

# SEASONS

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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

19 July 2020

## Returning to Stage 3 restrictions

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.
8. Mass in private (without the congregation): Tuesday—Sunday

## We pray for...

### Those who have passed away recently...

Lorraine MacKenzie; Alan Coll

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..** . Maureen Sweeny, Prof. Bill Walker, Dr Raymond Hennessy, Ita Koppenol, Anne Pierce, Pamela Phillips, Emma Kelly, Leonie Purcell

**The sick...** Brenda Dempsey, John Cur-



wood, 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.**

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

**First Reading:** Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

grace  
mercy  
love

### Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

**Second Reading:** Romans 8: 26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

### Gospel Acclamation:

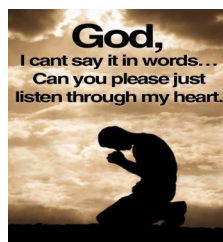
#### Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

#### Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 13: 24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.



### Next Week's Readings - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52



**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](mailto:MountEliza@cam.org.au)**

**Web: [www.stm-mteliza.org](http://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](mailto:MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au)**

### Mass online

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://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>



**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

<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Pledge</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	
12th July	\$4210	\$1510	12th July	\$280

*(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**



### 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**



## Community Corner

### **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 the readings for this Sunday we hear that God is kind and lenient in his dealing with us, and his Spirit prays on our behalf whenever we cannot choose the right word in order to pray properly. Let us give thanks to God for his kindness to us.

Prayer is an important part of our life. It keeps us connected to God who is the source and meaning of our life. However, sometimes we may find that it is not easy to pray. We plan to put aside the time for God and yet cannot articulate or express in words the concerns that we want to bring to God in prayer. This can make prayer very distasteful and dry. We ought to remember that prayer is not about words or colourful words, it is ultimately about a personal encounter with God. Prayer is the platform where we meet God and can be still in his loving presence. St Paul says so beautifully in the second reading, “God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what (we) mean”. In one sense, words are not all that important when we come to pray. God reads our heart and he knows our deepest desires. Therefore, we must not be worrying about not knowing the right choice of word to use. St Paul says, “for when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words...” Let us not give up praying even when it is difficult.

When we take our attention back to the first reading we learn from the book of Wisdom that our God is a God who cares for everything and he is lenient and merciful in his dealings with us. We are called to imitate God’s patience and leniency in our dealing with others. The sad reality is that sometimes we can be very unkind and judgmental of our own fellow human beings. This part of us is in need of weeding if we want to follow more faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.

In the Gospel we hear that the Church, and indeed the world, is like a field in which wheat and weeds grow side by side until they are separated at the harvest time. However, it is God’s job to separate the wheat from the weeds – not ours. Our task is to live peacefully with all people and practice leniency in our interaction with them. The Church too needs to be lenient in her dealing with the members of her flock. There will be great unhappiness for everyone whenever the Church or the individual want to usurp the power of God!

May we persevere in our prayer life and may we learn to be lenient with others as God is to us.

# The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.

