**Prayer of St Thomas**

I will love you, Lord, in every way and
Without setting limits to my love.
You set no limits to what you have done for me.

You have not measured out your gifts.
I will not measure out my love.

I will love you, Lord, with all my strength,
With all my powers, as much as I am able.

Amen
# Mareeba Parish (est. 1911)

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<th><strong>Post</strong> Postal <em>Address:</em></th>
<th>PO Box 308 Mareeba Qld 4880</th>
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<td><strong>Telephone:</strong></td>
<td>07 4092 1077</td>
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<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mareeba.parish@cairns.catholic.org.au">mareeba.parish@cairns.catholic.org.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fax:</strong></td>
<td>07 4092 3170</td>
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| **Parish Clergy:**          | Parish Priest: Fr Robert Greenup OSA  
Indigenous Connections:  
Fr Robert Greenup OSA  
Deacon Ralph Madigan |
| **Other Parish Contacts:**  | Secretary: Mrs Stella Byrnes  
Parish Pastoral Council - Chair:  
Mr Kevin Greensill |
| **Liturgy Times:**          | Reconciliation Saturday 5:00pm to 5:30pm & by appointment  
**Weekend Masses:**  
Saturday: 6:00pm  
Sunday: 10:00am  
**Weekdays Mass:**  
Monday to Thursday – 8:00am  
Friday – 9:00am |
| **Schools & Colleges**      | St Thomas of Villanova Primary School, Mareeba  
St Stephen’s Catholic College, Mareeba |

**Come celebrate with us!**
The year 2019 seems to have passed fairly quietly in Mareeba but it was, in fact, a year when a very significant change in the life of the parish took place.

After 108 years of serving the people of Mareeba, the Augustinians made the sad decision to withdraw from the parish.

Subsequent to that decision, at the suggestion of Bishop James and with the approval of the Augustinian Provincial, it was decided that I would stay on in Mareeba so that Deacon Ralph Madigan and I could continue our work with Indigenous Connections.

Initially, the Bishop proposed that, in doing this, I would live in Mareeba as ‘Priest in Residence’ and that Mareeba would become part of the Tablelands Parish with the Parish Priest residing in Atherton.

Then, for reasons that are not entirely clear to me, the Bishop asked if I would be prepared to go back to being Parish Priest of Mareeba in addition to continuing the work of Indigenous Connections. That was not something I wanted to do but to make the situation more manageable the Bishop undertook to remove Dimbulah, Kuranda and Julatten from the responsibility of the Parish Priest of Mareeba. So, after due consideration, I accepted the appointment of being Parish Priest of a geographically reduced Mareeba Parish.

All this has resulted in very little apparent change in the day to day life of the people of Mareeba Parish. The Mass schedule and all other programmes within the parish have been retained and the life of the parish goes on as before.

But there are now some times when the weekday Mass has to be replaced by a Communion Service because I am away with Indigenous Connections. The work of Indigenous Connections has, however, been somewhat adversely affected as the demands of the parish inevitably take precedence over the work of Indigenous Connections.

Another change awaits us in 2020. Bishop James has announced that he will be retiring after more than 27 years of leading the Diocese and a new Bishop will then be appointed. Changes of bishops, priests and deacons are, of course, normal and expected occurrences. And it is good to remember that it is the parishioners, the people of the parish, who constitute the parish.

It is your faith, your dedication, your generosity, and your commitment that will sustain the parish into the future.
Many years ago if I were asked what I would be doing in ten years’ time, I probably would say, I wouldn’t have a clue. I could not image doing what I am doing now, speaking to you.

This year on the 7th June marks the tenth anniversary of my ordination as a Deacon. I always thought of myself as a bit of a failure because I really was a person who had a low opinion of myself, always thought I was not good enough, I never put myself forward, always in the background and felt comfortable there and that was where I was staying. But things changed for me, I became quite active in the Church and I often thought of becoming a Deacon one day.

The Bishop sent out a circular to the parishes about the Diaconate programme that he was offering to see if there were anybody interested. Before I said yes, I had to be real sure if this is what God had planned for me. My reaction was, am I good enough to be a Deacon, will people accept me, and how would my family react. I had to deal with these issues first. With a lot of encouragement and well wishes, I started my formation. We all need encouragement in our lives to keep trying to achieve our goals.

