



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: 5.00pm, Sun: 8am, 10am & 7pm
Confessions 4.15pm - 4.45pm Saturday Afternoons



*May: Our
Lady's Month*

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) 28 APRIL, 2024

1ST READING: ACTS 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESP PSALM: Ps 21:26-28. 30-32

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear Him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek Him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before Him. They shall worship Him, all the mighty of the earth; before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

2ND READING: 1 JOHN 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in His presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because

God is greater than our conscience and He knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask Him, we shall receive, because we keep His commandments and live the kind of life that He wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the Name of His Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as He told us to. Whoever keeps His commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that He lives in us by the Spirit that He has given us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ACCLAMATION JOHN 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in Me and let Me live in you, says the Lord; My branches bear much fruit. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to His disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that bears no fruit He cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in Me, as I make Mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me, with Me in Him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from Me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in Me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be My disciples." 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: Daisy Daneo Bartolo; Danielle, Mariana & Family; Margaret Kazzi; Tony Kazzi; Alfio Dimarco; Fred Spiteri. **Recently Deceased:** Amelia Senese; Fay McManus; Paul Scott Cleary; Maureen Martin; Brian Martin; Carmesinda Leite De Oliveira; Patrick Formert; Giorgio Festa; Clementina Colagiuri. **Prayers for the Deceased:** Anton Chien Van Nguyen; 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:** Virgilio Ver Manalac; Joseph Tonna; Annie Azzopardi; George Tonna; Emily Zammit; Di Leo & Townson Families; 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.
In Thanksgiving: Bede Lance Peadon.

Please support our Parish by either:

Our Parish Website:

www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au

Electronic Transfer: To arrange, email:

office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au

May is Our Blessed Mother's Month

Aim to say the Rosary - or even a decade of the Rosary - more often, or get the children/grandchildren to place fresh flowers beside Our Lady's statue at home as a reminder that this is her special month.

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 in 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 info and resources:

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

This Week Ahead in the Parish

29 Apr Mon	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
30 Apr Tue	Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
1 May Wed	St Joseph the Worker 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 6pm - 7:30pm - Adoration & Rosary
2 May Thur	St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
3 May Fri	Sts Philip and James, Apostles 8am - 9am: Adoration/Benediction 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
4 May Sat	Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter 9am Mass - First Saturday 4.15pm - 4.45pm - Confessions 5.00pm - Vigil Mass
5 May Sun	Sixth Sunday of Easter 8am, 10am and 7pm Mass



"The greatest male saint that ever lived was not a deacon, not a priest, not a bishop, not a pope, not a hermit, not a monk ... he was a husband, father and a worker."

St Josemaria Escriva

Dear Parishioners, please be aware of the closest exit doors in the church. Should a fire occur, please exit the church and proceed to the carpark behind the church. This area is the designated meeting area. Fr Manuel and the Acolytes are your fire wardens, and will give you instructions.



1st Sunday of the Month	4 May 5.00 PM (Sat) Vigil	5 May 8.00AM (Sun)	5 May 10:00 AM (Sun)	5 May 7.00 PM (Sun)
L	M Thompson C Palomero	A Grady B Hodgson	L Adams ONE MORE NEEDED	A Kolak M Ziehke
E	M Coco ONE MORE NEEDED	A Grady E Hodgson	C Searson ONE MORE NEEDED	J Varga
A	R Leo L Festa	T Thumboo	J D'Amato A Coll	R Varga (Altar Server)

Please note - office will not be open before 8.30am

29/4
6/5

T Fahey; K North
A Mackenzie, G Daniels



STM Parish Office Hours

Please note that the Parish Office is currently closed up to and including Friday, 10th May. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, 13th May. For urgent requests, please leave a message on the answering machine, as this will be checked regularly.

NEXT WEEKEND: CONFIRMATION WELCOME MASS AND STM FAMILY MASS



We welcome our STM Confirmation children during next weekend's 5pm Vigil Mass. This begins their journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on 4th June. All are welcome to join us after Mass for a BBQ. Please keep our Confirmation children in your prayers as they commence their lessons this coming week.



2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM AT ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

Have you registered your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation? Lessons begin this Friday, 3rd May, so please register your child ASAP.

Online registrations are open for all three Sacraments via our parish website.

ST THOMAS MORE'S PLAYGROUP

From Crawlers to Pre-Kindy

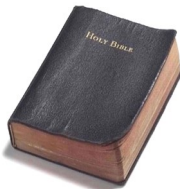
Gold Coin Donation

for tea/coffee and biscuits. Please bring a healthy snack and water for your child.

CWF Our first **CWF** appeal for 2024 will be taking place next weekend, 4th & 5th May. Please take an envelope home today and return it next weekend. Thank you for your generous support of **CWF!** Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The answer to all of the world's problems!

