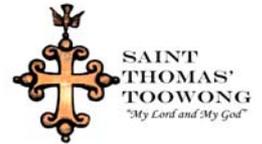


St Thomas' Voice



At Toowong we are building a Christ centred faith community that seeks truth, works for peace and justice, is inclusive and non-judgemental.

Greetings,

We have had a wonderful year of celebration; with visits from the Archbishop, Bishop Alison and Bishop Geoff, special worship services, concerts and fellowship activities. Thank you to the whole parish for your support and involvement in these events that marked our 150th Anniversary Year. The Pentecost Vigil service, the Solemn Sung Evensong and the Teddy Bear service will become annual events in our parish calendar. This year many of our members have been especially generous by donating worship and sacramental items, and by donating to our Church Restoration Fund.

Through the restoration fund, we hope to raise enough money to restore the church building and grounds. A major fundraising event planned for next year will be a Cocktail Party with special guests and guest speaker. It will be on Friday 19th May from 6.00pm to 9.00pm, please put it in your diary.

Planning for next year is well advanced; 2017 will be 'The Year of Planting'. The *Parable of the Sower* will become our theme. In 1Corinthians 3:6 Paul says; *'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.'* The challenge for us is to find ways of planting the seeds of God's love in people's lives. We will be planters of seeds and nurturers of faith, knowing that God will give the growth.

A Parish Calendar has been prepared and will be distributed in the last week of this year. Using the calendar everyone will know the major events in the life of the parish for the whole of the year.

We are now in the third week of Advent turning our attention to the great festival of Christmas, the celebration of the fact that God is with us in all our experiences of life. We have a number of opportunities to worship; on Christmas Eve we have a **Family Service at 5.30pm** and **Midnight Mass at 11.00pm**. In the morning we will celebrate a **Sung Eucharist at 8.30am**, with the Parish Choir leading the singing.

The last service of the year will be a Eucharist on **New Year's Eve at 5.30pm**. This is an opportunity to re-commit ourselves to the service of the Lord Jesus and his Church. In preparation it is customary to prepare a *'Rule of Life'*. This is a series of commitments to be made annually. The kind of commitments may include: prayer, worship, fellowship, Bible reading, stewardship, service to others, etc. A rule of life is a kind of Christian new year's resolution, the difference is that it is a commitment made to God and performed in the power of the Holy Spirit. At the new year's eve service worshippers are invited to place their Rule of Life of the Altar as an act of commitment.

The Diocese is undergoing some major changes among our senior leadership team: Bp Jonathan Holland has become Principal at St Francis' College, Archdeacon Jeremy Greaves is to become Bishop of the Northern Region, Bishop Geoff Smith is to become the next Archbishop of Adelaide, and Archdeacon Michael Chiplin will retire during 2017. Please keep our Bishops and Archdeacons in your prayers during these transitions.

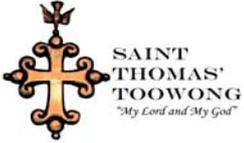
We look forward to a wonderful celebration of the coming of our Lord at Christmas and to renewed commitment to the growth and strengthening of our faith community during 2017.

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens and Parish Council I wish all our members a blessed and refreshing Christmas season.

Please keep our faith community, its growth and development in your prayers.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr Tom Sullivan
Rector



+ 150th Anniversary Year +

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Direct Debit Giving: Account: Toowong Anglican Parish Overdraft

Account Number: 00004710

BSB: 704 901