



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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 17 MARCH, 2024

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, My people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, My people. And I shall put My spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Resp Psalm Ps 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let Your ear be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with You is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on His word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed He will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

2nd Reading Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made His home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to Him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then He who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (Short) John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, "Lord, the man you love is ill." On receiving the message, Jesus said, "This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed where He was for two more days before saying to the disciples, "Let us go to Judaea."

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went to meet Him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, He will grant you." "Your brother" said Jesus to her "will rise again." Martha said, "I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in Me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes Lord," she said "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world." Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" They said "See how much He loved him!" But there were some who remarked, "He opened the eyes of the blind man, could He not have prevented this man's death?" Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, "Take the stone away." Martha said to Him "Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day." Jesus replied "Have I not told you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes and said:

"Father, I thank you for hearing My prayer. I knew indeed that You always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round Me, so that they may believe it was You who sent Me."

When He had said this, He cried in a loud voice, "Lazarus, here! Come out!" The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, let him go free." Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what He did, believed in Him.

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:** Domingo Barles; Ramon Barles; Fred Di Leo; Mavis Giblett; Ghassan Touma; Jeanette Jabbour; Eleanor Ferreira; Eufemia Carbone; Delfim Paiva; Florentina Da Silva; 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.



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

Please support our Parish by either:

Our Parish Website:

www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au

Electronic Transfer: To arrange, email:

office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au



Fr Manuel

St. Thomas More, Brighton-Le-Sands



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 STM Notice Board.

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 info and resources:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

This Week Ahead in the Parish

Today 17 Mar Sun	Fifth Sunday of Lent 8am, 10am, 12:30 Spanish Mass and 7pm Mass 3pm - STM Women's Group in Parish Centre
18 Mar Mon	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
19 Mar Tue	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary STM Movie Night: 'Ordinary Angels', 7pm Beverly Hills Cinema
20 Mar Wed	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 6pm - 7:30pm - Evening Lenten Program
21 Mar Thur	9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 10am - 11am: Morning Lenten Program
22 Mar Fri	8am - 9am: Adoration/Benediction 9am Mass Stations of the Cross after 9am Mass 4pm: The Catholic Parent / Kids' Club
23 Mar Sat	11:30am - 12:45pm: 'Read Me' Bible Study Group 4.30pm - 5.15pm - Confessions 5.30pm - Vigil Mass
24 Mar Sun	Palm Sunday 8am, 10am, 12:30pm Spanish Mass and 7pm Mass Children's Liturgy during 10am Mass

PALM SUNDAY ROSTER

If your situation changes and you cannot attend, please advise Parish Office by calling 9567 3589!

PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)

N = Narrator O = Other C = Crowd YEAR B

1st Sunday of the month	23 March 5.30 PM Vigil	24 March 8:00 AM	24 March 10:00 AM	24 March 7PM
Choir	Benedict Choir	Coronel Choir	STM Choir	
Projector: The Passion is on Slides	Benedict Choir	Coronel Choir	STM Choir	K Varga
1st & 2nd Readings	M Mutuanene	B Trott T Liaw	M Pirotta P McGovern	S Varga P Botterill
The Passion Readers	N: K Robinson O&C: M Mutuanene	N: J Meagher O&C: Barakat	N: L Adams O&C: A Grady	N: P Botterill O&C: S Varga
Prayers of the Faithful	M Mutuanene	T Liaw	P McGovern	K Varga
E	L Manalac M Thompson On Standby: TBA	T Lenzo T Liaw On Standby: J Meagher B Trott	M Pirotta Zen	J Solano
A	L Festa	M Tomisello	A Coll R Legaspi Server: Michael	J Varga R Varga (Servers)

Please note - office will not be open before 8.30am

18/3 J Morris, (Volunteer Needed)

25/3 E Collaro, T Gaut

EASTER SERVICES 2022



STM 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.

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO EASTER MASS



St Patricks Day - 18th March

The Solemnity of St Patricks Day will be celebrated on 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, Monday, 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!



Holy Week Roster: We are currently finalising the Holy Week Roster. Please contact the Parish Office **asap** if you would like to be involved. For those who are reading next weekend's Passion on Palm Sunday and would like to practice beforehand, Palm Sunday readings are now available at the organ.

UPCOMING STM MOVIE NIGHT AT BEVERLY HILLS CINEMA:

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

'Ordinary Angels' this Tuesday, 19th March at 7pm. The true story of how Sharon Steves (Hilary Swank) discovers a renewed sense of purpose when she meets widower, Ed Schmitt. With his youngest daughter waiting for a liver transplant, Sharon sets her mind to helping the family. What unfolds is an inspiring tale of faith, everyday-miracles, and ordinary angels.

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.

2024 PARISH COURSE FOR ACOLYTES AT STM PARISH CENTRE

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.

