



## St. Thomas More Catholic Church

298 BAY ST, BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS, NSW 2216  
AUSTRALIA

Phone: 9567 3589

Parish Priest: Fr Manuel Santiago  
Permanent Deacon: Rev Mr Raymond Hung



**Weekend Mass Times:** Sat: 5.30pm, Sun: 8am, 10am & 7pm  
**Confessions** 4.30pm - 5.15pm Saturday Afternoons

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 3 MARCH, 2024

#### **First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7**

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" they said. "Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?" Moses appealed to the Lord. "How am I to deal with this people?" he said. "A little more and they will stone me!" The Lord said to Moses, "Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink." This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, "Is the Lord with us, or not?" The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2. 5-8**

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at His appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die, even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Gospel: cf John 4:42. 15**

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and He would have given you living water."

"You have no bucket, sir," she answered "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father, Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life."

"Sir," said the woman "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water." "Go and call your husband," said Jesus to her "and come back here." The woman answered, "I have no husband." He said to her, "You are right to say, 'I have no husband'; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there."

"I see you are a prophet, sir" said the woman. "Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said: "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when He comes He will tell us everything." "I who am speaking to you," said Jesus "I am He."

At this point, His disciples returned and were surprised to find Him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, "What do you want from her?" or, "Why are you talking to her?" The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, "Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?" This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards Him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, do have something to eat"; but He said, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples asked one another, "Has someone been bringing Him food?" But Jesus said: "My food is to do the will of the One who sent Me, and to complete His work. Have you not got a saying: 'Four months and then the harvest'? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble." Many Samaritans of that town had believed in Him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, "He told me all I have ever done", so, when the Samaritans came up to Him, they begged Him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when He spoke to them, many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, "Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He really is the Saviour of the world." The Gospel of the Lord.

# PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Office Hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9.30am till 3.30pm  
**Contact Details:** Phone: 9567 3589 **Email:** [office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au](mailto:office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au)  
**Finance Chairman:** Mr Peter O'Loughlin **WEBSITE:** [www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au](http://www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au)  
**Like us on Facebook at:** <https://www.facebook.com/298BayStreet>  
**St Thomas More Primary School:** Phone: 9597 5884 - Principal Mr Sean Brown

*We remember and pray for those in our parish community who are sick, along with parishioners' special intentions. Names for the sick will be published for 3 weeks then removed unless we receive further notification.*

**Parishioners who are sick at the moment:** Skye Morrison and Elsie Morrison; Joseph Kos; Steve Bezjak; Pat & Tom Smyth; Fred Spiteri. **Recently Deceased:** Maureen Martin; Brian Martin; Carmesinda Leite De Oliveira; Patrick Formert; Giorgio Festa; Clementina Colagiuri; Jovita Manuel; David Calbay Salonga; Patrick (Pat) Daley. **Prayers for the Deceased:** Anna Bia Nguyen; D'Amico and Cecchino Families; Mary, Emmanuel & Charles Portelli; Yvonne Devet; Mary Zammit; Jane Sammut. **Deceased Anniversaries:** Eleanor Ferreira; Eufemia Carbone; Delfim Paiva; Florentina Da Silva; Delfim De Paiva; William Clark; Dominic Mandile; Leonor Diaz Acevedo; Paul & Mary Gatt; Therese Saliba; Bartolo & Francis Natoli; David & Colleen McIntosh; Jim Dickson; June Waters; Herbert Fenech; Gary Hood; Paul Russell; Joseph Chan; John Charles Longergan; Holy Souls.

## This Week Ahead in the Parish

4 Mar Mon	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
5 Mar Tue	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
6 Mar Wed	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 6pm - 7:30pm - Evening Lenten Program
7 Mar Thur	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 10am - 11am: Morning Lenten Program
8 Mar Fri	8am - 9am: Adoration/Benediction 9am Mass Stations of the Cross after 9am Mass
9 Mar Sat	4.30pm-5.15pm - Confessions 5.30pm - Vigil Mass
10 Mar Sun	Fourth Sunday of Lent 8am, 10am, and 7pm Mass

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

We would like to introduce Peter O'Loughlin as the new Chairman for our STM Finance Committee. The team looks forward to working with Peter!

A huge thank you goes to Pat Bugden for his 40+ years of service (during four parish priests!) as Chair of the Committee. This is an outstanding achievement! The Parish will always be indebted to Pat's service and guidance. It is sad to see Pat go, but we know all good things must come to an end.

