

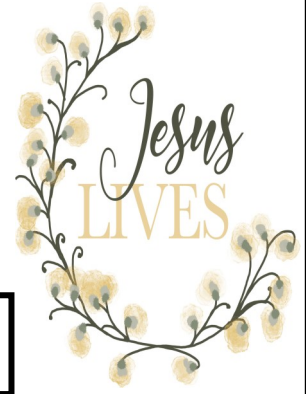


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) 5 MAY, 2024

1ST READING: ACTS 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. "Stand up", he said, "I am only a man after all!"

Then Peter addressed them: "The truth I have now come to realise" he said, "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him."

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, "Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?" He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the Name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

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

RESP PSALM: Ps 97:1-4

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord for He has worked wonders. His right hand and His holy arm have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known His salvation; has shown His justice to the nations. He has remembered His truth and love for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R.**

2ND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-10

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world His only Son so that we could have life through Him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when He sent His Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

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

ACCLAMATION: JOHN 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love Me will keep My words, and My Father will love them and We will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:9-17

Jesus said to His disciples: "As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is My commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from My Father. You did not choose Me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in My name. What I command you is to love one another."

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

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.

This Week Ahead in the Parish

6 May Mon	Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
7 May Tue	Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Easter 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
8 May Wed	Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Easter 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary 6pm - 7:30pm - Adoration & Rosary
9 May Thur	Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
10 May Fri	Friday of the Sixth Week of Easter 8am - 9am: Adoration/Benediction 9am Mass - Followed by Rosary
11 May Sat	Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter 4.15pm - 4.45pm - Confessions 5.00pm - Vigil Mass
12 May Sun	The Ascension of the Lord 8am, 10am and 7pm Mass

With our STM Sacramental Program in full swing, let's test your Catholic knowledge with this Q&A. Page 4 reveals the answer:



A By the early church

B By Jesus

C By the Council of Trent

D By historical development

How WERE THE SACRAMENTS INSTITUTED?



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

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/>

Please support our Parish by either:
Our Parish Website: www.thomasmorebrighton.org.au
Electronic Transfer: To arrange, email: office@thomasmorebrighton.org.au
 May God bless you all for your generosity & support!

The 'Love One Another' Challenge:



How do you see people?
 If God had a different view of a person, would you change yours?

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.

2nd Sunday of the Month	11 May 5.00 PM (Sat) Vigil	12 May 8:00 AM (Sun)	12 May 10:00 AM (Sun)	12 May 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	ONE MORE NEEDED
A	M Tomasiello	T Thumboo	R Legaspi	R Varga (Altar Server)

Please note - office will not be open before 8.30am

6/5 A Mackenzie, G Daniels
13/5 J Morris, (Volunteer Needed)

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 week, 13th May. For urgent requests, please leave a message on the answering machine, as this will be checked regularly.



THIS WEEKEND: CONFIRMATION WELCOME MASS AND STM FAMILY MASS

We welcome our STM Confirmation children during this weekend's 5pm Vigil Mass. This begins their journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on 4th June. All are welcome to join us this evening after Mass for a BBQ. Our Confirmation children have now commenced their lessons, so please keep them in your prayers.



Our first CWF appeal for 2024 is taking place this weekend, 4th & 5th May.

CWF is responsible for collecting funds for the purpose of supporting the charitable and pastoral works of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Here are just a few of the ministries we support:

* **Aboriginal Catholic Ministry** looks after the pastoral care of Catholic Aborigines and supports them in the living of their faith;

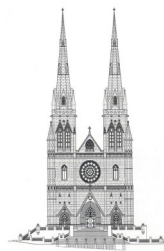
* **CatholicCare** services helps Sydney families and individuals with counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health concerns.

* **Catholic Chaplaincy Services** provides pastoral care and spiritual guidance in prisons, aged care, universities and hospitals. They are a source of comfort and friendship to people in need, minister to the sick, and help foster a Catholic culture at university campuses.

* Provides pastoral skills and academic training to our **Sydney seminaries** to enable our future priests to carry out their mission in the Church.

CWF is your charity, the charity of the Sydney Catholic community and our parish of STM. Thank you for your generous support of CWF! Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Did you know there are free guided tours of St Mary's Cathedral & Crypt every Sunday at 2pm?



