

# SEASONS

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

26th 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.**

Baptisms in a restricted zone are to be postponed, unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860).

Funerals held in a restricted zone will be limited to 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Wedding s will be limited to five people, including the celebrant.

Except for the exemptions noted regarding Weddings and Funerals, all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) **are temporarily suspended until 19 August 2020, or until further notice.**

“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...  
Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**

Peg Collard, Les Collard, Mary Macdonald,  
Lucy Galvin, Edna Oakes, Catherine Vines,  
James Pullar Cameron

**The sick...** Brenda Dempsey, John Cur-  
wood, Evonne Paddison, Joanne O'Brien,  
Maree Bracken, Maria Truong, Bill Lus-



combe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Stein-  
bach, 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.**

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

You have asked for Wisdom.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, I love your commands.

**Second Reading:** Romans 8: 28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his  
Son.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

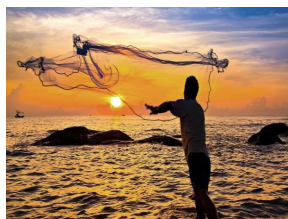
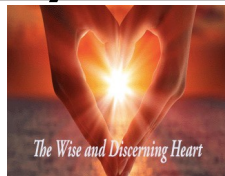
**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he  
owns and buys the field.



**Next Week's Readings - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

2nd Reading: Romans 8:35,37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21



**The Bishops of Victoria have suspended  
the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catho-  
lics 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 Sun-  
day 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>



**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

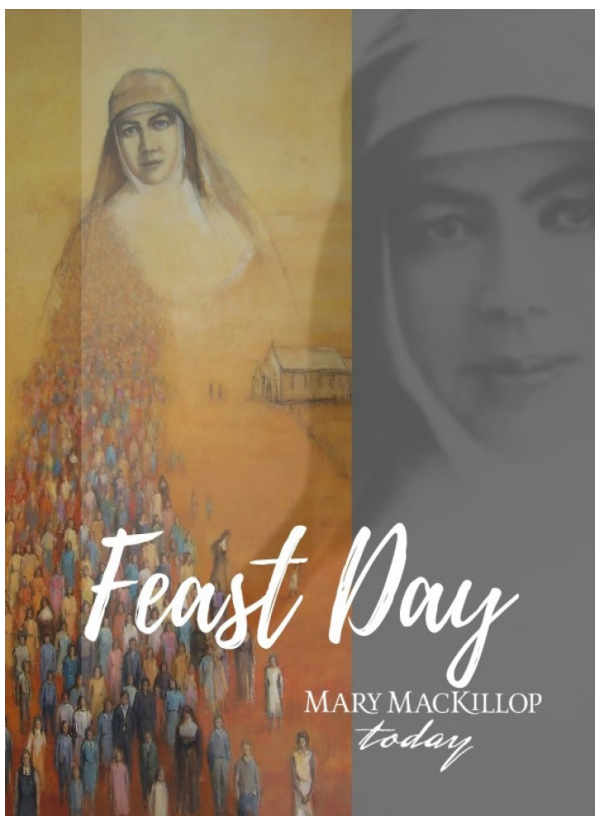
<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Pledge</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	
19th July	\$2215	\$2372	19th July	\$247

*(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 ...

## Baptisms

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



## Thank you for your prayers

Mary MacKillop Today supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

Please pray for Mary MacKillop Today especially during the challenging times we all face, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vitals works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.

If you'd like to learn about Mary MacKillop Today please contact us via Ph: (02) 8912 2777  
Email: [hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au) or visit:

[www.marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au)

## STM Liturgy/Ministry Rosters

The current STM Liturgy/Ministry Rosters finish at the end of August 2020. Anyone who would like to be taken off, coming on, or would like to change ministry, please contact the parish office by 15 August 2020. During Covid 19 the rosters are only partially operational.

Bernard Dobson has decided to hand over the baton after many months assisted Lys putting together the rosters for STM. Fr Joe wishes to thank Bernard for his time and generosity.

Michael Robertson and Manny Velarde will be working together to draw up the next rosters.



## 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)

**'Treasuring our Later Years' (via Zoom until face-to-face permitted)**, 6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm, 4 Aug to 8 Sep 2020. Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include reflections on themes that take on particular relevance and meaning in our later years, eg Spirituality...deepest dimension of our life; What is giving my life meaning?; At its core, life is about relationships; etc. Cost \$115 for the series, or \$20 per session. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKLUH> . For more information, contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.

**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

People will always be looking for the thing that makes them completely happy. Wisdom helps people to realise that a close relationship with God is the greatest treasure they can discover in life. Do we believe this?

I have a special admiration for the young King Solomon. I am drawn to Solomon's honesty, transparency and humility. In the first reading we hear Solomon says to God, "I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil [so that I may care effectively for your people]". Solomon is not afraid to expose his vulnerability to God and speaks from his heart. (When was the last time that we engaged in a heart to heart conversation with God?). When the opportunity comes for Solomon to ask God for a gift, he only asks for a discerning heart. Solomon could have asked God for a diversity of things: more power, more strength, more wealth, or even more women. Solomon only yearns for the gift that will be most helpful to him in leading and caring for the people of God! And so, God gives to Solomon the wisest heart (wisdom). We can all learn from Solomon – his genuine desire to serve and to be a wise leader. We too are leaders. God has entrusted to us the responsibility to guide and care for some specific people (our family, students, members of the sporting clubs, patients and so on). Like Solomon, we too ought to ask God for the gift of wisdom so that we may carry out our duty faithfully.

Wisdom and knowledge are not one and the same thing. Through hard work and by attending school, university, training etc. I can obtain and develop knowledge in some particular fields. However, wisdom cannot be obtained through hard work alone. It is a special gift from God. God does not give to us all the wisdom that we required all at once, but gradually. As Fr Flor Mc Carthy sdb says, "wisdom comes to us like dew – it comes to us in tiny droplets without knowing it....." Wisdom is about knowing what is truly important in life. It is about seeing life from God's point of view and being able to live the way God wants us to live. Therefore, all of us need to pray fervently to God for this special gift of wisdom.

In bygone days people searched in fields, hills, mountains and seas for treasures such as gold, diamond and even ivory. Today, people are still searching for treasures. However, in this modern time the treasures people look for are not limited to precious things like gold or diamond, but they also include happiness, success and satisfaction. Sometimes people get so caught up with treasures hunting that they forget about their duties towards their loved ones – spouse, children and even parents. We may want to keep on searching for treasures, but wisdom tells us that the only true treasure we ought to be looking for is a warm relationship with God. Dear friends, when we find God – we find all. God knows the hunger, thirst and longing of our life better than we know them ourselves. God will give to us all that we need – he will satisfy our hungry heart.

May we be not afraid to turn to God in the time of needs and let us pray that he will give to us a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil.

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

TREASURE      FIELD      HAPPY  
MERCHANT      PEARL      DRAGNET  
HAUL      FISHERMEN BASKET  
ANGELS      FURNACE      SCRIBE