On my journey to the Diaconate and coming close to the end, I started to get cold feet and asked myself are you ready for this commitment you are about to take? It was a bit scary because I was going to start a new direction in my life and I did not know how I would cope. I know that God had planned this for me, so I put my faith and trust in God and determined to follow him. When we answer Gods call, he empowers us so that we can do things we never thought possible.

When we read the Gospel, Peter and his companions had done their best; they had fished all night but had caught nothing. They were tired and weary as they cleaned their nets. After Jesus finished talking to the crowds, he said to Peter “put out into the deep water and pay out your net for a catch”, even though they were tired and weary. Peter’s response was “Lord we fished all night and caught nothing, but if you say so I will let the net down”. When they had done this, they netted a huge amount of fish.

Jesus wanted Peter to try again and not give in. Jesus asks that of us now when we fail we need to keep trying and get up. Sometimes in our lives, we can be on the edge of giving up and thinking, we have failed. But Jesus is always there for us in the same way he was for Peter saying launch out in the deep and try again.

Jesus can turn our failure into successes if we trust him to listen....
Local Safeguarding Representative

Introducing Your Parish local Safeguarding Representatives

Adam Gilbert 0437 901 227; Ralph Madigan 0447 482 277;
Arlene Cabatingan 0404 414 205 and Stella Byrne 0488 028 180.

These representative are part of the team responsible for ensuring the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults within the parish, they are dedicated to promoting safeguarding messages and keeping you informed about safeguarding practices and initiatives within the Diocese.

They are available to assist with any safeguarding questions, concerns, disclosures, incidents or complaints. They will help you find the right people for assistance and support.

If you wish to raise concerns anonymously, contact STOPline:

Ph: 1300 304 550
E:  doc@stopline.com.au
W: doc.stoplinereport.com
M: c/ The Stopline, Locked Bag 8 Hawthorn Vic 3122

STOPline received information about suspected abuse, misconduct and serious policy breaches by Diocesan Clergy, employees or volunteers. Information can be shared anonymously.
Two developments this year have detracted from the work of Indigenous Connections. Firstly, Gertrude Davis was not reemployed by the Diocese after recovering from her illness. And, secondly, Robert accepted the appointment of parish priest of Mareeba Parish, albeit a geographically reduced parish. These two events have diminished our capacity to work in Cairns and have reduced the flexibility we had to visit remote communities and teach at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, as the demands of the parish inevitably assume priority.

We have maintained our monthly visit to Coen but now celebrate the Mass there on a Wednesday night because of the requirement to be in Mareeba for Sunday Masses. The average Mass attendance in Coen for the year was 16 people (minimum 4, maximum 25). Sr Irene Harrison and Sr Irene Masterson spent five days with us there in September helping with visitation and preparing children for the sacraments. Skytrans again provided free air travel during the wet season months of January, February, March and April but have announced that they will be discontinuing their flights to Coen next year. Hinterland Aviation will take on the Coen service and they have undertaken to provide us with discounted fares over the coming wet season.

In Mareeba the annual Aboriginal Cultural Mass was celebrated on 3 November with David Miller, the NATSICC Councillor for Queensland, as the guest speaker. Students from Mount St Bernard College, Herberton took an active part in the liturgy as did local musicians and dancers. On 9 June the annual Bush Mass was held on the bank of the Barron River at Plowman Crossing. The Aboriginal rosary group continued to meet each week in the Indigenous Connections room and Rosies maintained its weekly outreach to Aboriginal youth on Friday nights and to those appearing in court on Monday mornings. A new, larger and better equipped Rosies van was provided to us in October.

Cultural Masses were celebrated at Mother of Good Counsel Church, North Cairns on 24 March and 21 July with musical assistance by John Shea and the Coleman family from Kuranda. We also presented a session on historical and contemporary Indigenous issues at the APRE’s gathering at Mount St Bernard College on 14 June and the Principal’s gathering at Seville on 1 November.

Aurukun, Mapoon, Napranum and Thursday Island were visited and in August we celebrated the Masses in the Gulf Savannah Parish. Altogether this year, in various locations, we had a total of seven baptisms, eight confirmations, eight first communions and two funerals.

We were able to assist with one of the residential courses at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College where we took classes on ‘The Holy Spirit’ and ‘The Person and Work of Jesus in an Indigenous Context’. We also attended the Graduation Ceremony at the Colonial Club, Cairns at which Ralph was the guest speaker.

Some involvement was also maintained with the students at Mount St Bernard College. In August we took delivery of a new Holden Colorado which had been purchased for us by the Diocese.

