



SEASONS

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent — Year B

14th March 2021

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

Diary

Upcoming:

Monday March 15

St Vincent de Paul, 7.30pm,
Undercroft Room



Wednesday March 17

Reconciliation, 7.30pm, Church

Friday March 19

Lenten Program, 10am, PCC

Ongoing during Lent

Tuesday March 23

Baptism Preparation Meeting,
7.30pm, Church

**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 Leonie Bourke

Carmel Huggard Margaret Jamieson

PPLT Email:

MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Weekday Mass

Tuesday 7.00 pm

Wednesday 9.15 am
+ Stations of the Cross after Mass

Thursday 9.15 am

Reconciliation 7.00 pm

Friday 9.15 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am

10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Dear Friends,

Lent is the great season that prepares us for the mercy and love of God at the Easter. On Good Friday we hear about the “good thief”. When the good thief opened up his life to the Lord, he discovered the reassuring peace of forgiveness from Jesus in what was maybe, the first ever confession. Pope Francis, in speaking of the readings for this Sunday remarked:



Let us think of this: Going back to God is going back to an embrace, the Father’s embrace. And let us think of that other promise that Isaiah makes: “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (cf. 1:18). He is capable of transforming us, He is capable of changing our hearts, but we must make the first step: to return. It is not going to God, no. It is going back home.

Lent always focuses on this conversion of the heart that, in the Christian way of life, takes form in the sacrament of Confession. It is the moment to... I don’t know whether to say “settle accounts”, I don’t like that - to let God “whiten” us, to let God “purify” us, to let God embrace us.

This Wednesday at 7:00PM the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at St Thomas More. All are welcome.

Reflection:

When this gospel comes around every three years, there is the temptation to read and pray it too quickly because we are overly familiar with it; son leaves home, squanders his money, goes back home and his forgiven by loving parent. But there is so much more to it than this. This is a story about relationships. The young man does leaves home, and although against his parents’ wishes, they don’t stop him, they allow him the freedom to make his own decision. However, due to poor choices he realises the mistake he has made. Finding the courage, he returns home and is welcomed back with open arms by his parents but not his older brother who is angry and jealous. This could be any modern family, where relationships can often be difficult, strained and painful. Lent invites and encourages us to think about how we treat others. Perhaps during these remaining Lenten days we might ask ourselves, how am I like the young son who left home? How am I like the loving parent who welcomed him home? How am I like the older brother who refused to rejoice and join in the celebrations? We don’t journey through Lent or more importantly through life on our own. We experience God through each other and we experience each other through God.

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Dr John O'Brien,, Bill Leneaux-Gale, Else Bloch, Norah Connolly, Fr Maurice Adams,

The sick... John Xavier Clifton, Patricia Leerson-Dash, Bill Hunt, Shirley Spry, Dennis Mirrabella, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison,



Maree Bracken, 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 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.

STM Social Club

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

Please contact : **Carolyn Gascoigne on 0448 871 970**

Because of virus restrictions, there will be no Monthly Meeting in the Undercroft for the time being and no A.G.M. in 2021. Committee positions from 2020 will remain, except for Brian and Carmel who are retiring.

Membership fees from 2020 will carry into 2021. Those with fees outstanding from last year, or anyone who would like to join the Club, can contact the Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559.

New members would be very, very welcome.

All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.

Time to book your seat

Wednesday, 17th March: St Patrick's Day lunch at C.B. Hotel, Mount Eliza, at 12 noon. A chance to wear that new (or old) Green outfit! Please book with Carol on 0448 871 970 or Colleen on 0408 314 409.



The Welfare Officers for March are Jim & Betty Bourke



Contemplative Prayer

"Let tiny drops of silence fall gently through your day" Silent prayer in the Church each Wednesday from 8:45 am to 9:15 am, followed by Mass.

Stewardship

Received last weekend..... \$ 3,105

Pledged last weekend\$ 4,122

Presbytery

Amount received last week \$ 483

(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.



