

SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

05 July 2020

New Stages of re-opening Churches for public Mass and other liturgical services

Dear parishioners,

With the further easing of some lockdown restrictions for Victorians, Churches are now permitted to open for Masses and liturgies (under strict number and hygiene limitations). Until **12 July 2020** each Church service can have **up to 20 attendees** as well as the clergy and the people who are required to run the service – i.e. Lector, Commentator, AV Operator, and Registration Officer.

I would like to advise you of the following arrangements for Masses at STM Parish:

Weekday Masses

Wednesday: 9:15 AM and Friday: 9:15 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday

5:00 –5:30 PM— Reconciliation

6:00 PM – Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Parishioners who wish to attend any of the Weekday or Weekend Masses **are required** to make a booking with the STM Parish Office. **Booking for Weekend Masses close on Friday@ 5:00PM. Vicki and I will do our best to make sure that all the people who wish to attend Mass will have a fair opportunity to do so.**

Finally, I would like to make it clear that **all Catholics living in Victoria are still being suspended from the Sunday Obligation until further notice.** Therefore, I do sincerely encourage that the people who are in the vulnerable groups (i.e. over 60 or with other underlining health issues) to consider attending Mass/Prayer online or Mass which is broadcast on the 10 Network. **You are the best person to make the decision as to whether or not you should be coming to Church during this time of Covid 19 Pandemic.**

It is the most difficult time for all and we are in it together.

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

John Phillips

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.. . William E. Underwood,

Alice Vino, Nanette O'Connell, Muriel Fulton

The sick... John Curwood, Salve Caleo, Evonne Paddison, Les Smith, Joanne



O'Brien, Maree Bracken, Maria Truong,, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Luke Carroll, Betty Corke, Chloe, David Dole, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Jake Steyn, Adrian Gobel, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre & Ranelagh Gardens Nursing home **and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequinomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

See how humbly your King comes to you!



Responsorial Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 9,11-13

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

I am gentle and humble of heart.



Next Week's Readings - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23



The Bishops of Victoria have suspended the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholics in Victoria until further notice. Mass is broadcast via the **Ten Network (6am, Sunday)** for any one who would like to participate.

Catholic Parish of St Thomas More

**313 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777**

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Web: www.stm-mteliza.org

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Joe Truong (Parish Administrator)

Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)

Sue Carr Paul Stinear

Leonie Bourke Carmel Huggard

Margaret Jamieson Michael Robertson

PPLT Email: MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Mass online

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

OR <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

OR <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

OR St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Daily and Sunday Mass is available, with the I am Mass live streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>



"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart."

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am—5pm

After Hours: Please leave a message on 9787 7777

What's Happening Here...

Stewardship Receipts and Envelopes

Stewardship (Thanksgiving) Receipts and Envelopes are available from this weekend.

If you are attending Mass, you will be given your set of envelopes.

The Parish office is open Tuesday to Friday, if you would like to collect your set of envelopes.

The balance will be mailed out the following week.

Receipts for those people who contribute electronically will be emailed.

If you contribute by Direct Debit or Credit Card and we don't have your email address, could you please send it to us. Thank you, Vicki

Would You Like To Advertise Your Business In This Space In Seasons?

- ◆ Business card size In colour
- ◆ \$50 for one month

We print 200 copies per week, and distribute to all STM School families by email. It is also available on the Parish website for six months. Please contact the Parish Office on 9787 7777 for further details.

GET AHEAD IN ENGLISH

English tutoring available
Year 7 to Year 12

Ask me about "Table for 6"

Call Alicia Canning on 0435 665 477

Current Padua College Staff Member



Financial Matters

<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Pledge</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	
28th June	\$1626	\$ 971	28th June	\$746

Monthly Average: \$2385

*(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)
Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.*

What's Happening Here ...

Pastoral Care for STM Parish during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic

This plan will be revised upon further easing of restrictions from the Government.

1. **STM Church Open for limited services . 20 Attendees—Max.**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post,. Homily will be included with *Seasons*.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** Parishioners who would like a visit from Fr Joe are to contact the parish office.
4. **Anointing of the Sick, and Communion for the housebound:** Fr Joe is now only permitted to administer the Anointing of the Sick to the seriously ill, and also, Fr Joe is only permitted to give the Eucharist as Viaticum to the dying
5. **Fr Joe is available at the parish office** from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon for spiritual guidance .
6. If you are elderly/living alone and need assistance with shopping—please call Fr Joe at the Parish Office.

Baptisms

All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office. Limit to ONE family per session



STM Parish Ministry Groups.

STM Parish Ministry Groups may reconvene from 22 June 2020. In consultation with the Government, the Archdiocese has put together strict guidelines for meeting of parish ministry groups (similar to the guidelines for Mass Attendance). The diocese has advised that the Victorian Police have been monitoring parishes and places of worship to make sure that we are complying with the regulations.

In some instances, these have resulted in fines. Convenor/Chair of any ministry group that wishes to resume meeting is required to contact the parish office for a copy of the guidelines.

PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT FR JOE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY STM MINISTRY GROUP TO RECONVENE AT THIS STAGE .