Liturgical Ministers are invited to join the Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a Eucharistic Retreat Day. Both Deacon Raymond and Fr Manuel would like to encourage you to attend and be nourished. The retreat will help you grow in your love for the Eucharist. There will be talks, personal testimonies, discussions, and time for silence & prayer during a Holy Hour. Reconciliation will also be available. Please use the below link to register directly with the Archdiocese. If you are having trouble registering, please email the STM Parish Office to make an appointment for the Parish Secretary to register for you. **Saturday, 11th May between 10am-4pm at St Martha's, 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt.** www.trybooking.com/events/landing/162316

Visitation of the 7 Churches on Holy Thursday Night: Be a friend to Christ and walk alongside Him on the night of His betrayal by visiting 7 churches. With each visit, trace His journey as He was taken from one location to another. Participating churches: Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills; Mater Dei, Blakehurst; **St Thomas More, Brighton-Le-Sands;** St Bernadette's, Carlton; Our Lady of Lourdes, Earlwood; St Michael's, Hurstville; Our Lady of Fatima, Kingsgrove; St Patrick's, Kogarah; St Joseph's, Oatley; Fatima, Peakhurst; St Declan's, Penshurst; St Joseph's Riverwood (until 11pm); St Joseph's, Rockdale (until 11pm).



Struggling with your Lenten Pences?

Fear not! Even our failures are opportunities for grace!

Lent isn't easy. We're 4½ weeks into this penitential season, and for some of us, the sacrifices we've committed to can feel burdensome. The demands of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving can weigh heavily on our busy lives. No matter where you find yourself this Lent, remember that these small defeats are an important part of your Lenten journey!

St. Teresa of Avila teaches us that those who walk closest to Christ often endure the greatest trials, and Lent is an opportunity to walk with Christ in the desert. Yet she reminds us that God will never abandon us in these struggles. Rather, He will always provide us with the strength necessary to suffer them well. Strength requires struggle and our spiritual lives require strength.

These small moments of weakness and difficulty are also opportunities for profound humility. Sometimes the lessons of Lent are not beautiful ones of self-sacrifice, but difficult ones of personal humility. The lessons learned in weakness will teach us that we cannot trust ourselves to be strong; rather, it is God who we must rely on to give us strength.

www.catholiccompany.com/getfed



Baptism and The Holy Spirit

What is the Holy Spirit? Good question. It's easy to think of the Holy Spirit as a powerful force from God. Or a mysterious aspect of God's life. It's confusing to many.

So what is the Holy Spirit? The proper question is not "what" but "Who." "Who is the Holy Spirit" is the right question because the Holy Spirit is a Person. A divine Person. Equal in dignity and majesty with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is one member of the Holy Trinity. As a Person, the Holy Spirit is one we can be in relation with. We can know and love the Holy Spirit just as we know and love the Father and the Son. And the Spirit loves us just as He loves the Father and the Son.

It is the Holy Spirit who is given to us in Baptism. At that time, we are made adopted children of the Father, we are made one in Jesus the Son, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit to live out our new Christian calling as sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus.

During Baptism, water signifies the Holy Spirit in that it is poured and cleanses. It is poured at Baptism, and the Holy Spirit is subsequently poured in that act.

The symbol of anointing with oil also signifies an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We see this in several of the Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders). Also, the prophets were anointed with oil to symbolize the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on them for their ministry.

MARCH: THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH - TERROR OF DEMONS!

Among St. Joseph's many powerful titles, this one certainly stands out! So why is St Joseph, one of the most quiet saints, given this title? When we look back at the biblical references, we don't see St Joseph casting out demons, or even behave in such a way that would invoke terror. However, it is precisely in this silent and calm biblical depiction of St. Joseph that this title has its surprising origin.



Although the Bible does not elaborate extensively on St Joseph's actions, his unwavering faith, obedience to God's will, purity of life, and protective care over Mary and Jesus are evident. These virtues are the foundation of his power over demons, as they embody the antithesis of the Evil One's rebellion against God. Demons cannot withstand these virtues. His role in the Holy Family places him in direct opposition to the forces of darkness. Just as he protected Mary and Jesus from earthly threats, such as Herod's decree to kill the newborn boys of Bethlehem, he continues to protect the faithful from spiritual threats.

In an age where family and faith are under assault, St. Joseph's example and protection are more needed than ever. His guardianship over the Holy Family makes him a potent intercessor for our own families as we strive to keep them safe from spiritual harm. **The Church celebrates St Joseph's feast day this Tuesday,**

Source: www.catholiccompany.com/getfed

If you were looking for a sign to get yourself + your family to Confession in preparation for Holy Week, here it is!

"Confession is the soul's bath.

Even a clean and unoccupied room gathers dust;

return after one week and you will see that it needs dusting again!" Padre Pio