Holy Communion

During Communion adults or children who are not Catholic or not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Please indicate your wish for a blessing by crossing both arms in front of you.

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.

OR www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

OR <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

OR <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Safeguarding Committee

John Natoli 0418 208 778

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

PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

'he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.' Lk 9:2

STRENGTH AND KINDNESS

In many discussions people talk about the cost of Australia's refugee policies, in particular the cost of detention, particularly off-shore. We often say the human costs dwarf the economic costs. In 2018 Médecins Sans Frontières said the mental suffering on Nauru was among the worst it had seen.

Difficult and expensive

Madeleine Gleeson from the Kaldor Centre in an article published in the Guardian late last year outlined some of the facts.

The high cost of offshore processing is explained by the fact that it is incredibly difficult and expensive to establish the centres in remote places. A conservative estimate is that offshore processing of claims for protection costs Australia roughly \$1bn a year. For the financial year 2020-21, it is estimated to be above \$1bn – for 300 people.

Then there is the cost of contracting private companies to manage the centres and provide all the services.

Holding people in detention is always far more expensive than giving them a residential alternative.

The aborted attempt to resettle people found to be refugees on Nauru in Cambodia cost up to \$55m for two people to settle in Cambodia.

The **big news** of the past month has been the release in Melbourne of about 66 men who were transferred onshore under the 'medivac legislation'.

Most of these had been in the Mantra and Park hotels since July 2019. For all of us who have advocated for their release this seems like a chink of light in a wall of darkness. However, more than 150 of their peers remain in detention—some still in Melbourne, most in Brisbane.

The men have been 'free' for 4 or 5 weeks. Some say they can hardly believe that the 8 years of being locked up is over.

Why did these men get released?

It is difficult to know why. The Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton, said it was because *it was cheaper to have people in the community and none of those detained were terrorists.*

It does seem a pity that it took eight years to come to this realisation!



<https://basp.org.au/>



Walk for Justice for Refugees on Palm Sunday
(28th March)

Parish Sacramental Program Reconciliation & First Eucharist

An Information Night will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th May



If you have a child in Year 3 or older who would like to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this year, and they are not at STM Primary School, please contact the Parish Office on 9787 7777 or email mounteliza@cam.org.au before the Information Night.



St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting will be on March 15th at 7.30pm in the Undercroft Room.

EASTER volunteers:

Readers, AV Operators, Registration Desk and after-Mass Cleaners are REQUIRED for MASSES held on:

Holy Thursday 7.00 pm
 Good Friday 3.00 pm
 Easter Saturday 8.00 pm
 Easter Sunday 8.00 am
 Easter Sunday 10.00 am

Please contact the Parish Office to put your name on the lists.

Reserve your seat for the EASTER Masses

Please use the On-line booking service—

<https://www.trybooking.com/BPRYK>

If you do not have internet—please call the Parish Office to make the booking for you.



After the 9:15 Mass on Wednesday there will be Stations of the Cross celebrated during Lent; all are welcome.

Do you have any TIP Vouchers you could donate to the Parish to keep our grounds looking their best?



QR Code Registration System



To be able to use the QR code system you will need a smart phone with a camera and internet connection.

Request for volunteers:

Can you help / assist people lining up to Register with the QR Code system before each Mass? This will help reduce the queue waiting times.



Are You New to Our Parish?
Please take and fill-in a new parishioner form in the Church Foyer

Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Baptism Enquiries:

Please send an email to
the Parish Office



Parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Patrick in the Parish Community Centre during the Fridays of Lent to discover the Holy Land with Best-selling author Edward Sri's DVD series "No Greater Love".

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us by guiding us through the last hours of Christ's life. We will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

Meetings will take place in the Parish Community Centre on Fridays (after Mass) at 10AM. After Morning tea we'll watch a 30 minute video, followed by a time of fellowship and discussion. No need to register- all are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, which will conclude around 11am.

