

# SEASONS

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

9th August 2020

## **Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions!!!**

### **Parish Office Staff**

**Parish offices must be closed.** Parish employees must work from home.

In the event of an urgent matter or certain extenuating circumstances and a parish employee needs to attend the parish office (or Church), the following steps must be followed:

- 1) the staff member must obtain an approved *work permit* before attending the parish office (the template for this *work permit* should be available on the Victorian Government website shortly; as soon as it is posted we will send a link)
- 2) the work permit must be carried with the staff member as proof if questioned by Police;
- 3) the staff member must stay at the parish office (or Church) the shortest possible period before returning home;
- 4) when attending the parish office (or Church), a written record of the staff member's time of arrival and departure must be kept;
- 5) while in the parish office (or Church), the staff member must wear a face mask at all times, practice social distancing and appropriate hand hygiene; and
- 6) directly after leaving the parish office (or Church), the staff member must wash/sanitise their hands.

### **Parish Volunteers**

The health and safety of parish volunteers is also very important at this time. This means volunteers should not be attending Parish facilities and working from home if at all possible. If volunteers are engaged in essential services (e.g. preparation of food packs for the needy) then the necessary conditions apply:

- 1) the work permit must be carried with the volunteer as proof if questioned by Police;
- 2) the volunteer must complete the voluntary activity in the shortest possible period before returning home;
- 3) when volunteering, a written record of the volunteer's time of arrival and departure must be kept as well as a description of the activity;
- 4) whilst volunteering, the volunteer must wear a face mask at all times, practice social distancing and appropriate hand hygiene; and
- 5) immediately after completing the activity, the volunteer must wash/ sanitise their hands.

**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.

**Weddings** **are banned during Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions**

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

# We pray for...

## Those who have passed away recently...

Brenda Dempsey

## Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Thomas Hansen, Doris Driscoll  
Donn O'Connor, James T. Kennedy, Kaye  
Coughlan, Ulga Mary Brady, Thomas P. Smith,  
Ruby McCartney, Kevin Sheehy, William Lindner,  
Dr Trevor Connolly, Ida Smeeton,  
Frederick Taylor.



**The sick...** John Curwood,  
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,**  
**Tequimata, East Timor, St Therese Parish,**  
**Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

# Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

## First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

Go out and stand on the mountain before  
the Lord.



## Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant  
us your salvation.

## Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

I would willingly be condemned if it could help  
my people.

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Command me to  
come to you over  
the water.



## Next Week's Readings - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1,6-7

2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28



**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 am Mass live  
streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.  
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>



**Parish Office Hours: Closed during Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions**  
**After Hours: Please leave a message on 9787 7777**

## **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 and Office Closed during Stage 4 restrictions**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** Not available during Stage 4 restrictions
4. **Anointing of the Sick, and Communion for the housebound:** Anointing of the Sick is available only for 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. **Seasons:** Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a copy of Seasons by post.
7. Mass in private (without the congregation): **Tuesday—Sunday**

