

## The Australian Government announced there will be a postal plebiscite

on whether Australia should change marriage to include “same-sex marriage”.

The Church views marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man. Marriage is also a fundamental institution for all societies because of its importance in uniting spouses as potential parents and in providing for the upbringing of their children. It has therefore been understood as the union of a man and a woman in all cultures and religions until very recent times and is still so defined in international law and the law of most nations.

The recognition that *marriage is* between a man and a woman is not the assertion of bigotry, religious dogma or irrational tradition, but a recognition of human ecology. It does not preclude persons of the same sex entering into other legal relationships. To insist that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman is not a criticism of other kinds of relationships. By recognizing this particular type of relationship our community and its marriage laws do not unjustly discriminate against other relationships: rather, our community and its laws recognize the essential connections between male-female bonding and child-bearing, and between children and their natural parents. The Commonwealth has an interest in ensuring that children have the benefit of those connections. Redefining marriage would deliberately create motherless or fatherless families, which would deprive children of at least one of their biological parents, and would put the preferences of adults before the right and interests of children.

Consequences of change: The Church recognises that genderless marriage would have flow-on consequences, where essential roles like motherhood and fatherhood would likely be erased from the law to the detriment of children.

Will people of faith be compelled by law to be involved in activities or ceremonies that are contrary to their beliefs? Will religious organisations or agencies continue to be free to employ staff who abide by the ethos of those organisations regarding marriage? Will religious organisations or agencies be free to bid for government contracts or other funding without being forced to endorse same-sex marriage? Will faith-based schools, with a responsibility to pass on the faith, be free to teach that marriage according to their religion is only between a woman and a man and be free to employ staff who support those teachings? We have seen each of these freedoms challenged overseas where the definition of marriage has changed. The consequences of changing marriage definition are very real.

Resources  
<https://www.catholic.org.au/marriage>  
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/marriageinfo/>  
<http://marriageequals.org.au>  
[www.coalitionformarriage.com.au](http://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au)



Vote No, to keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man. To participate, you must be enrolled to vote before the cut-off date of Thursday, 24 August. Go to [www.aec.gov.au/enrol/](http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/) for more information.



## 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](mailto:thurgoonacatholicparish@hotmail.com)  
**Fax:** 02 6043 2224 | [www.thurgoonacatholicparish.com](http://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  
**Wed:** 8:30am - Mary Immaculate  
**Thur:** 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace

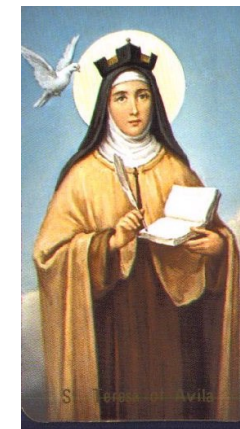
### ~ Parish Notices ~

**Dates for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation:** First Reconciliation - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 & First Holy Communion on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 9.30am Mass.

**The Hammer & Nails Team** – ‘come as you are’ gathering of men at the Presbytery on 25<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00pm. We have a Guest Speaker. A light meal will be provided, please bring your own refreshments.

*Let nothing disturb you;  
Nothing frighten you.  
All things are passing.  
God never changes  
Patience  
Obtains all things  
Nothing*

*Is wanting to him who possesses God  
God alone suffices St Teresa*



## 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, 20 August 2017

**Collect:** O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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 56:1,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

**Responsorial Psalm:** O God, let all the nations praise you!

### Second reading Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus preached the Good News of the Kingdom and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*

### Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



### Communion Antiphon Ps 130 (129): 7

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

**Fest of the week:** *Mon*-St Pius X, Pope, *Tues*-The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Thur*-Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

**Lord hear our prayers for the:** *Sick:* John Dwyer, Jenny Mannerer, Elizabeth Forbes, Bob Mannerer, , Matthew Cameron, Kieran Clifford, Theresa McCooke, *Departed:* Victor Zanin Noel Glasgow, Iean Cummings, Brendan Jacobs, John McDonald, Kevin Golding, *Anniversaries:* Dooli Carrol, Joyce Doolan, Mary O'Brien, Mons William Fulton

**Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Peter Tobin Sun 9.30am - Magdalina Kuna**

**Readers & Cleaners Roster - 26/27 August 2017**

**Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Denise Murphy Sun: 9.30 am - Simon Horsfall**

**Cleaning: Group 6 - Vera Galvin**

**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: \$356.60, Envelope: \$341.00+ Direct Debit: \$200.00, Loose: \$197.35

### UK barrister urges churches not to keel over in gay marriage stoush

Andrea Williams a barrister from the UK who has defended numerous Christians dragged before the courts for their faith has an urgent message to Christians in Australia: the only reason marriage was redefined in the UK is because the Christian churches did not stand up visibly and vocally and speak the truth about marriage. UK today is "quite a dark place" for Christians. If marriage is re-defined in Australia, Christians here can expect to find themselves facing sanctions for following their consciences or publicly expressing their faith...

The reason we lost the marriage debate in the UK is not because we didn't put up the best arguments; we made the case for the family, we made the case for children. The reason we lost - is that the Church keeled over. The Church was not vocal and visible for the beauty and truth of marriage - one man, one woman in lifelong union, to raise children within that construct. The Church did not point out to a lost and hurting world the living God in Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom who laid down his life for his Bride - the Church.

Since marriage was redefined to include same-sex couples in the UK in 2014, religious freedom has been dramatically eroded,... Teachers have lost their jobs for refusing to teach students about "same-sex marriage", magistrates removed from the bench for expressing their belief that children do best with a mother and a father, social workers forced to resign because they refused to place children with same-sex couples, etc.

If you want to see the shift after redefining marriage it moves immediately to the obliteration of gender. Christian Law Council is currently dealing with three cases where children as young as six are going to school as the opposite gender. You'd think in a sane world, the adults, the parents and educators, or the medical profession, that someone would say, let's help this little six year old to live in the gender that they were born. Let's align their head to their body. Let's not join in the delusion.

Andrea and her legal team are working with deeply concerned parents who feel they are not allowed to speak against the new orthodoxy of gender ideology... Everyone conforms because they don't want to rock the boat. These parents we're working with say they feel like pariahs. Such is the power of the propaganda, the power of identity politics and the labels 'transphobic' and 'homophobic'...

By Catherine Sheehan Aug 10 2017 - The Catholic Weekly