To learn about the fascinating history and architecture of our beloved Cathedral, email info@stmaryscathedral.org.au to secure your place. Walk-ins are accepted at the discretion of the tour guide. We meet at the seating at the internal entrance to the Cathedral's shop.

A Defibrillator Machine is located near the Sacristy on the wall. The machine is self-automated and can be used by anyone. If you would like to take a closer look to see how it is used, please call the Parish Office after 13th May.



At the Calix Society, "We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies". Stay sober with the Catholic faith and a 12-Step program. Join us in prayer for total abstinence, spiritual development, and personal sanctification. Do you "thirst" for more?

Contact: calixsydney@outlook.com or calixsociety.org

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).

STM Children's Liturgy: Returns next Sunday, 12th May during our 10am Mass (2nd & 4th Sundays during school term).

Men's Breakfast: Next meets on Saturday, 1st June 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.

STM Playgroup: Every Thursday during school term at 9am-10:30am in school hall, Francis Avenue. Gold coin donation for tea/coffee & biscuits. Please bring a healthy snack and water for your child. Contact: dorothy.coso@syd.catholic.edu.au

Today's Gospel Reflection: Love One Another

God has each of our days planned, a plan that is set in place even before we have risen out of bed each morning. Every day is a test. We may not be thinking about what tests await us as our feet hit the floor, but we actually rise to a day that has been planned by God. Nothing is random. If we ask for God's help, He will provide us with the strength to get through the challenges that He knows await us. There will come a time at the end of our lives when we will have to give an account to God for how well we dealt with those challenges: giving the elderly a seat on the bus, making time to visit a sick relative, holding our tongue for the sake of peace, or stopping to assist someone who looks lost.

Many people who had a near-death experience (NDEs) described to Catholic investigative journalist, Michael Brown, of going through a mini-judgement; like watching a movie of their life, and feeling mortified when they realised they'd failed in the situations God had placed along their daily paths. They saw the good they'd failed to do, and the hurt their actions had caused to others. The one thing that surprised them was the realisation that every little thing in every day mattered to God, and would have to be accounted for. Saint Faustina was also surprised by this and wrote in her diary after receiving one of her visions, "I did not know that even the smallest transgressions will have to be accounted for" (Diary 36).

In today's Gospel, Jesus isn't *suggesting* we love one another. He is *commanding* it. Let's be ready for the person or challenge God will next place in our day. He is a good and loving God, and is more ready to help than we are to ask, so let's be more conscious of including Him in our day, and in turn, He will most certainly provide us with the strength needed.



When a homeless man was recently asked what he missed most while living on the streets, his answer was something we all take for granted: "Eye contact." Think about that.

May, the Month of Mary

You may have seen the recent story in the world news about the passing of the world's oldest man, Juan Vicente Pérez Mora from Venezuela, who died just weeks before his 115th birthday.

But did you know that among his family, Mora was known for his faith? He prayed the Rosary twice a day and strived to build a solid relationship with God. He told Guinness World Records his secret to living a long life was to "work hard, rest on holidays, go to bed early, love God, and always carry Him in your heart." He wanted to be remembered "as a hard-working man, faithful to his wife and his faith."

Let's take inspiration from Mora and strive to pray the Rosary more often during Our Lady's month of May. Parents, take three minutes each evening before bedtime to pray a decade with your children. This will lay good foundations to enable them to say the whole Rosary as they grow in age and in faith.

SACRAMENTAL GIFT IDEAS

With our STM Sacramental Program in full swing, if you are planning on purchasing a gift for a child who will be making a sacrament this year, please consider the wonderful range of unique gifts available from *That Catholic Shop*, which is run by the staff at *Aid to the Church in Need*. This means that proceeds from every purchase will help Christians who are suffering religious persecution overseas.

Consider a small timber holy water font for their bedroom wall to promote the daily blessing with holy water (\$28), a bracelet which tells the story of Jesus through its attached pendants (\$18), or a *Little Drops* statue of the child's favourite saint (\$17). For their full range of unique gifts, go to:

www.thatcatholicshop.com



CATHOLIC
Q&A

HOW WERE THE SACRAMENTS INSTITUTED?

Congratulations to those parishioners who chose B in the Catholic Q&A on Page 2. The Seven Sacraments were directly instituted by Jesus. At the Council of Trent (1545–63), the Roman Catholic Church formally fixed the number of sacraments at seven: Baptism, Reconciliation, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick.