

**“Are We Willing To Stand For The Truth?”**  
*Excerpt from the article by R. Jared Staudt Ph.D, NCR, 18.1.18*

When Jesus founded the Church, he gave us a blueprint of our mission: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**” The Church’s message is good news because it liberates our minds and desires from our selfish inclinations. The truth given to the Church by Christ fulfills and completes the order of the created world, inscribed within it by its Creator. The Gospel and the natural law bear common testimony to the will of God, which leads us to happiness. The Church is the guardian of the natural law, a moral order that arises from the inherent purpose of our nature as body-soul unities. We have been created in the image of God, a reality reflected even by the human body. Pope St. John Paul II taught in his theology of the body that we must recognize the truth written into our very beings: “Man and woman are called to express that mysterious language of their bodies in all the truth which is proper to it”. The body, including our sexuality, has a truth that we must recognize and respect.

Fifty years ago, Pope Blessed Paul VI issued a prophetic affirmation of the natural law and the Church’s timeless teaching in his encyclical **Humanae Vitae** (The Regulation of Birth). At the heart of encyclical, we find the message that “each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life”. This teaching does not come from an outmoded moral code, but the recognition of what sexuality is in itself: an expression of the unity and fruitfulness of married love. To contend for the legitimacy of contraception would entail a move from truth to unreality — a shift from the Church’s mission to a lie. As we encounter hostility on the topic of contraception, from outside and even within the Church, we will have to ask ourselves: Are we ashamed of the truth of the Church’s teaching on contraception? Do we think contraception really will help people to be happy? These questions stand at the heart of the battle for the legacy of **Humanae Vitae**. Are we willing to stand for the truth, or will we accommodate the lies surrounding sexuality that dominate our culture?

**Humanae Vitae** recognizes that couples, while respecting the nature of the marital act, may “for serious reasons and with due respect to moral

precepts, decide not to have additional children for either a certain or an indefinite period of time”. Many ask how practicing natural family planning differs from contraception. It comes down to the key moral principle that “the end does not justify the means”. A good intention to defer pregnancy for a legitimate cause does not justify the use of means that are “intrinsically wrong” and that distort the natural ordering of the act. The Church cannot cave in to the predominate relativism of our time. We have fallen into unreality about who we are as men and women and what will make us happy. If the Church does not stand for the truth, who will? We must speak the truth in love, rather than affirming positions that lead people away from true happiness. In fact, the Gospel holds the antidote to the world’s misery, and we can’t hide it under a bushel basket! The Church can never lie to her people or to the world, but must answer the summons of the Master to teach what he has commanded. God offers us the truth, and living it offers the only true path to happiness.



## 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*

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**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm

### Mass Times

**Saturday:** - (Vigil) 6pm  
**Sunday:** - 9:30am & 5:30pm  
**Monday:** - 8am  
**Tuesday:** - 10am, *Mass of Mercy*  
**2nd Tues of month:** - *Anointing of the sick,*  
**Wednesday:** - 8am  
**Thursday:** - 7pm, Mass & Family Novena  
**Friday:** - 8am  
**1st Saturday of Month only:** - 8am - with devotions to Bl.V.Mary  
**Working Bee:** Sat - 9am to 11am

### Sacraments and Devotions

**Adoration** - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am  
*Precious Blood - Fri 10am*  
**Rosaries** - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am  
**Reconciliation** - Thursday after Novena  
Sat 5:30 to 5:50pm before Vigil,  
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  
**Mary’s Mantle** - 1st Sunday of the month after 9.30am Mass

### Parish Notices

**“Together”** This month’s diocesan newspaper available in Church foyer! Please take yours!  
**Confirmation:** **Final** Preparation Class: in the Marian Centre at 4.30pm  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Confirmation: **23rd Sept. 9:30am Mass.**

### Prayer for our Confirmands

**Come Holy Spirit, come we pray!**

**May you bestow upon those young people preparing for Confirmation Your seven fold gifts. Come Holy Spirit, come, we pray!**



**Attention Catechists:** There will be *mandatory* training in Child Protection this year. This is the only Catechist training for 2018. Venue: Slattery Centre PD Room, St. Patrick’s, Albury. **Tues. 18th Sept. 10am—12.**

**Hammer and Nails** All Men of our Parish please save the date: Friday, 5th October. Friendship, Food and a Guest Speaker!



**Annual ACSA Melbourne River Cruise proudly presents:**  
**Enchantment Under The Sea Dance** 22nd Sept. 2018 7pm Dock 14  
Central Pier, 161 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands Age 18+. \$55  
*See poster at Church entrance!*



## 24th. Sunday in Ordinary Time 16th. September 2018

**Collect:** Look upon us, o God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of Your mercy, grant that we may serve You with all our heart.

### First Reading **Isaiah 50:5-9** ©

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

### Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 114:1-6, 8-9**

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

### Second Reading **James 2:14-18** ©

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

### Gospel Acclamation **Galatians 6:14**

*Alleluia, alleluia!* My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel **Mark 8:27-35** ©

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a



follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

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### Communion Antiphon: **Psalm 35:8**

How precious is Your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of Your wings.

### Saints of the Week

Thurs:20.Sept: Saints Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang & Companions  
Martyred saints of Korea during grave persecutions 1839 - 1867

Fri. 21st.Sept.: Saint Matthew, Apostle

Lord hear our prayers for the Sick: Lyn Byrnes, Helen Quirk, Danielle Scolah  
For the recently departed: Maxine O'Brien, Ezatollah Sahatpour, Pat Pass

Financial Report: cheques payable to Thurgoona Catholic Parish or Direct Debit:  
BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Include name on transfer. First Collection:  
\$431.55 Second Collection (Envelope):\$395.00 Direct Debit \$320.00 Loose: \$197.95

Readers this week: Sat 6pm-Luke Burton 9.30am-Kieran Williams

Readers Roster: 22nd/23rd September 2018

Sat: 6.00 pm –Damien Tocher 9.30 am - Magdalene Kuna

Cleaning Roster: Sat. 22nd. Grace Jodko

### Reflection on Today's Gospel

Dr. Scott Hahn

In today's Gospel, we reach a pivotal moment in our walk with the Lord. After weeks of listening to His words and witnessing His deeds, along with the disciples we're asked to decide who Jesus truly is. Peter answers for them, and for us, too, when he declares: "You are the Messiah." Many expected the Messiah to be a miracle worker who would vanquish Israel's enemies and restore the kingdom of David. But Jesus' kingship is not to be of this world. And the path to His throne is by way of suffering and death. Jesus identifies the Messiah with the suffering servant that Isaiah foretells. The words of Isaiah's servant are Jesus' words, as He gives Himself to be shamed and beaten, trusting that God will be His help. As Jesus tells us today, to believe that He is the Messiah is to follow His way of self-denial, losing our lives to save them, in order to rise with Him to new life. Our faith must express itself in works of love. Notice that Jesus questions the apostles today "along the way." They are on the way to Jerusalem, where the Lord will lay down His life. We, too, are on a journey with the Lord. We must take up our cross, giving to others and enduring all our trials for His sake and the sake of the Gospel. Our lives must be an offering of thanksgiving for the new life He has given us, until that day when we reach our destination, and walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

