

SEASONS

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

12 July 2020

Returning to Stage 3 restrictions

Dear Friends,

This week's decision to place metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire areas back to Stage 3 lockdown for the next six weeks from 11:59pm Wednesday 8 July is sobering news. It is truly disheartening, and will bring renewed distress to so many families and individuals.

In returning to Stage 3 restrictions, sadly **STM Church will need to be closed again to Mass and private prayer; and the numbers allowed for funerals and weddings will be severely limited.**

“Now is a time for attentiveness to the care of one another. In the face of our own despondency and fears, our fatigue and anxieties, may we learn to hold firm in faith and hope, and experience sustaining moments of love.

As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews encouraged: Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. (Heb 24:10)” - *A message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli*

[Pastoral Care for STM Parish during the time of the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

This plan will be revised upon further easing of restrictions

1. **STM Church Closed during Stage 3 restrictions**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** Not available during Stage 3 restrictions
4. **Anointing of the Sick, and Communion for the housebound:** Anointing of the Sick is available only to the seriously ill. The Eucharist is given as Viaticum to the dying only.
5. **Spiritual Guidance:** Fr Joe is available from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon **—by phone only.**
6. **If you are elderly/living alone** and need assistance with shopping—please call Fr Joe at the Parish Office.
7. **Seasons:** Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a copy of *Seasons* by post.

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

William Henshall

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

RoseMaree Fulton, George Mitchell, Patrick Ryan, Audrey Wearne,

Geoff Hook..

The sick... Brenda Dempsey, John Curwood, Salve Caleo, Evonne Paddison,



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.**

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful



Responsorial Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest..

Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

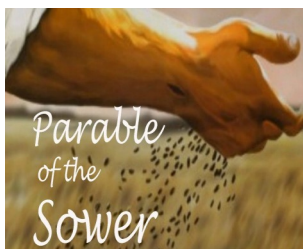
Alleluia, Alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

The sower went out to sow.



Catholic Parish of St Thomas More

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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 I am Mass live streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.

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

Next Week's Readings - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43



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.



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

After Hours: Please leave a message on 9787 7777

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/registrant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635822>

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

Stewardship

5th July

Actual

\$5194

Pledge

\$ 5475

Presbytery

5th July \$448

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.*

Dear Fellow parishio

What's Happening Here ...

Baptisms

All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office. **Not available during Stage 3 of Covid 19 Restrictions**



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**

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.

Covid 19-Prayer

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen



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.

Homily

In today's Gospel we listen to the parable of the Sower. In this parable, Jesus compared the word of God to a seed, a seed which can make our lives fruitful. We are asked to consider how well we receive the word of God into our life?

As we know God speaks to us in a variety ways: nature, the different events in our life, other people, the Sacraments, and very importantly – through the Sacred Words in the Bible. In faith we accept that everything contains in the Bible is the inspired words of God. Through the sacred verses God speaks to us as a Father to his children. Through the scripture God gives us guidance in time of doubt, reassurance in the time of difficulties, comfort in times of sorrow... corrections in time of foolishness, hope in time of despair and so on. The question is, how receptive and welcoming are we to the voice of God speaking to us through his words??? Sometimes we can be very slow to receive God into our life for all kinds of reasons - lack of faith and confident in God and his power to help us, and so on. But, we can rest assured that God will not be pushing his way into our life – he waits patiently for us to invite him in. It is no matter how long it takes for us to open the doors of our heart – God still waits. God's patient is greater than our stubbornness. When we allow the word of God nourishing us we will have peace and clarity in life and everything that we do.

It is very unfortunate that we have returned to stage 3 of lockdown for the next 6 weeks or longer. In this time when we are not able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist – the word of God is the most important source of spiritual nourishment for us. Let us take this period of lockdown as the opportunity to be more attuned to our inner self and to be more attuned of the voice of the Father speaking to us. Be not afraid to open up the Bible and allow God's words to nourish and heal us, allow the word of God to drive away from us all the fear and anxiety we may experience during this testing time.

May the word of God bring us peace and guard us from all danger!

Sower and the Seed Word Search

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

CROP
EXPLAIN
FARMER
FRUIT
GARDEN
GROW
HEARS
LEARN
LESSON
PARABLE
PLANT
PRAY
ROCKS
ROOTS
SEEDS
SOIL
SOWER
THORNS
UNDERSTANDS
WATER
YIELD