STM Children and Young People Safeguarding Committee

At STM Catholic Parish, Mount Eliza, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. For more information please call: John Natoli (Coordinator) on 0418 208 778; or Julie Carter (Banda) on 0420 923 859

Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle

Due to the current restrictions imposed by the Victorian Government because of the Corona Virus pandemic, the Gambling Commission has granted approval to extend this raffle. The new Draw Date is 26th September 2020 at 7.15pm. If you still have a raffle book at home—you can drop it back to the office or put it into our locked mail box. Hopefully we can resume with this fundraiser later in the year. Regards Vicki.

Community Corner



Dear Fellow parishioners,

The Winter Appeal has a special significance this year as the numbers attending our Place of Worship is considerably lower. So we are appealing for financial assistance to less people.

Because of home isolation a large number of Vinnies outlets have been closed, as they are mostly staffed by Retirees. At present we have just returned to having 50% of our outlets opened again. Therefore Vinnies revenue has significantly reduced.

In spite of extra money provided by the Government to sections of the Community, the inhabitants of the households we visit has increased. This is due to many of the young returning home because they have lost their jobs. Where we were visiting homes with one adult and two children, it has now increased to one adult, two children and several out of work teenagers.

Due to an increase in domestic violence and marriage breakdown the need for support by Vinnies is always there, and we are always grateful for financial support.

Our Conference consists of approximately 24 volunteers. 80% are retirees between the ages of 65 to 85. About 20% are still raising a family and are part-time employees, studying or all of the above. So we are always looking for enthusiastic new members.

Padua College deserves a word of thanks as the students do a great job in assisting us by raising funds each year.

Thank you Fr Joe for your enthusiastic support of Vinnies and as our Parish Priest, which has been evident from the day you arrived.

Donating online at vinnies.org.au - (and here is the link that takes people straight to the Winter Appeal website - <https://bit.ly/2AFtZt1>

Calling with your credit card details **13 18 12**

President of Vinnies. Mt Eliza Conference.

PTO

[Community Corner –continue from page 5](#)

[Plenary Council 2020 and beyond: Promoting parish conversations about change](#)

A group of parishes from Melbourne and beyond are sponsoring this website:

<https://www.senseofthefaithful.org.au>

Promoting parish conversations about change

To explore further the shared sense of the faithful in the Australian Church, a number of parishes have established this website to foster greater communication between Catholic parishes in Australia. Our aim is to encourage parishes in Melbourne and elsewhere to share information about their parish discussions and recommendations for the Plenary Council 2020. We also hope that the website will become a valuable way for parishioners in the future to exchange information about the reforms that are taking place in their parishes. We invite all parishes across Australia to use it and to participate in its work.

We invite all involved in the Plenary Council (PC) process in their parish to join in a conversation to contribute to change in the Church.

For information about the submission process and other guidelines see 'How to contribute' tab on the website. We seek contributions from all points of view, provided they are considered, respectful and do not involve attacks on individuals. Photos and videos are welcomed

Fr Gerard McKernan (St Kevin's, Lower Templestowe)

STM Social Club
Fun & Friendship For All
New members are always most welcome!

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the Social Club has decided to suspend all activities until further notice.

CDF-Online Portal for Parishes

Dear Parishioners,

We wish to thank you for your support of our parish even during this time of health crisis and financial challenge. We wish to advise you that the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Catholic Development Fund have partnered to build an online payment portal—CDF pay for parishes. This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments—you can set-up a recurring payment, or you can choose a one-off offering. The St Thomas More Mount Eliza site is live and can be found via the link below:

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family every blessing from the risen Christ.

Fr Joe Truong

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635822>

Homily

In the scriptural readings for this Sunday we hear that the Holy Spirit has made his home within us. The Holy Spirit leads us to recognise that Jesus is the gentle and humble King who invites us, “Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest”.