Ralph Madigan and Robert Greenup
Devotion to the Santo Niño (Holy Child), an image of Jesus as a small boy typically dressed as a king, is a mainstay of Philippine Catholic life. Devotions to him are part of every parish’s life, and in some places a major feast of the year. Some image of Santo Niño is found in almost every Filipino home, because Filipinos believe that, the Santo Niño is their protector and has the power to grant and answer their prayers.

The oldest and most popular Santo Niño image is the Santo Niño of Cebu. That image is particularly revered by people from the region in and around the city of Cebu, where the Spaniards set up the first colonial capital. But Santo Niño of Cebu devotion has spread beyond that region, and images of it are a common sight in homes and shops around the country and in the Filipino diaspora.

Lakbayaw Festival "Santo Niño de Tondo"

The month of January is the celebration of Santo Niño festivals throughout the country, and one of the most awaited festivals during this month is the Lakbayaw Festival or commonly known as Santo Niño de Tondo, the biggest event in Manila participated in by thousands of Santo Niño devotees every year. Let us explore this one-of-a-kind festival that shows the many faces of Tondo, Manila.

The third Sunday of January is a promising and exciting day for the people of Tondo because of the two simultaneous celebrations: the Tondo Fiesta and the Feast of the Santo Niño or Lakbayaw Festival. (Prayer-Dance)

The festival of the Sto Nino de Tondo begins with a Nine day Novena and on the 9th day of the Novena, the Lakbayaw festival took place. The event kicks off with the traditional procession of devotees dancing on the street while carrying images of the Child Jesus; a pagoda carrying an old image of Sto. Niño will lead the parade with 20 smaller boats accompanying it. This fluvial celebration attracts thousands of tourists coming from different places just to be part of the celebration.

The parish in Tondo houses the image that was brought to the country by Augustinian priests from Acapulco, Mexico in the late 1570s. Like the myriad of stories about the miraculous image of the Child Jesus, the people of Tondo believe that the ivory image of Santo Niño will bring miracles to their lives.

Hear the boom-boom beat of the bass drums and tinkling of the metals and stone. The participants are clad in colourful dresses and costumes while dancing together with the street dancers. All you will notice are happy people dancing and proclaiming “Viva El Sto. Niño.” The fluvial fiesta processions are held twice, one in the morning and the other just before sunset where it passes through the major streets of Tondo. One highlight of the procession is the fireworks display.
Lakbayaw Festival, like the other Santo Niño celebrations, also features beauty pageants, photo exhibits; a showcase of local plants, products, and crafts; and fireworks.

Some of the famous Santo Niño celebrations in the Philippines are Sinulog in Cebu, Dinagyang in Iloilo, and Ati-Atihan in Kalibo Aklan.

In Manila, Lakbayaw Festival in Tondo has the biggest participants. In honor of the Holy Child, the nation celebrates it, and usually features grand processions of folk, antique, and new images of the Holy Child in various manifestations – as a shepherd boy, as the keeper of the world, or as a sleeping child, among others.

We witnessed a celebration of a popular festival in Manila infused with SINULOG - the Lakbayaw festival.

Mass was celebrated by

Fr Perci Sevare OSA

Pics by Kay Morrow
Easter 2019

*The light of Christ has come into the world*

Pics by Harrison Cabatingan
Historically, a Debutante Ball is an event where a young woman is formally introduced into society. Generally, only young women from wealthy and socially influential families were invited to participate. In Mareeba, while many of the historical traditions are still maintained, a more modern approach is taken to the event. While tradition is important, it is also necessary to change with society to ensure that the Ball continues to remain relevant to the young participants.

With the Debutante Balls having been held on and off in Mareeba since the 1920’s, a more contemporary approach has resulted in an increase in interest from young locals.

To be eligible to participate, the young women are to be between the ages of 16 to 18 years of age and students from both St Stephen’s Catholic College and Mareeba State High School are invited to register their interest.

In 2019, the Debutante Ball was held at Mareeba International Club on Saturday, 11th May and our theme was “Purple Rain”. There were 18 debutantes that were presented to Vicar General Father Frank Gordon and other local dignitaries.
Article and pics supplied by Mary Stefanutti
The Catholic Aborigines of Mareeba Parish organised the annual Bush Mass, we gathered as one on the banks of the Barron River, to listen to the word of God, sing his praise and share the Eucharist.

