

Reaching out to the broken. *Constance T Hull, Cath.Exchange.*
Many of us are dealt difficult hands in this life. Some of us may be born into poverty, become chronically ill, battle mental illness, come up in dysfunctional homes, and the list goes on and on. We can become battle worn and wounded to the point of which we are barely making it.



We are made for love and by Love. This reality at the very depths of our being is the driving force of our actions. Even our sin points to a longing within us to be loved. We choose pleasure and the easy road precisely because we want to grasp at something that looks like love. Many of us do not have a healthy understanding of love. This may be because we have never seen real love in action. This is especially true in families torn apart by dysfunction, pride, and generational behaviour. A painful childhood has life-long consequences. It can make an encounter with the Living God difficult. It takes being beaten, broken, and left bare in His presence to truly encounter grace, mercy, and love. God must break us open so that he can heal the deepest of wounds within us.

This brokenness is something we need to keep in mind for evangelization. In our boldness, righteousness, and desire to draw others in, we can forget that far too many people are deeply wounded and afflicted. They need tender and merciful care. The wounded who have darkened our doors already know they've made wrong and sinful choices. It may take them a while to heal enough to seek forgiveness from God. They must learn to trust. If a person has never seen love mirroring the Holy Trinity, then they find it difficult to trust others. Mercy does not mean abandoning objective truth and the moral law, but browbeating others points more to our own pride than it does to loving a person where they are in their brokenness. Do we truly want those wounds to heal or do we want to inflict even more in our desire to be right?

Far too many people are unable to drag themselves, even crawling, to our churches because they truly believe they are worthless, hopeless, unlovable, unforgiveable, and left to a wrathful God. Not because these things are true, but because they have spent their lives being told these things and they have used, and been used, by other people to the point that love is a meaningless to them. Love is relegated to the status of fable or fairy tale.

I see that this understanding of our brokenness is missing in many circles. We are all broken in one way or another since we are all in a battle with sin and Satan. We make assumptions or discard others because our experiences differ greatly from them. We do not seek to understand how someone can fall so low. We don't try to extend a hand to the drowning. The balance of justice and mercy is found in Our Saviour. Both. Many people pick one of these and discard the other. Yes, objective moral truth exists and we must work to encourage people to live the tenets of the Faith, but on the flip side, we must invite others to experience the Living God. It is an encounter with Christ that leads to conversion and healing. The One who takes away our sins and heals our gaping wounds. For many, that healing must come first. For all, that encounter with Christ must come first. We cannot expect people to submit to God in blind obedience. We must help them to come to know Jesus Christ, the real, tangible, God-man who loves all people. How many are seeking love in all of the wrong places? What are we doing about it before tragedy strikes?



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr John Fowles



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18

Pastoral Associate: Br Denis Devcich | **Acolyte:** Denis Golden
Phone: 02 6043 2222 | thurgoonacatholicparish@hotmail.com
Fax: 02 6043 2224 | www.thurgoonacatholicparish.com
Address: 20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona 2640 | PO Box 110, Lavington 2641
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Mass Times

Saturday: - (Vigil) 6pm
Sunday: - 9:30am & 5:30pm
Monday - 8am Mass
Tuesday - 10am, Mass of Mercy, *2nd*
Tues of month Anointing of the sick
Wednesday - 8am
Thursday- 7pm, Mass & Family Novena
Friday - 8am
Saturday - 8am, Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

Sacraments and Devotions

Adoration - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am
Precious Blood - 10am
Rosaries - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am
Reconciliation - Thursday after Novena
Sat after 8am Mass & 5:30 to 5:50pm
Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm
Baptism and Marriage - By appointment
Legion of Mary Praesidia :
Mon 9:30am - Mystical Rose
Thur 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace
Wed 8:30am - Mary Immaculate

~ Parish Notices ~

First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Preparation classes will begin at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on the 26th July 2017 at 4.30pm to 5.30pm each Wednesday until the 6th of September. If we can assist you to prepare your child, please email Parish office or contact Lyn Byrnes 60432232.

Pray the Rosary for our families and for peace in our world.

If you would like to have the pilgrim Statue of Our Lady in your home and pray the Rosary for one week, please leave your name and telephone number on Pilgrim statue clip board in church foyer. If you would like a blessing of your home while you have the statue, Please contact Fr John Fowles.



Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene, Saturday 22 July

*St. Mary Magdalene, woman of many sins,
who by conversion became the beloved of Jesus,
thank you for your witness that Jesus forgives through the miracle of love.
You, who already possess eternal happiness in His glorious presence,
please intercede for me, so that someday I may share in the same everlasting joy.
Amen.*

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 16th July 2017

Collect: O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second reading Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.'



The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'



Feast of the week: Sat-St Mary Magdalen

Lord hear our prayers for the:

Sick: Bob Mannering, Lyn Byrnes, Noel Glasgow, Matthew Cameron, Kieran Clifford, Theresa McCooke, Jack Dwyer **Departed:** John McDonald, Kevin Golding, Angela Gunning, Gail Sutcliffe, Vicky Coelli, **Anniversaries:** Kuriakose Mani

Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Denise Murphy Sun 9.30am -Gwen Abikhair

Readers & Cleaners Roster - 22/23 July 2017

Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Br Patrick Darcy Sun: 9.30 am - Steve McCrohan

Cleaning: Group 1 Isabella and Dennis

Financial Report: Please make cheques payable to "Thurgoona Catholic Parish" or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Please include name on transfer. First Collection: \$330.15, Envelope: \$196.00+ Direct Debit: \$220.00, Loose: \$162.70

The Word's Return: Scott Hahn

Since the first humans rejected God's Word, creation has been enslaved to futility. But God's Word does not go forth only to return to Him void. His Word awaits our response. We must show ourselves to be children of that Word. We must allow that Word to accomplish God's will in our lives. As Jesus warns today, we must take care lest the devil steal it away or lest it be choked by worldly concerns.

In the Eucharist, the Word gives himself to us as bread to eat. He does so that we might be made fertile, yielding fruits of holiness.

And we await the crowning of the year, the great harvest of the Lord's Day - when His Word will have achieved the end for which it was sent.