**Stations of the Cross Friday Mornings in Lent After 9am Mass**

**Prayer for Child Protection:** Lord, you asked that the little children be allowed to come to you, for it is such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith. Guide us as we strive to ensure that our Catholic Communities provide a safe environment for each child. We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood, give them courage in facing the past and lead them to your healing protection. Amen



The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney's policy on the care, wellbeing and protection of children and young persons is available on the notice boards. For more info, go to [www.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.sydneycatholic.org) or the Notice Board in the Choir area.

**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime.** The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. For further information and resources <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

**Important Notice** Please note there will be **NO MASSES** between 8th-11th APRIL Communion Services only

**The Funeral for the Late Patrick Formert will be held at St Thomas More Church on Tuesday, 12th March at 10.30am**  
**Patrick was a collector at our 10am Mass and sat at the very back of the church.**



**Pastoral Notes: Why are the readings for these next three Sundays taken from Year A? Aren't we currently in Year B?**  
 Since the Year A Gospels for the 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of Lent are of major importance in regard to Christian initiation, the readings of Year A can be used every year on these three Sundays. The Year A readings are particularly appropriate where there are Elect (Catechumens).

**March: The Month of St. Joseph**  
 While May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, March is dedicated to St. Joseph. His solemn



2nd Sunday of the Month	9 Mar 5.30 PM (Sat) Vigil	10 Mar 8:00 AM (Sun)	10 Mar 10:00 AM (Sun)	10 Mar 7:00 PM (Sun)
L	P Botterill M Shea	S Barakat J Meagher	M Pirotta, L Adams	C Palomero G Gaw
E	L Manalac A Shea	T Lenzo, T Liaw	G Ataya, D D'Amato	<b>ONE MORE NEEDED</b>
A	M Tomasiello	T Thumboo	R Legaspi	R Varga (Altar Server)

Please note - office will not be open before 8.30am  
**4/3 T Fahey, (Volunteer Needed)**  
**11/3 A Mackenzie, G Daniels**



# KINDY WELCOMING MASS WITH YEAR 6

Saturday 9 March 2024 at 5:30pm  
St Thomas More Catholic Church  
Brighton-Le-Sands

All Kindergarten students will be receiving a special welcoming gift

Followed by a Sausage Sizzle & a Meet, Greet & Eat with Fr Manuel.  
Please bring a Dessert for everyone to share.

## 2024 PARISH COURSES FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS AT STM PARISH CENTRE

**\*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on these Thursdays at 6pm-9pm:** 7th & 14th March.

**\*Acolytes on these Saturdays at 9am-12pm:** 6th April (Attend 9am 1st Saturday Mass with us, or start course at 9:30am), 13th April and 20th April.

New attendees welcome!  
Please RSVP to the Parish Office



**Please collect your Planned Giving Boxes from the back of the church.**

## FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT THE PARISH

KIDS CLUB

ADULT TIME

**The Catholic Parent™**

Do you ever feel like it's almost impossible to raise holy kids who love God (and sit still in Mass!) in our modern world? You're not alone. This series features real Catholic families like yours sharing their daily struggles and victories. The series aims to encourage parents as you embrace your God-given role to form your family in the richness of the Catholic faith. Watch the series, as part of a small group!

It's a great opportunity to explore, learn and discover the beauty and profound truth that Catholicism is.


An hour of Games and craft, that teach the catholic faith in a fun and interactive way - while the Adults have time to take part in SEARCH.

**STARTS FRIDAY MARCH 1**  
**BOTH START AT 4PM**  
**- NO COST! -**  
**RUNS FOR 4 WEEKS**

## ST. THOMAS MORE BRIGTON-LE-SANDS


# Lenten Program

Starts 15th Feb Thursday <b>Mornings</b> 10am - 11am (after morning mass) <b>Location:</b> Parish Centre	Starts 21st Feb Wednesday <b>Evenings</b> 6pm - 7.30pm Holy Hour, Lectio Divina & Benediction <b>Location:</b> In Church
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## The Sacrament of Confirmation for children


will take place at St Thomas More Church at 6pm on Tuesday, 4th June. Enrolments are open on our parish website.



**Project Compassion boxes and envelopes** provide an opportunity to practice almsgiving during Lent by donating the money we would have spent on treats we have abstained from. It's not too late to take a box or envelopes home with you today!

