



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 10 MARCH, 2024

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen Myself a king among his sons." When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him," but the Lord said to Samuel, "Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart."

Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." He then asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" He answered, "There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes." Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, "Come, anoint him, for this is the one." At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Resp Psalm Ps 22

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where He gives me repose. Near restful waters He leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path; He is true to His name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these You give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

2nd Reading (JB) Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people

are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated, and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation John 8:12 **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!** I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows Me will have the light of life. **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel (Short) John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

As Jesus went along, He saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam" (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "Yes, it is the same one." Others said, "No, he only looks like him." The man himself said, "I am the man."

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, "He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see." Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man cannot be from God: He does not keep the sabbath." Others said "How could a sinner produce signs like this?" And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, "What have you to say about Him yourself, now that He has opened your eyes?" "He is a prophet", replied the man.

"Are you trying to teach us," they replied "and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!" And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when He found him He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Sir," the man replied, "tell me who He is so that I may believe in Him". Jesus said, "You are looking at Him; He is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe", and worshipped Him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9.30am till 3.30pm
Contact Details: Phone: 9567 3589 **Email:** office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au
Finance Chairman: Mr Peter O'Loughlin **WEBSITE:** 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: Margaret Kazzi; Tony Kazzi; Alfio Dimarco; Fred Spiteri, Daniella/Mirjana and Family; **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:** Mary, LoLita & Karam Kazzi; Farida & Georges Kazzi; Anna Bia Nguyen; D'Amico and Cecchino Families; Mary, Emmanuel & Charles Portelli; Yvonne Devet; Mary Zammit; Jane Sammut. **Deceased Anniversaries:** Ghassan Touma; Jeanette Jabbour; 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. in Purgatory.

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



Holy Week Roster: We will start working on the Palm Sunday & Easter Roster this coming week. Please contact the Parish Office **asap** if you would like to be involved. For those who are reading the Passion on Palm Sunday and would like to practice beforehand, Palm Sunday readings will be available next weekend at the organ.



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 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. 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/>

This Week Ahead in the Parish

Today 10 Mar Sun	Fourth Sunday of Lent 8am, 10am and 7pm Mass STM Children's Liturgy during today's 10am Mass
11 Mar Mon	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
12 Mar Tue	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
13 Mar Wed	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 6pm - 7:30pm: Evening Lenten Program
14 Mar Thur	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 10am - 11am: Morning Lenten Program
15 Mar Fri	8am - 9am: Adoration/Benediction 9am Mass Stations of the Cross after 9am Mass
16 Mar Sat	11:30am - 12:45pm: 'Read Me' Bible Study Group 4.30pm - 5.15pm - Confessions 5.30pm - Vigil Mass
17 Mar Sun	Fifth Sunday of Lent 8am, 10am, 12:30pm Spanish Mass and 7pm Mass 3pm - STM Women's Group in Parish Centre Note: Upcoming Spanish Masses will be taking place on Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday at 12:30pm.



For STM Lenten Program and what's happening in our Parish, please refer to above table: 'This Week Ahead in the Parish'

Please support our Parish by either:
Our Parish Website: www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au
Electronic Transfer: To arrange, email: office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au



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

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




3rd Sunday of the Month	16 Mar 5.30 PM (Sat) Vigil	17 Mar 8:00 AM (Sun)	17 Mar 10:00 AM (Sun)	17 Mar 7.00 PM (Sun)
L	T Iakopo M Shea	S Barakat L Rutledge	L Adams K Robinson	J Miskaryan L Lal
E	A Shea	J Meagher B Trott	M Nguyen Zen	J Varga
A	D Blackburn	T Thumboo	A Coll J Damato	R Varga

Please note - office will not be open before 8.30am
11/3 A Mackenzie, G Daniels
18/3 J Morris, (Volunteer Needed)



St Patricks Day - 18th March
 The Solemnity of St Patricks Day will be celebrated on Monday, 18th March this year due to the 17th falling on a Sunday. We invite parishioners to join us for St Patrick's Day Morning Tea tomorrow, 18th March after the 9am Mass. Dress in **Green** if you can!

