

SEASONS

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

2nd August 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...

Don Byrne; Geoffrey Collins

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Michelle Collins, Maria Lindner, Dan Dee, Anne Green, Terry Meehan, Tom Cookesley, Simon Ryan, Andrew Pinnuck..

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, Tequimomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Hasten and eat.

Responsorial Psalm:

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.



Second Reading: Romans 8:35,37-39

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.



Next Week's Readings - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33



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>



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/registant/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>	
26th July	\$1319	\$1242	26h July	\$505

July Average: \$3235

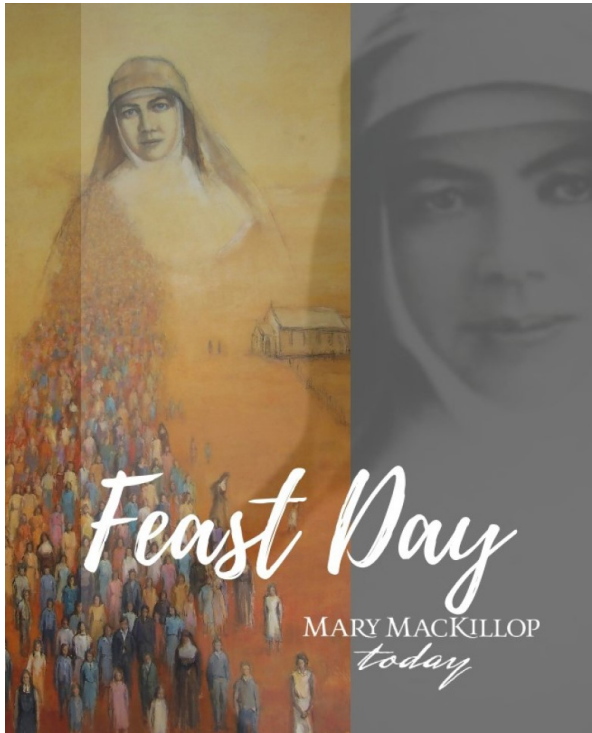
(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)

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 or visit:

www.marymackilloptoday.org.au

Catholic Care Support for your parish community during COVID-19

We know that many people are suffering emotionally, socially and financially during the COVID-19 pandemic. CatholicCare has the following services to help:

Counselling - Free counselling via telephone or video conference.

Emergency Relief - For food vouchers and other financial assistance.

T: (03) 9287 5555 | W: www.ccam.org.au/covid19response | E: CatholicCare@ccam.org.au

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.

www.acrath.org.au

People are NOT for sale

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. The spirit has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms



Community Corners



Like lots of you I am sure, I have baked myriads of biscuits and home cooked meals and the freezer has never looked better. Curtains have been dry cleaned throughout the house. I have potted bulbs and even now, their little green leaves are pushing up through the soil. We are usually in Queensland enjoying warmer weather, but the surprise has been how beautiful the changing Seasons have been. Autumn colours were a delight and June and July have gifted us with many beautiful and crisp days. Home has been our safe haven and we have much to be grateful for. Love to all. **Tom and Maree Shelton.**

'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 or tel 9890 1101.

Ordination to the Diaconate

Seminarian Alex Chow (who was in residence during the first Covid 19 lockdown) will be ordained a deacon by Archbishop Peter Comensoli on Saturday 8 August 2020 in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Due to Stage 3.5 Restrictions, only 5 people along with the Archbishop are allowed to be present at Alex's ordination. I will send a gift to Alex on behalf of all at STM Parish. Please keep the deacon to be in your prayers throughout his final week of preparation.



STM Social Club
Fun & Friendship For All
New members are always most welcome!
 Membership fee is \$30. All enquiries to:

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

Dear fellow members of STM Social Club,

This is just to say hello and to let you know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I hope that you all are going well. I am missing our Social Club gatherings and hoping that we will be able to come together for our annual Christmas get together. Love you, **Carolyn Gascoigne.**

Homily

We love reading biblical texts that seem to have been written for us because they address our deepest longings and anxieties. The scriptural readings for this weekend tell us about God's love and generosity for all. Also, the scriptures invite us to come to God who can satisfy every of our desire.

Mother Teresa generously committed her life to caring for the poorest of the poor. On one occasion Mother Teresa made a visit to a Hindu family who she knew have been without food for several days. Mother Teresa handed to this Hindu family a small quantity of rice. But, to Mother Teresa's amazement, this Hindu family without a moment's hesitation divided the rice into two. Then they took half of it to the family next-door, which happened to be a Moslem. Surprised by the Hindu family's kind gesture, Mother Teresa asked, "how much will you have left over? Aren't there enough for yourselves?" The Hindu family replied, "but they have not been eaten for days either". What a heart of gold- an exemplar of Christian charity and generosity!

The Gospel account about the feeding of the multitude is an example of God's love and generosity for us, even though we are not always worthy of such kindness. In the Gospel, Jesus' generosity is seen not only in the abundance of food that he provides for the starving people, but also in the time and commitment he has for them. Jesus puts aside his plans in order to attend to the needs of the crowd. (Having heard about the death of John the Baptist [his cousin], Jesus wanted to withdraw to a quiet place to deal with his lost and grief. Yet, moved by compassion, Jesus gave himself fully to the throng of people who were waiting for him.). Fr Flor McCarthy sdb says, "generosity is not always about giving things, it is also about the giving of ourselves, of our time, of our gifts etc. It is a lot easier to give away material things, but the giving of oneself is never easy." Jesus gives himself totally to the crowd in the biblical texts and to us. Like Jesus, we too, can be generous in giving ourselves, our time, and our gifts to others: our family, our parish community, and those who are less fortunate.

When we take our attention back to the second reading we learn more about the love and kindness God has for all. Sometimes, when bad things happen to us, we feel that God no longer loves us, or he has abandoned us. However, St Paul says to us, there is no need for us to feel like that. Paul assures us that there is nothing can separate us from the love of God. Paul speaks out of his own personal experience. We know that Paul endured many trials and hardship – yet, Paul continued to experience the faithfulness God has for him. In his letter Paul enumerates possible obstacles between us and God. But, the thing is God does not put any barrier between us and himself. When God sent his Son into the world – he made himself closer to us. The irony is, we are the people who created the unnecessary barrier between us and God.

In the first reading we hear an invitation from God – come to me and I will give you fulfilment. Money and power cannot bring fulfilment to our deepest longing and desire. But, God can! Therefore, let us have the courage to turn to God who loves us dearly.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to imitate the generosity of Christ and removes from our heart any obstacle that we have placed between God and ourselves!.