Followed by billy tea & damper
How the statue of our Lady of the Chain came to Mareeba –
written by Rena Ceola with history adapted from 50th Anniversary Booklet.

In September 1959, the Catalano family were gathered in Brisbane where Salvatore Catalano was to undergo surgery for cancer.

Complications occurred and it was feared that Salvatore would not survive. He told his family that if he survived, he would bring the statue of Our Lady of the Chain to Mareeba.

The family prayed to Our Lady and Salvatore made a full recovery, it was indeed a miracle. As soon as he was well again, Salvatore returned to Mareeba where he and Leonardo Brischetto began fundraising to pay for the statue to be sent from Italy and fulfil the pledge he had made.

The statue arrived in Mareeba in September 1961, on the anniversary of the “miracle”, the Feast of Our Lady of the Chain began. And the tradition lives on…

This year Mass was celebrated by Fr Rob Greenup, Deacon Ralph Madigan and visiting priest, Fr Laurie Timms on the 59th Anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady of the Chain on the 8th of September. The Italian Choir once again were astounding and accompanied by Michael Samanes filled the church with song. Michael dedicated “Ave Maria” to Our Lady and as usual brought many a tear to the eyes of the congregation.

Although attendance was down from last year, the crowd enjoyed the food, pesca, children’s entertainment including face painting, and of course the talented Fortunato Isgro and Claude Portelli who have now become a part of our annual event. The spectacular fireworks closed the celebrations.

Next year we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary. We are planning a whole weekend of celebrations and it promises to be bigger and better than before, so keep that weekend free – 12th & 13th September 2020. See you there.
Aboriginal Mass

At St Thomas’s 10am Mass on the 3rd of November we celebrated our annual Aboriginal Cultural Mass. We extended a special welcome to David Miller, the NATSICC Councillor of Queensland, who spoke at the Mass. Students from Mount Saint Bernard College also undertook an active part in the celebration with local Aboriginal musicians and dancers. After Mass morning tea was shared by the congregation on the Reconciliation Lawn adjacent to the church.

A Blessing

May you stand tall as a tree, be as gentle as the morning mist and as strong as the earth under your feet.

May the warmth of the campfire be in your heart and mind, and may

the creator Spirit of our Traditional owners always watch over you

Amen

By Betty Pike, Melb Vic.
Christmas 2019

The story behind the celebration re-enacted by the children of our Parish
Ten Finger Prayer

Can Do All Things Through Who Me
I Strengthen Christ
Philippians 4:13

EASTER WORD SEARCH

S U E X I W R K Y B C
I A C I D B X V U R S
B D V E J K T N O R E
J N P I B V N S E T G
M E J H O Y S W E Q L
R Y M E V R O K V X S
N G C D I L S T N A U
C C L S F A E G G S S
I S E H B J A U D W E
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D O S W T T O M B X S

R I S E N  S U N D A Y
C R O S S  F L O W E R S
T O M B  E G G S
J E S U S  B A S K E T
S A V I O R  B U N N Y

That "Jonah" story sounded fishy to me!
Parting the Red Sea
Invitation to Join Us

Do you feel that something is missing in your life? Do you feel you want to share your skills and or time to help others?

St Thomas of Villanova has a number of groups that would greatly appreciate your time and skills.

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<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Church choirs – English and Italian</th>
<th>Church Collectors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Church Maintenance Crew</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy</td>
<td>Church Cleaning Crew</td>
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<td>Church Smoko - Sundays</td>
<td>Church Soloists</td>
<td>Church Welcomers</td>
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<td>Communion to the Sick</td>
<td>Communion Ministers</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
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<td>Flower Arrangement Crew</td>
<td>Friends of St Augustine</td>
<td>Assist with Garden Settlement Mass</td>
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<td>Liturgy Committee</td>
<td>Liturgy Roster Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Pastoral Council</td>
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<td>Organists - Musicians</td>
<td>Our Lady of the Chain Committee</td>
<td>Rosie’s – Food to the needy</td>
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<td>Power Point Ministers</td>
<td>Readers</td>
<td>State School RI Teachers</td>
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<td>Sacramental &amp; Baptism preparation team</td>
<td>Santo Nino Committee</td>
<td>St Vinnies</td>
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<td>Youth Group</td>
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Or maybe you have some ideas on how to enhance our church? We would greatly appreciate your input.

I would like to help with… (Please return to the Priory)

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Fr. I would like to help by:

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