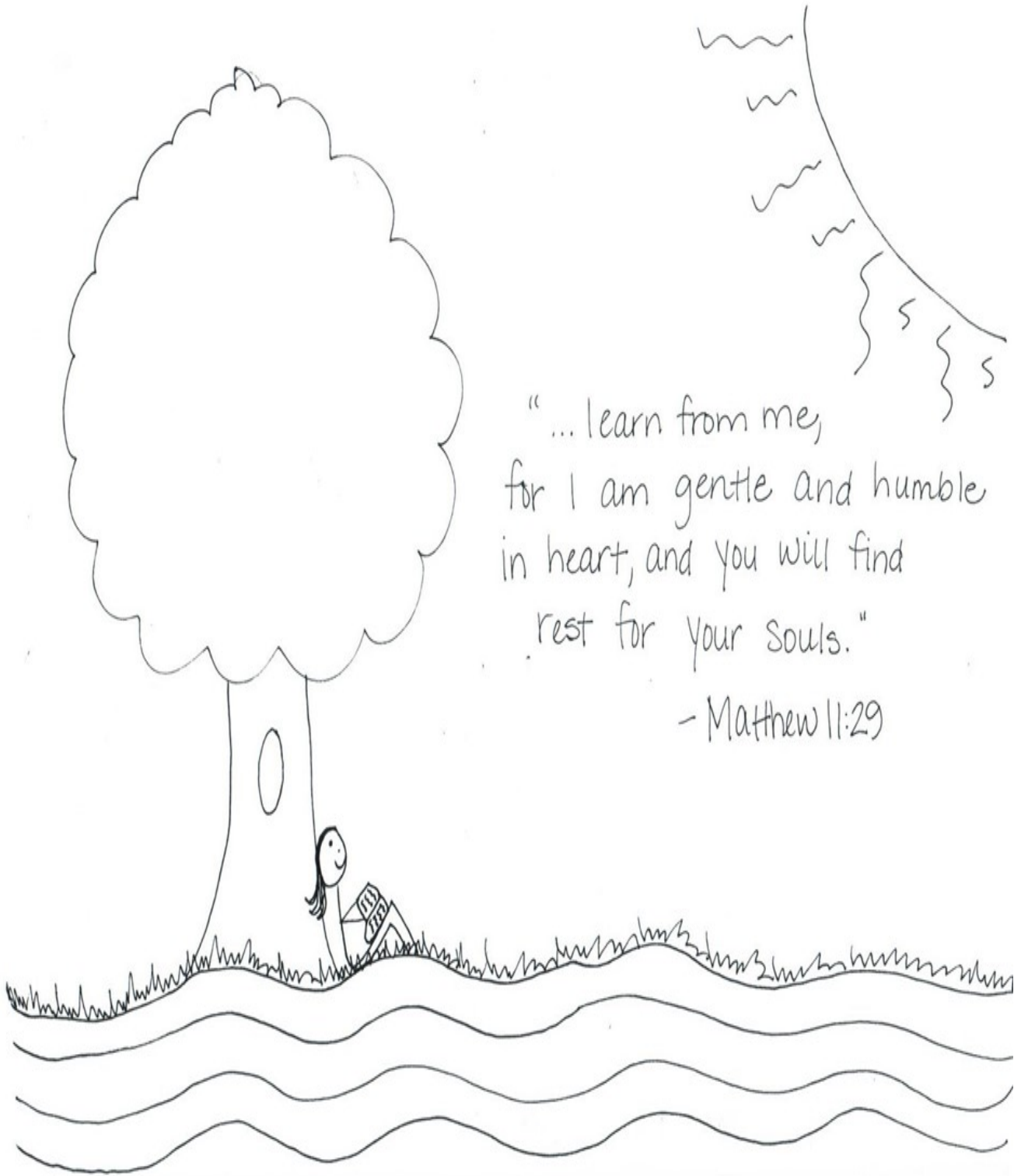
“The Spirit of God has made his home in you”. You may remember that I said on some previous occasions that our heart is a sacred dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. We ought to be attuned to the presence of the Spirit of God living in us. May every breath that we inhale and every beat of our heart remind us of the indwelling presence of God within us. We cannot undermine the important role that the Holy Spirit plays in our life. The Holy Spirit opens our mind and heart to believe that Jesus is the Lord and Saviour. In the context of today’s liturgy – it is the Holy Spirit who leads us to recognise that Jesus is the humble and gentle King (an image from the prophet Zechariah) who comes to bring peace and healing to the brokenness of our life.

In the Gospel, Jesus says to us “I am gentle and humble in heart”. We are called to imitate both the humility and gentleness of Christ. Some of us are afraid to be gentle because we see gentleness as the sign of weakness. However, Fr Flor McCarthy (Salesian Priest and Writer) reminds us that gentleness is not a form of weakness – it is a form of strength. Fr McCarthy says, “although Jesus carried no weapons – he was not weak. He was strong. Jesus had the power over the human heart...he changed the heart of people like Zacchaeus and Mary Magdalen.....Stalin could make people tremble before him but could not change their heart”. It requires lots of self-confidence to be gentle. Jesus is gentle and loving in his dealing with us. May we be not afraid to be gentle in our interaction with others especially those who are dear to us.

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest”. This is one of the loveliest sayings of Jesus in the Gospel. This invitation is for all of us – let us have the courage to come to Jesus with all the burdens of our life. During the course of life many of us do experience all kind of burdens: worry, responsibility, disappointments, hurts, bitterness, guilt, illness, unemployment, a difficult relationship, caring for a child with disability, addiction etc. Sometimes we carry a few of these burdens for most part of life. This takes lots of energy and peace out of us. Therefore, we would look for different ways that help us to cope with the burdens which we are carrying – we may turn to counsellors or other trustworthy people for support and guidance. Sometimes, we may choose to turn to substances like alcohol or gambling or drugs etc. in order to turn our attention away from the heavy burdens that we have in life. The question is – have we thought of taking our burdens before God in prayer? No matter what kind of weariness we feel or what kind of burden we bear, Jesus says – “come to me...”. Jesus will give to us the rest that we need. So, let us be not afraid to come to Jesus with all the hardship that we are experiencing in life.

May we always be conscious of the loving presence of God in our life. Also, may we find the courage to turn to Jesus who says to us “Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest”.

Activities for Children



"... learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble
in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls."

- Matthew 11:29