



St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 36

Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

06 September 2020



As we celebrate Father's Day this year we asked Mike Armstrong, our Principal at St Thomas' Primary School to reflect on what being a father means to him:

Father's Day Reflection

The ten days or so leading up to Father's Day each year is traditionally a very hectic time in the Armstrong household, with all three of our boys celebrating their birthdays in close succession (the youngest turned 7 yesterday). Our boys excitedly refer to this special time of year as the 'festival of birthdays', and the challenge for us as parents is to try and make sure each of the boys has a special day, and birthday cake! Needless to say, by the time Father's Day comes around, it ends up being a pretty low-key affair. But I'm more than ok with that.

The constellation of these special occasions always triggers much reflection for me as a dad, and of course creates the ideal conditions for some storytelling! I am known as a bit of a waffler in the family, and like most dads, I love telling 'dad yarns' around the dinner table, especially during the 'festival of birthdays.' Most of these yarns commence with, 'I remember when you were...' or 'When I was your age....' More often than not, photos are then presented as evidence, and are accompanied by lots of laughs and moments of awe and wonder at just how far they have come. There's no more special time as a parent than these moments.

To me, being a father is the ultimate job in life. I want to be most successful at being a good dad. It means everything to me and has been my greatest source of achievement and pride. Celebrating in their accomplishments and being with them on their journey is priceless.

As a new father, you think you know what you are going to do and how you will handle most situations. And then you get into the situation and realize you have no clue. That's the best part — learning on the fly. The highs and the lows are a part of the journey. As a new dad, I didn't realize just how much I would change, and just how much I would learn from my kids. When you become a parent you truly see life in full colour for the first time. Being a dad has taught me the most important of life lessons; patience, unconditional love and the need to be fully present. My boys continue to teach me about myself every day. I am so very blessed!

What Makes a Dad...

God took the strength of a mountain,
the majesty of a tree,
the warmth of a summer sun,
the calm of the quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagles flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
the depth of family need,

Then God combined these qualities.
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew his masterpiece was complete,
And so, He Called it.....**DAD**



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

to all the dads and father-figures in our community.

Unfortunately we are not able to celebrate with you as we usually would so we are sending some virtual coupons - have a relaxing day!



HOLY LAND COLLECTION - SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. This year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date to **Sunday 13th September** to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross** (14th September). This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and the increasing cost of living. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13th and please also keep them in your prayers.



Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

COVID restrictions prevent the usual celebration of the annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass. Instead Archbishop Mark will observe Mass for the special intentions of couples celebrating 50 years or more of marriage on **Saturday 26th September at 11.30am** at St Stephen's Cathedral.

Attendance at the Cathedral is restricted, however, if any couple celebrating their 50th Anniversary are in good health and wish to attend in person, please contact the Cathedral on 3324 3030 or go to: <https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/mass-reconciliation-times.html>. Mass will be live-streamed via the Cathedral website for those who are unable to attend in person.

Cleaning Tips!

We are so appreciative of our parishioners who have been helping to clean the pews after our weekday Masses. Just a reminder to always wipe under the front lip of the seat and across the ledge at the back as these are high touch areas! Thank you!

The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected we all are. If we do not take care of each other starting with the least, with those who are most affected, including creation, we cannot heal the world.

Pope Francis



You are no longer required to register online for weekend Mass. When you attend Mass you will be asked to sign in at the door, sanitise your hands and practice social distancing. **Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.**

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Office hours

8:30 am - 1:30pm: M/T/Th/F

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest - Fr Christopher Obi
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Children's Ministry Coordinator
Sr Analissa Balderama at
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NAPCAN

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

National Child Protection Week - September 6th-13th

This year National Child Protection Week will celebrate its 30th year with the theme 'Putting children first' which means prioritising the safety and well-being of children. We take child protection seriously at St Thomas' and ensure we are following all the protocols and directions required by the Archdiocese of Brisbane in relation to safeguarding children. For more information on Safeguarding within the Archdiocese of Brisbane, go to their website: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/>

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 *If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10 *Love is the fulfilment of the Law..*

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20 *If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*



We remember in our prayers

The sick: Betty Bendel, Jim Paterson, Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Joan Burlew, Betty Smith, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Fr Ted Houlihan, Lola Radford, Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Cletus Obi, Mark, Trish Buckle, Marjorie Cusack, Joe Sherlock, Sue Lamb

Recently deceased: Christopher Nwagbaoso.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Catherine McGrath, Bessie King, Eva Shannon, Rosina Agius, Jean Deshon Smith, Margaret Fahy, Norman Waller, Samuel Sedgwick, Michele Greenway, Clarice Swan, Lara Jane Neihl, Phelomena McDonald, Helen Bemrose, Jed Minogue, Fay Gee, Lara Mylne, Michael Williams, Maude Rupesinghe, Lurlene Kent, Annie Buckley, John Ashwell, Mervyn Hinds, Thomas Phelan, Gerald Simento, Nicholas Dolan, Thomas Phelan, Richard & Monica Cassidy, Julie Buesel and Owen McCann