The St Thomas More "Read Me" Bible Study Group meets every Saturday in the Parish Centre between 11:30am-12:45pm. Beginners welcome! Come along and enjoy a very informal and friendly gathering of like-minded souls focussed on exploring the treasures revealed to us in God's Holy Word.



Why join our STM Playgroup?

We offer babies, toddlers and young children a wide variety of early learning experiences in a safe and happy environment to enable them to learn, play and develop language, communication and social skills - not to mention building friendships for both the children and the parents. The children learn about taking turns, using manners and sharing, as well as the importance of being kind and experiencing what it feels like to receive kindness from others. We hope to see you there! Info: dorothy.coso@syd.catholic.edu.au

Our active parish of STM has something for everyone!

- STM Women's Group:** Sunday, 19th May at 3pm in Parish Centre (3rd Sunday of month).
- Food, Faith & Friendship Evening:** Tonight, Sunday 28th April after 7pm Mass. Invite a friend and form new friendships along the way with other young adults! - All meet at the parish center.
- STM Children's Liturgy:** Returns after the school holiday break on Sunday, 12th May during our 10am Mass (2nd & 4th Sundays during school term).
- Men's Breakfast:** Meets this Saturday, 4th May at 9:30am (follows on from the 9am Mass, meets 1st Saturday of the month).
- Spanish Mass:** Sunday, 19th May at 12:30pm.
- 'Read Me' Bible Study Group:** Meets every Saturday at 11:30am - 12:45pm. See above flyer.
- STM Playgroup:** We're back this Thursday! See above flyer for details.

Today's Gospel Reflection: The Master-Gardener

“Think of trees stripped of their beauty, pruned, cut, disfigured, bare, but through the dark seemingly-dead branches flows silently, secretly, the life-sap till the sun of Spring comes with it new life, leaves, bud, blossom, and fruit a thousand times better for the pruning!” ‘God Calling’

Pruning a vine is an important part of helping it to grow and produce not only more fruit, but the best fruit. If left unpruned, a grape vine will eventually produce less fruit and poorer-quality fruit. Good pruning helps to direct the nourishment of the vine to the new buds that are most fruitful.

Reflect, today, upon this holy imagery from Jesus. It's a lesson from nature that reveals the supernatural life of grace at work. Don't be deterred by the pruning God wants to do in your life. Embracing suffering with love, responding to injustice with forgiveness, offering mercy when we don't feel like it, and seeking to serve selflessly to those who seem undeserving - these are the situations that God uses to prune us. Remember that you are in the Hands of the Master-Gardener. He makes no mistakes about His pruning.



This Wednesday, 1st May, the Church celebrates the Feast of St Joseph the Worker

**Did you know that St Joseph built a stair case in New Mexico?
The sisters at the Loreto Chapel needed a miracle. St Joseph used his carpentry skills to help them!**



In 1873, construction on the Chapel of Our Lady of Light in Santa Fe, New Mexico hit a roadblock. The beautiful Gothic-style chapel had no staircase to get from the main level to the choir loft. The original architect had died, and his plans for a staircase were unknown.

The sisters of Loretto, who had commissioned the chapel, were distraught. They consulted with several architects and carpenters, but the answer was always the same: it couldn't be done. There just wasn't enough space to build a staircase to the choir loft. They were going to have to accept that they couldn't access the choir loft.

Not quite ready to give up, the sisters said a novena to St. Joseph, the master carpenter, asking him to help them find a builder with a solution. On the ninth and final day of the novena, a man arrived at their doorstep with a donkey and a toolbox saying that he could build them a staircase - his only request was to work in complete privacy. The sisters agreed, and the man locked himself in the chapel to work. The staircase the man crafted for the sisters was nothing short of incredible! The magnificent structure was innovative for the time and some of the design considerations still perplex experts today.

The man departed just as mysteriously as he had arrived, leaving behind one of the most marvellous pieces of woodworking ever seen. The staircase has two 360-degree spirals in it and was built with no central support, resting only on its base. It was built without nails - just wood pegs. Carpenters and scientists have said that the construction is nearly impossible and shouldn't be able to support anyone walking on it. Yet the staircase stands solid to this day.

The chapel has become a museum now, but it is a must-see if you're ever in New Mexico.

And who was the mysterious builder? Well, the Sisters of Loretto were confident that their mystery man was none other than St. Joseph himself!

On the feast day of St Joseph the Worker, we pray for St Joseph's intercession, asking for his protection over our work, and praying for those who are experiencing unemployment or financial hardship. O Glorious St Joseph, pray for us!

www.catholiccompany.com/getfed

Mother Teresa of Calcutta says: “You can pray while you work. Work doesn't stop prayer, and prayer doesn't stop work. It requires only that small raising of the mind to Him: ‘I love you, Lord, I trust You, I believe in You, I need you now.’ Small things like that. These are wonderful prayers.”