Friday, 26 th Feb	The Prayer of Agony: Jesus in Gethsemane
Friday, 5 th March	Are you the Christ? Jesus arrest and trial
Friday, 12 th March	The Trial: Jesus is condemned to death
Friday, 19 th March	The death of the Messiah: Jesus carries his cross
Friday, 26 th March	The seven last words: Jesus the teacher



Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: Across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith. Could you help stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and help ease their heavy burdens?

Visit www.aidtochurch.org/refugees



Catholic Parish of St Thomas More
Mount Eliza



Holy Week/Easter Calendar 2021

Wednesday 17th March

7:00 pm Reconciliation

Saturday 27th March - Passion (Palm) Sunday

6:00 pm Mass with Blessing of Palms

Sunday 28th March – Passion (Palm) Sunday

8:00 am Mass with Blessing of Palms

10:00 am Mass with Blessing of Palms and Procession
(beginning in Memorial Garden)

Thursday 1st April – Holy Thursday

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday 2nd April – Good Friday

3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Saturday 3rd April – Holy Saturday

8:00 pm Easter Vigil of the Lord’s Resurrection

Sunday 4th April – Easter Sunday

8:00 am and 10:00 am Mass



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.



Survey for Parish Volunteers

According to Pope Francis, volunteers represent the hand of Christ reaching out. Every week approximately 22,000 parishioners across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne reach out to perform many diverse and necessary roles within parishes to create vibrant local communities of grace. Volunteers in ministry are the lifeblood of our parishes and are a precious resource to be nurtured.

In October 2020, the Professional Standards Unit, Human Resources and the Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal teams came together to form a working group with the intention of creating a volunteer management framework and resources encompassing safeguarding, human resource and missionary renewal perspectives to strengthen parish capacity to engage parishioners in ministry.

Your feedback as a volunteer in ministry in your parish will be helpful in developing a framework that will better support the recruitment, engagement and support of volunteers within your parish.

Completing the survey...

This survey may take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

Your survey responses are confidential.

We value your participation in this survey and kindly ask that all responses are submitted by COB on 16th of April 2021.

You may wish to complete the survey by selecting this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNRELR9>

Further information...

For further information about this survey or the work of the Volunteer Management Working Group, please contact:

Suzette Diaz
Human Resources Business Partner
9926 5615
suzette.diaz@cam.org.au

Llewy Berchy
Animation Consultant
Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal
0439 764 546
Llewy.berchy@cam.org.au

Tamara Cugnetto
Team Leader
Professional Standards Unit
0447 128 125
tamara.cugnetto@cam.org.au

Linda Franco
Senior Policy Advisor
Professional Standards Unit
0429 816 342
linda.franco@cam.org.au



Or by scanning the QR code on your mobile device.



Reader's Workshop

The celebration of Mass is at the heart of our life as Catholics. Through the Liturgy of the Word we hear the living voice of God speaking to us at Mass through the lectionary.

We're currently looking for new volunteers to assist with proclaiming readings at Sunday and Weekday Masses. To assist parishioners in this sometimes daunting task, we'll be running a workshop on **Saturday, 17th of April at 10am.**

This workshop is for all new volunteer readers and all existing readers are welcome to join for a refresher. The workshop will explore why readings are chosen and combined, and highlight how readings fit into the liturgical year.

Parishioners will learn how to interpret the text to help them proclaim more effectively. If you're interested, please contact the Parish Office .

4th Sunday in Lent—Year B

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

First Reading:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

Responsorial Psalm

**RESPONSE: Let my tongue be silenced,
if I ever forget you!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
On the poplars that grew there,
we hung up our harps. **R**

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.
“Sing to us,” they said, “one of Zion’s songs.” **R**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord
on alien Soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my
right hand wither! **R**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ
God loved the world so much, he gave us his
only Son, that all who believe in him might
have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

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.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your
hands for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy
Church.

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

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one
together. It is there that the tribes go up, the
tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the
Lord.

Next Week's Readings **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33