

SEASONS

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

1st Sunday in Advent — Year B

29th November 2020

As of 25th November, the Guidelines state:

Places of Worship may have indoor religious ceremonies for a total of 150 people plus 1 celebrant.

Our St Thomas More Church has a total capacity (based on current distancing laws) of 65 people.

DHHS has given the following directives for gathering of all religious groups:

- ❖ Social distancing is to be observed at all times.
- ❖ Hand sanitising is to be observed at all times.
- ❖ Wearing of a face-mask is mandatory.
- ❖ Absolutely No physical contact between persons.

We are now taking registration for indoor Masses. I would like to invite parishioners who would like to attend Mass to register your interest with the parish by phone (**Registration for Weekend Masses - Closed Friday 3PM**). I would like to make it clear that you are the best person to make the decision for yourself about attending Mass during this time of Corona Virus.

Mass Arrangements for STM Parish from the Weekend of 28/29 November 2020

Weekend Reconciliation & Masses

Saturday	Reconciliation	5:00 PM—5:30 PM
	Vigil Mass	6:00 PM
Sunday Mass	Masses	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Weekday Masses

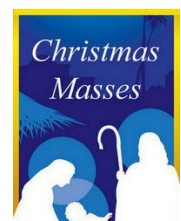
Wednesday & Friday	Masses	9:15 AM
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We will be having two Mass Services at St Thomas More:

Christmas Eve 24 December (inside STM Church) : 7:45pm Carol – followed by Christmas Mass at 8:00 PM.
Christmas Day 25 December (inside STM Church): Mass at 9:00 AM

Christmas Mass Rosters: If you would like to be a Lector, Commentator, Minister of the Eucharist, AV operator or part of the Cleaning/Sanitizing Crew at any of the Christmas Masses, please contact the Parish office.

Ideally, it would help our planning (prior to Fr Joe's departure) if you could respond by Friday 4th December if not earlier. Then we can publish the Roster in Seasons.



We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Rita Fisscher, Millicent Leydin, Lola Lamm, Clarence Wearne, Jim & Ella Hutchinson, Audrey Hussey, Paul Wirth, Sr. Genevieve Fitzpatrick, Lloyd Beard



The sick... Bill Hunt Shirley Spry, Denis Mirrabel-la, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, 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.**

1st Sunday in Advent — Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1:3-9

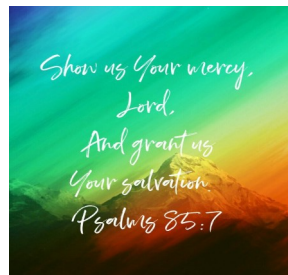
The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!



Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.



Parish Office Hours:

Remain Closed

After Hours:

**Please leave a message
on 9787 7777**

St Thomas More acknowledges the Traditional Land owners, the Bunurong people on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and merging.

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 Leonie Bourke

Carmel Huggard Margaret Jamieson

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>

Next Week's Readings

2nd Sunday in Advent—Year B

1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



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.

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 Statewide Last Step restrictions**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** By request.
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. **Reconciliation:** Please call Fr Joe on 9787 7777 to make an appropriate arrangement.
6. **Spiritual Guidance:** Fr Joe is available from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon — by phone or **zoom video conference** only.
7. **Seasons:** Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a copy of Seasons by post.

A Special Message from Fr Joe

Dear friends,

There have been several changes to the appointment of the clergy in the Archdiocese over the last few months. There has also been a change to my appointment. **Archbishop Peter Comensoli has appointed me as Chaplain to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and part-time assistant priest to the parish of St Michael's, North Melbourne.** Some of you may know that one of my passions is to walk with people during their time of illness and suffering. The appointment as hospital chaplain is something that I have been waiting for in the last several years — finally, the opportunity has come.

The appointments as hospital chaplain and part-time assistant priest come into effect on 16 Dec 2020. **Therefore, my last day at STM parish is 15 December 2020.**

I have been at STM parish for 15 months, and I really enjoy being part of this beautiful parish. I will miss STM Parish very much. Thank you for your hospitality and kindness to me throughout the past 15 months. May the Lord continue to bless you in your good work.

The Vicar General is making an arrangement for a priest to look after STM Parish from 16 December.

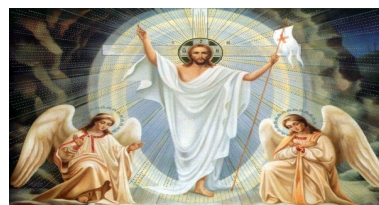
November Month of the Holy Souls

Please pray for:

Families of Bundy, Ludnit, Rodriguez,
The last Marta Egyed,
The Mirabella and Shannon Families,
Edna and James Guneseckera, Vera Cramer,
Joe and Princie Caspersz
Ula and Lylie Andriesz

Baptisms

**All Baptism Information/Preparation -
To resume in 2021**



What's Happening Here ...

Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Australia's Care

We currently have a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers in our care both within continental Australia and on Nauru, Christmas Island and Papua New Guinea. It has always been legal to seek asylum in Australia and we have human and legal responsibilities for refugees and asylum seekers in our care. The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) is one important Catholic group that assists in practical ways, those within our own local communities, who need a chance to live a decent life, free from fear of death, persecution and torture. Refugees and asylum seekers need the chance to make a new home, where they are safe and can live in some dignity and hope. Here is one practical way to help people in Community Detention in Australia. Hand write a letter to a politician. All the details, from BASP are provided in two documents below: the first document explains how to write a letter and why it is important for us to act; the second provides all the necessary contact details of politicians who make important decisions affecting refugees and asylum seekers.

Peter Griffin on behalf of the STM Social Justice Committee

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. The Safeguarding committee are working hard to develop the necessary policies and procedures for 2021.

For more information please call: John Natoli (Coordinator) on 0418 208 778 or
Julie Carter (Banda) on 0420 923 859

Children's Week Activity: "Just as I have loved you"

To celebrate Children's Week this year, we are inviting all children and young people (from the ages of 4 years to 17) to participate in an activity. We want you to share with us what the words "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34) mean to you through a drawing or artwork (mixed media).

[Childrens-Week-2020-Flyer-and-Submission-Form-DEADLINEEXTENDED.pdf \(melbournecatholic.org\)](https://melbournecatholic.org/Childrens-Week-2020-Flyer-and-Submission-Form-DEADLINEEXTENDED.pdf)

Along with your artwork, please include an answer (150 words or less) to the following question:

In what ways do you feel part of the parish community and how do you try to make others feel welcome?

Entries should include the completed submission form and can be sent to psu@cam.org.au before 5pm on **18 December 2020**. (Parents are welcome to answer the question on behalf of their child/ren if they are too young to do so.) For more information please visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/celebrating-childrens-week-2020> It is important to note that this is not a competition, but a reflection and an opportunity for adults to hear the voice of our young ones. Those who participate will be invited to an online gathering with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli following the activity. **Tamara Cugnetto** Safeguarding Project Team Leader—Cam PSU

STM Social Club Fun & Friendship For All

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



Social Club News

- ♦ The Social Club Norwood House Christmas Lunch has been cancelled.
- ♦ On Wednesday 9th December a picnic get together at 12noon. Bring a chair and your lunch to the Mt Eliza Park behind the Bowling Club (off Canadian Bay Road.) This is a time to come together before Christmas, no need to contact anybody, simply come along.

Look forward to seeing you.
Love— Carolyn Gascoigne

Assistance Required

Due to building density and social distancing regulations, STM Church can only have a total of 65 attendees for each service (this figure could be doubled when the building density and social distancing rules are further eased by Christmas).

However, before STM Parish can start having 65 attendees at each Mass it is necessary that we have at least a team of 2 volunteers to assist with sanitising the Church after Mass. Also, we need 1 volunteer to supervise the registration process for each Mass. Ideally, we would need to have more than 1 team of volunteers to help with cleaning the Church and to supervise the registration process. If you are able to assist with either of these duties please contact the parish office ASAP.

Sat 6:00PM Mass

Team 1

Sanitiser 1: **Margaret Jamieson**

Sanitiser 2:

Registration: **Sam. Failia**

Team 2

Sanitiser 1: **Anselm Gunsekera**Sanitiser 2: **Yolande Gunsekera**

Registration:

Sunday 8:00 AM Mass

Team 1

Sanitiser 1: **Barry Hansen**Sanitiser 2: **Marj Hansen**Registration: **Joan Bekery-Coleman**

Team 2

Sanitiser 1: **Beatrice Rodriguez**Sanitiser 2: **Mary Goss**

Registration:

Sunday 10:00 AM Mass

Team 1

Sanitiser 1: **Lien Sy**Sanitiser 2: **Stephanie Nguyen**Registration: **Maree Shelton**

Team 2

Sanitiser 1:

Sanitiser 2:

Registration: **Maurie Hutchinson**

CDF-Online Portal for Parishes

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>

Financial Matters 22 November

	Actual	Pledge
Stewardship	\$ 1610	\$ 1347
Presbytery	\$ 460	

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

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST- PPLT

The PPLT are currently under quota and so we are calling on all interested parishioners to put their hands up to join the PPLT. We meet in the evening on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to discuss, plan and implement activities that benefit the whole parish community. During this difficult year we have met via Zoom meetings but usually we meet in the Parish House

Please consider joining the PPLT. This represents us, the people of our community and it's where our voices can be heard. We are an advisory group to the Parish Priest/ Administrator and we work together with the best interests of this Parish in mind. At the centre of our meetings is the Parish three year Plan (which is due for an update) and decisions are made within this framework.

If you want further information or wish to express an interest in joining us you can contact any of the PPLT.