Palm Sunday Palms



We would be grateful if parishioners are able to donate fresh palms. Please leave them in the buckets under the carport from Wednesday, 20th March. Anyone available to help cut palms is invited to join us on Friday morning, 22nd March, after the 9am Mass. Alternatively, please BYO palm or olive branch.
Many thanks!



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:**
 14th March between 6pm-9pm.
- * **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.

If anyone is interested in learning / volunteering for the friendly **STM Counters Ministry**, please contact the Parish Office.

ADULT TIME



FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT THE PARISH



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!

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.

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

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

Two Upcoming STM Movie Nights at Beverly Hills Cinema

Seeing inspiring movies is a great way for parishioners to come together during Lent!

'Cabrini' this Tuesday, 12th March at 7:10pm:
 The true story of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant, who arrives in New York City in 1889 and is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini uses her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike anything the world has ever seen. From the makers of 'Sound of Freedom.'

'Ordinary Angels' See next weekend's bulletin for more information, including session time.

The Parish Office can book for you, or go to:
www.eventcinemas.com.au/Cinema/Beverly-Hills

Tickets: Adults \$21, Children \$14.50, Pensioners & Students \$15.50, Seniors \$14.

ST THOMAS MORE HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

Palm Sunday, 24th March: Mass times: 8am, 10am, 12:30pm Spanish Mass, and 7pm.

Holy Thursday, 28th March: No Morning Mass (All priests go to Cathedral for Chrism Mass).
 7:00pm Holy Thursday Night - Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday, 29th March: *10:00am: Stations of the Cross * 3:00pm: The Passion of the Lord.

Holy Saturday, 30th March: No Saturday Morning Mass. Easter Vigil starts at 6:30pm to ensure sufficient darkness.

Easter Sunday, 31st March: 8am, 10am, 12:30pm Spanish Mass, and 7pm.



This Lent, walk with Our Lady on the road to Calvary, and accompany her in her grief.

The beautiful woman watched with incomprehensible pain as her Son's flesh was torn, His hands pierced, and His Body offered as a living sacrifice. The Man upon the cross was once the young boy she nurtured and raised, His wounded Body the same one that grew within her womb, and His anguished Face that of her beloved only Son.

On the road to Calvary, she is Our Lady of Sorrows, bearing an unbearable pain. This Lent, we are called to mourn with her. Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows is heightened during the Season of Lent. In this devotion, we accompany the Blessed Virgin Mary in her grief as she walks with her Son through His Passion and death, offered for the sins of the world. Another way to honour Our Lady of Sorrows is by praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, traditionally prayed on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays during Lent.

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

This weekend, we look at other symbols of Baptism that are used in addition to holy water and oil.



The **White Garment** symbolises new life in Christ.



The **Baptism Candle** is lit from the Paschal Candle, and is a sign



The **Community** is a symbol of welcome, and represents the Community of Christ into which the baptised will become a part of.



The **Scriptures** are always proclaimed at a Baptism liturgy. We are reminded that the Christian story is a living story, carrying on through the generations through each baptised person.

**MARCH:
THE MONTH OF
ST JOSEPH**



St Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Guardian of Jesus Christ:

What better patron can the Church have? In fact on 8th December, 1870, Blessed Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph to be the **Patron or Protector of the Universal Church**. So we take him as our protector.



First Collection? Or Second Collection?

Each collection is important.

The **First Collection** is partly used for Father's living expenses and the surplus is sent to the Archdiocese, mainly to help poor parishes that are in need of financial support.

The **Second Collection** stays at the Parish and is used towards paying all the expenses of the church, such as insurance, electricity, water, repairs & maintenance, printing costs, wages and superannuation.

We are blessed to have a frugal Parish Priest and generous parishioners, however, our Finance Committee has noticed a trend of decreasing funds in the **Second Collection**.

Thankfully, our Parish is in a sound financial position, however, if the trend continues for too long, the Parish will eventually come to a point where we are unable to meet our costs. It is important that today's parishioners support the Parish to cover its day-to-day running costs to ensure it remains financially viable to support the parishioners of the future.

If you can afford a couple of extra dollars each week, could we suggest that you support the **Second Collection** each Sunday.

There are also a number of other different ways to help by donating. Please see Page 2 of our parish bulletin for these.