

St Thomas the Apostle

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Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day, and we are still in a time of severe disruption. As we strive to find every way to remember our mothers and express our love and affection for them, we pray that God will bless them more abundantly this year than ever before.

During this past week, on 5th May, we remembered the death anniversary of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. She is one of the many outstanding Catholic women in the history of Australia who have lived with deep faith and extraordinary love. Sr Mary was born in western Victoria in 1887. She became a fluent linguist and studied medicine at Melbourne University. She had a thriving medical practice in Melbourne, and also a thriving prayer life, when she discerned that God was calling her in a new way. When she heard a bishop plead for medical doctors to come to care for the poor in the east coast of India, she received this directly as God's call to her. She went to India, joined the Sisters of Jesus Mary & Joseph and dedicated the rest of her life to her religious vocation, establishing health care systems, and the medical care of the poor. It is said that her consultations as a doctor could number 40 00 per year! She died on 5th May 1957. In 2013 she was declared to be a Servant of God, the first step in the process of being canonised as a saint.

The life of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey reminds us of the extraordinary generosity of doctors, nurses and health care workers in this time of the global pandemic. Many of their own lives are at risk. Let us never forget to pray for them and ask God to richly bless them for their generosity and protect them from harm.

On 31st May we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Every family in our parish has free access to our parish subscription to Formed.org, a Catholic online site with many resources. I particularly invite you in your homes to prepare for Pentecost by watching the Wild Goose series. This series has 14 episodes, each about 25 minutes long, led by Fr Dave Pivonka TOR which will lead us to discover a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. If you need assistance to connect to Formed.org please contact our parish office. I would encourage our whole parish to participate.

May God bless us all. St Thomas the Apostle pray for us. Our Lady Help of Christians intercede for us.

Fr Denis O'Bryan (Parish Priest)