PPLT Members:

Fr. Joe Truong, Jacinta Griffin (Chair), Leonie Burke, Carmel Huggard, Margaret Jamieson

St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) supports the **United Nations 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**



During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports showed an alarming increase in violence against women and girls.

We can Take action during this year's 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence.

The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

A Webinar will be conducted on December 10, at 1.00 pm which will take the form of a prayer prepared by ACRATH members, including two from our parish, and will have a focus on violence against women and girls as well as picking up on the themes of Advent and UN Rights.

Parishioners who would like to participate in this prayer may register in advance, by clicking on the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0rdeCrrz8iGtz5dB4Lgu68idqhS0AtQG_q

There is also a Reflection Sheet that can be used on each of the 16 days

<https://acrath.org.au/wp-content/uploads/16-Days-Reflection.pdf>

Best Wishes

Bernard Dobson

(on behalf of St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group)

Farewell to Fr. Joe

As you would have read in Seasons, Fr. Joe is about to take up another position in the diocese from the 16th December.

Fr. Joe's farewell and thank you Mass will be at the 10.00am on 13th December. As per Covid restrictions, you will have to book for this mass as per the requirements for religious gatherings.

At this stage, we are unsure as to whether or not we can gather in a small number to say goodbye, however we do intend to farewell and thank him for all he has done for us at St. Thomas More in the last 12 months. The details of this will hopefully be in next week's Seasons when we will have a clearer understanding of what we can or can't do.

If you would like to contribute to a thank you gift for Fr. Joe, could you forward your contribution to the Parish Office Mail Box (which is locked) - Marked "Attention Vicki" by Wednesday the 9th December.

Jacinta Griffin PPLT

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

SHAC (Seaford Housing Action Coalition)

SHAC began in 2014 as an initiative of St Anne's parish Seaford, Seaford Community Committee, residents of Seaford Beach Cabin Park and our parish's St Vincent de Paul conference. It doesn't limit itself to Seaford, but covers neighbouring suburbs, as social problems can't be contained to one postcode.

In brief, it sees itself as working with those at risk of homelessness, identifying needs and working with them towards achievable solutions. To this end, it liaises with government, and community and private accommodation providers to help support people obtain affordable, secure and appropriate housing.

Most recently, SHAC presented a submission to the Legislative Council inquiry into homelessness and canvassed support on accommodation issues from candidates for local government elections. It is pressing for the development of social and emergency housing on currently available Crown land, and the purchase off appropriate properties.

It is politically non-partisan, which allows easier access to some local, state and federal politicians, as well as having open communication channels with local government officials. There is no requirement of religious affiliation. Membership is free and anyone is welcome to attend meetings, held monthly (by Zoom, in the current health crisis). Membership, apart from the organisations which established the group, is fluid, with special interest groups "dropping in" for a few meetings then disappearing, but always contributing or borrowing ideas.

People who are homeless, in insecure, unaffordable or unsafe housing, or in danger of being so, affect our whole community, not just our immediate neighbourhood. Accommodation insecurity can lead to drug and alcohol problems, property crimes, abusive relationships, domestic breakdowns and mental ill-health. No responsible society can afford to have these difficulties; even more so, we, as followers of Christ, can't just look at this as society's problem. Jesus will hold us accountable for what we did or didn't do to help our neighbour.

Andrew Moloney



Unfortunately we are not able to have our Inter-Church Prayer evening and Christmas Bowl activities this year. As an alternative, Act for Peace have taken great joy in preparing all the resources you need to take part in this year's Christmas Bowl online. This year we have created a unique online giving

page for St Thomas More so your congregation can also give safely online. It is a place where they can make a gift to the Christmas Bowl directly through your church and for you to see the collective contribution made by your congregation.

Our unique giving page is: mycb.link/107413 - our Supporter number: 107413

Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Janet Cousens

RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFIT CARDS Recently Ritchies have launched their new Ritchies Card, incorporating the Community Benefit Program and this will not only benefit our parish, but also all our members. The program now has an App for both IOS and Android smart devices. For those members who don't have a smart phone, or would like a physical card, this option is also available and can be linked to the App. You can download the Apps by searching for Ritchies in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Sign up at: <https://www.ritchies.com.au/loyalty>

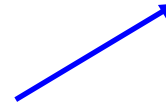
Our parish receives these contributions each month—good fundraising activity.

Face Masks for Sale

Wearing of a face mask may remain mandatory in Victoria for quite sometimes. One of our parishioners and STM School mum, Sonya, has a wide range of face masks for sale at a very reasonable price. Please consider supporting Sonya—our parishioner and a school parent.



Christmas face masks



Each mask is cotton 3 layers.

1 x mask @ \$8.00each

2 x masks @ \$15.00

3 x masks @ \$20.00



Please contact Sonya for further inquiries.

Mobile: 0429300180

Email: sonyamuser@gmail.com