## Ride-sharing to Sunday Mass:

Following a recent operation, one of our elderly parishioners in Monterey is no longer able to drive. If you are able to assist in driving this gentleman to Sunday Mass, we'd be grateful to hear from you. Please get in touch with the Parish Office.



**Our active parish of STM has something for everyone!**

**STM Women's Group:** Sunday 17th March at 3pm in Parish Centre (3rd Sunday of month).

**Food, Faith & Friendship Evening:** Next meets Sunday 28th April. Please note: We will not be meeting in March due to our evening coinciding with Easter Sunday.

**STM Children's Liturgy:** Next Sunday, 10th March during our 10am Mass (2nd & 4th Sundays during school term).

**Men's Breakfast:** Next meets on Saturday, 6th April at 9:30am (follows on from the 9am Mass, (meets 1st Saturday of the month).

**Upcoming Sunday Spanish Masses at 12:30pm:** 17th March, 24th March and 31st March.

**'Read Me' Bible Study Group:** Meets every Saturday at 11:30am - 12:45pm.

**STM Playgroup:** Date to be advised - watch this space.

## Lent 2024 - Taking our penances to the next level

Lent  
2024



**Prepare yourselves to live a Eucharistic Lent:** This Lent, give some serious thought about spending time each week with Our Lord in Adoration. Today we take a look at how we can stay focused during our Holy Hour. As one monk put it, "I go before Jesus, and He takes care of the rest."



**"Come back to Me with all your heart."**

We know that spending an hour with Jesus in Perpetual Adoration is certainly good for our souls and minds. However, in an age where we are constantly glued to our phones and instant communication is constant, it's easy to spend our entire Holy Hour thinking about everything we have to do at school or work, all the texts we need to respond to, and more.

There is no single, specific approach to make a good Holy Hour. Some people prefer to say a Rosary or read Scripture, some like to write in a journal, and some just enjoy sitting in the peace that comes in Adoration.

If you struggle to make a good Holy Hour devoted to God, here are some tips you might like to consider: Divide your hour into four fifteen-minute segments. Your first fifteen minutes can be spent in **Meditation**. Meditate on Jesus and His presence before you.

The next fifteen minutes can be spent in **Thanksgiving**. Thank God for all that He has bestowed upon you, especially through the Sacraments. In the third segment, you can recite prayers of **Petition**. Pray that God's will be done for all as you make your requests known to Him. Pray for the needs of yourself, your friends and family, and the Church. You can also pray for the sick, the poor, and the lonely. Finally, you can use your last fifteen minutes in **Adoration**. Reflect on the areas in your spiritual life where you can improve, and express sorrow for your sins. Most of all, the most important part of a Holy Hour is to listen throughout your time with Jesus, and to allow Him to speak to your heart.

Here at STM, parishioners have the opportunity to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament **8am-9am each Friday**, or **6pm-7:30pm on Wednesday evenings** - and don't forget to bring your kids and teenagers with you!

Source: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/>



**Lent & Social Media: Here are some questions we can ask ourselves to ensure we're navigating social media in a humble, Christian manner ...**

Am I following **accounts** that encourage **virtues** and **faith**? Do I focus on **growing my faith** outside of my time on social media? Am I being **myself**?

During Lent, ask your Guardian Angel to help you recognise any bad habits that may have formed, and to assist you in your quest to make some positive changes!

**This weekend in our series on Baptism, we ask "Why is oil used?"**

Olive oil was discovered and began to be used thousands of years ago when various Mediterranean civilisations (Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans) began to grow olive trees and extract juice from the olives. Oil has always been considered a very precious commodity. Wars have even broken out over olive oil!

Oil also has spiritual significance. The Oil of Catechumens - also known as the Oil of Exorcism - is used during Baptism. This oil is specially blessed each year during the Holy Thursday morning Mass by Archbishop Fisher at St Mary's Cathedral (along with the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Holy Chrism - see image). The Oil of Catechumens strengthens the one being baptised to turn away from evil, temptation and sin, and is intended to prepare them for the struggle of the Christian life - similar to the way a wrestler in ancient Greece and Rome were anointed before a wrestling match.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "Within the Rite of Baptism, but just prior to being baptized, we are anointed with a special oil called the Oil of Catechumens, which signifies cleansing and strengthening" (ccc 1294). Immediately following this anointing with the Oil of Catechumens, we are born-again through the Sacrament of Baptism with water.



**Golden Leaves: We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks. As Your good earth is about to rest through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.** Author Unknown