### **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

### **Financial Matters**

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

#### **Stewardship**

2nd August

#### **Actual**

\$4240

#### **Pledge**

\$3806

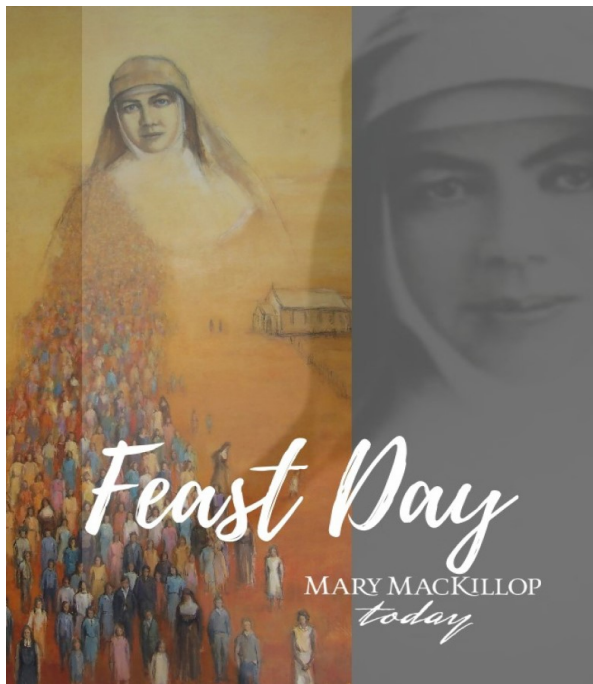
#### **Presbytery**

2nd August

\$ 325

*Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.*

# What's Happening Here ...



## 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)

### **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](http://www.ccam.org.au/covid19response) | E: [CatholicCare@ccam.org.au](mailto:CatholicCare@ccam.org.au)

## Baptisms

**All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office. Not available during Stage 4 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

#### **STM Social Club Fun & Friendship For All**

**New members are always most welcome!**  
Membership fee is \$30.

**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.**



## **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin of Mary**

**15 August**



This feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the 'Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God'. It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the 'Assumption'.

The Feast of the Assumption commemorates Mary's passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of her risen Son. This is a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Mary's assumption into heaven is the most important of all Marian feasts, a holy day of obligation.

Holy days and feast days look to the present and the future and they give us insight in our own relationship with God. Like Mary, we hope and pray that one day we too will spend eternity with Christ in heaven.

## Community Corners

### New Grandparents-to be

Congratulations to Chris and Mary-Lou Mansour who will soon be grandparents for the first time: “my son Michael and his wife are expecting a baby in February”! **Chris and Mary-Lou**



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](mailto: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 4 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.



### Homily

The Lord is always near, even when we can't see him or feel his presence. He is with us during the moments of silence as well as the times of tribulation. Jesus always comes to us and with his presence calms our fears and brings us peace. All we are required to do is to keep focusing on the Lord!

Be not afraid of the sacred silence! Some people feel uncomfortable and lonely when there is too much silence in their life. But, God is with us in the silence. When our heart is still and quiet we can more easily hear the gentle voice of Jesus whispering to us. Silence is the moment of grace – when we encounter God and hear his tender voice. As we learn from the first reading, the way of God is the way of gentleness and calmness.

God is also present with us during the time of tribulation. As we read in the Gospel, the apostles get into the boat to go on ahead of Jesus to the other side of the lake. Unfortunately, in the middle of the night, there is a change in the weather and the apostles encounter the turbulent sea. We can imagine the fear and anxiety that the apostles must have felt when their boat is hit with a violent head wind. But, just at this moment when the apostles are experiencing extreme anguish and fear, Jesus comes to them and says “Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid!” Jesus is always near us and with us even when the situation is most threatening. There is nothing that can separate us from Jesus. When we are most in need or danger Jesus will come to calm our fear and to give us peace.

Our world is battling with the most contagious virus – Covid 19. This pandemic has taken so much peace out of many people – the old and young alike. Many of us are afraid. Some of us cannot understand how God can possibly allow such a virus to cause so much fear, pain and sorrow for the whole world. But, even in the midst of fear and confusion, let us hear Jesus say to us “Do not be afraid!....[I am here with you - to give you healing and peace]”.

In the experience of the disciples and Peter we find reflected the experience of every Christian. Peter who is full of enthusiasm and courage makes the attempt to walk on the water towards Jesus. Everything goes well as long as Peter continues to keep his eyes on Jesus. But, when Peter allows himself to be so distracted by the wind and storm that he takes his eyes away from Jesus, he begins to drown. What does Jesus do? Jesus puts out his hand at once and takes Peter to safety. We may choose to take our gaze away from Jesus, but he will never abandon us. Similar to the apostles we too begin our Christian journey with enthusiasm, hope and joy. And also like the apostles, our faith dwindles when the *wind and wave of frustration disappointment* assail us. However, may we never turn our eyes away from the Lord, and may we continue to trust that he is always near to support regardless of the waves of trouble that engulf us.

This weekend let us pray that we will have the grace to keep focusing on Jesus no matter how many challenges we encounter in life. Let us trust that Jesus always comes to us and with his presence calms our fears and brings us peace.



**Jesus walking on water**

Peter replied, "Lord if it's really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

