee Mass 11.00am at Cathedral</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>NO 9.00AM MASS</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>SYNOD Opening Mass 6.00pm at Cathedral</td></tr><tr><td>22-23</td><td>Delegates gather for the SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>Gospel Reflection Group 10.00am</td></tr></table>	17-18	Mission Sunday	19	Gospel Reflection Group 10.00am	21	NO 9.00AM MASS	21	Jubilee Mass 11.00am at Cathedral	22	NO 9.00AM MASS	22	SYNOD Opening Mass 6.00pm at Cathedral	22-23	Delegates gather for the SYNOD Toowoomba Diocese	26	Gospel Reflection Group 10.00am
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