



SEASONS

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

4th Sunday of Advent — Year C

19th December 2021

PCC=Parish Community Centre U=Undercroft
C=Church MPR=School Multipurpose Room
SSR=School Staff Room

Diary:

Wednesday 22nd December
First Rite Advent
Reconciliation in Church
7-8pm



313 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Website:

<http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford (Parish Administrator)
Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)
Sue Carr Margaret Jamieson
Carmel Huggard

PPLT Email:

MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Services are Vaccination

Status 'Unknown' unless stated:

During the Week

Tuesday 7.00 pm
Wednesday 10.00 am
Thursday 10.00 am
Friday No Mass

Christmas

Look Right →

Sunday Mass

Sunday 8.00 am
10.00 am

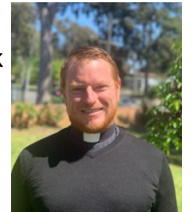
Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 - 5:00 pm

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 emerging.

Dear Friends,

As we approach the joyful feast of Christmas, we look back on the year that has passed and give thanks to God for the blessings and struggles that we've been through. This is a uniquely Christian thing we do - to thank God for the blessings, and to find even in our difficulties gratitude and thanks because God is with us in those times too. The Christmas liturgies invite each of us to experience the joy and consolation of God with us - Emmanuel - and to reconnect with our faith, friends and family through our faith in Christ.



This theme of joy is picked up in the gospel reading today, which recall Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:30pm Christmas Carols hosted by students of St Thomas

More Primary school HELD outside Church on Lawn

6:00pm Mass (following Mass refreshments provided)

HELD outside Church on Lawn

9:00pm Mass (HELD Inside the Church)

*Christmas
Calendar*

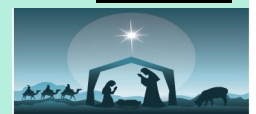
Christmas Day, December 25th

9:00am Mass (HELD Inside the Church)

(No Sunday Vigil/ Saturday night Mass on)
(Saturday, December 25th)

Sunday December 26th (HELD Inside the Church)

8.00am Mass & **10.00am** Mass



We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... David Duff, Tom Sanders, Margaret Wunder, Carmel Bainbridge, Jason Sutton, Frank McConvill, Marie Peters, George Vines, Tom Shannon, Margaret Rutherford-Smith, Margaret McLoughlin, Margaret Bourke, John Mitchell, Marianna Landman, and Ria Wilson



The sick... Thomas Parrish, Keith Donovan, Martin & Helen Steyn, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Dennis Mirrabella, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O’Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Luke Carroll, Betty Corke, 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 and Chronos / 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.*

Sacramental Program Enquiries:
Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation



Baptism Enquiries:
Infant and older Children



Please send an email to the Parish Office

STM Social Club — New members are most welcome! Membership fee is \$30
Please contact : **Carolyn Gascoigne on 0448 871 970**

If anyone has any questions about Membership fees—
please contact Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559.

The Welfare Officers are Brian and Sally McAnallen

Seniors—Who do you call.....

Seniors Card.....1300 797 210
Centrelink:Retirement.....132 300
Disability, Sickness and Carers.....132 717
Employment Services.....132 850
Seniors Info Service.....1300 135 090

My Aged Care.....1800 200 422
Aged Care Complaints Commissioner.....1800 951 822
National Carer.....1800 422 737
Department of Veterans Affairs.....133 254
Elder Abuse Helpline.....1800 353 374

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859



Existing Volunteers are asked to provide to the Parish Office :

1. A copy of their Working With Children Card and
2. Sign the Code of Conduct Declaration Form after reading the Code of Conduct.

[Code of Conduct Document](#) to read

[Code of Conduct Declaration Form](#) to sign

[How to apply for WWCC Card instructions](#)

Our Parish MISSION Discussion
6th October Meeting
minutes and information can be located
on our Website Home Page or follow this link.

1st Meeting [STM Parish MISSION Discussion](#)

**First Rite Advent
Reconciliation**
Wednesday, 22nd of December
in the Church
between 7pm to 8pm

Any clergy involved with hearing confessions on Wednesday will have a negative COVID rapid test result

Stewardship

Received last weekend \$ 1,189
Pledged last weekend \$ 916

Presbytery

Received last weekend \$ 544

Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.
(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)

For many years the Mass on the Oval has been a great celebration of faith for the Mount Eliza community, especially for children and their families, and an event which brings us all together. Last year due to the difficulty of complying with COVID restrictions this Mass had to be relocated inside the Church, and the number of people able to attend was restricted.

It's very exciting that this year we are able to celebrate this Mass in such a way that all are welcome to join us. This year the earlier Mass will be celebrated outside the Church with seating available in the grassed area around the Church and the driveway. Families are also welcome to bring their own chairs and find space further up the hill, or else under the trees near the presbytery. Carols commence at an earlier 5:30 and Mass will commence at 6:00pm. It is hoped the earlier start will be more convenient for families with children. Parking wardens will be on hand to direct visitors to the oval once the Parish and School carparks reach their capacity.

A more contained venue allows us to operate safely within COVID regulations, as having limited entry points ensures we are able check everyone into the venue through QR codes or manually with paper sheets. A sound technician has been engaged to install a permanent speaker system so that we are all able to hear and participate in the prayers and music at Mass, to be led by students from St Thomas More School. All are very welcome to join us for this celebration. We also have a 9pm Christmas Eve Mass and 9am Christmas Day inside the Church, with music provided by Parish Choirs. There is no need to book but as seats are limited you may like to come early to secure your spot.

The State Government has stipulated that Places of Worship are now open to all attendees with no capacity controls indoors or outdoors. There are no vaccination requirements for any Masses or Sacraments. We must still ensure people check in with a QR code or the manual sign in sheet. For those who need assistance, ushers will assist you to complete this. Masks remain strongly recommended inside when you cannot keep distance from those around you, unless you have a medical exemption.

I look forward to seeing you this Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Saviour for the first time with you all.

Fr Patrick

4th Sunday of Advent

Penitential Act:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace to people of good will.
we praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
We give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty
Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading **Micah 5:1-4**
**He will stand and feed his flock with the power
of the Lord**



No SEASONS during January.

In the New Year the first edition of Seasons will be on 6 February 2022.

If you have something you would like included in it, please send it to the Parish Office by 9am Thursday 3rd February.

Responsorial Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

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

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

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

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

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

May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

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

Second reading Hebrews 10:5-10
**God, here I am! I am coming to obey
your will**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!



Gospel Luke 1:39-45
**Why should I be honoured with a visit
from the mother of my Lord?**

Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.**Hosanna**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next Sunday's Readings

The Holy Family



1st Reading: I Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

2nd Reading: I John 3:1-2,21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Wishing all our Parishioners and visitors

Merry Christmas

Vicki, Faye, Margaret and Fr Patrick