

SEASONS

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

The Ascension of the Lord— Year B

16th May 2021

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

Diary Upcoming:

Monday May 17th
SVdP Meeting, 7.30pm, U

Saturday /Sunday May 29/30
Bring and Buy stall at all masses

We Welcome
Fr. Joe O'Shea
who will be
celebrating
with
us this
weekend



Dear friends,

I am on annual leave until 25th May. During this time Fr Joe O'Shea will be celebrating the weekend Masses at St Thomas More.

While I'm away, I will continue to pray for you all and offer Mass each Sunday for our community. For weekdays, parishioners may like to check the Mass times at neighboring parishes: Mornington, Somerville and Frankston.

Fr Patrick



Reflection:

The end of Mark's Gospel is like the grand finale in a concert, crowned at the end with a firework spectacular. Jesus sends his disciples out on a mission to conquer the world – no small task for just a few ordinary working people. In case they are feeling apprehensive, he promises that their mission will be accompanied by astonishing miracles which will surely convince all who witness them. They will heal sick people while suffering no harm themselves, even in deadly danger. They will speak in tongues and overcome all evil. Yet we know that from the beginning of the Church's life, Jesus' disciples faltered and failed, suffered and died. Was he just talking big to get them going? Or was he perhaps wrong in his predictions? Or are these promises about recognizing the hidden strength and transformative power that lies within the exercise of everyday virtues? The apostles did spread the Gospel, after all, and people are living that Gospel thousands of years later.

At the ascension, Jesus' disciples were still fixated on a kingdom modelled on the pattern of the empires around them. But the God who chose to be born in a stable, live as a carpenter and die as a criminal is operating on a different model. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are often modest in their practical expression. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control tend not to hit the headlines.

But Jesus' ascension into heaven is part of a process whereby his followers become gradually enabled to embody the Gospel in their lives. Jesus' life and death illustrate God's saving plan for the whole of history. From the moment of his rising Jesus reassures his followers that he will always be with them. The difficulty, for them and for us, now lies in recognizing him. The signs of his presence are modest: bread, wine, water and oil. The living out of the daily Gospel is often unobtrusive and apparently unrewarding. Yet anyone whose life has been touched by someone who truly lives the Gospel knows that a transformative experience that can be.

A person who is close to Jesus may not look like a genius or a media sensation, but such people have a star quality which is unmistakable. They are living examples of what goodness looks like. We are surrounded on all sides by everyday miracles in signs of the kingdom. We meet them in those who are in public service of all types and in any kind of self-gift of one human being to another.

Jesus comes into the world quietly and leaves it in his human body mysteriously. In his ascension he seems to confirm his presence among us by disappearing. But we can experience the power of God's indwelling Spirit without having to see it. This is the greatest miracle and treasure of all, freely available to anyone who asks for it. Our task is to ask for it daily and to embody the gift in our everyday living.

The Living Word. Majellan Publications.

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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

During the Week

No weekday Masses during Fr Patrick's leave—Please check with neighbouring parishes



Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am
& 10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:30 - 6:00 pm

**We
pray
for..**

Those who have passed away recently... Betty Hooper

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Thomas Smith, Marchus Redfern, Margaret Pingiaro, Catherine Egging, Chloe Hyland, James Willstead,



The sick... Betty Hooper, John Xavier Clifton, 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.**

Funeral for Elizabeth 'Betty' Hooper will be held on Friday 21st May at 2pm with refreshments in the Undercroft afterwards. Please, Car Pool if you can to minimise disruption to normal school pick up congestion between 3.00pm-3.45pm.

Sacramental Program Enquiries:

Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation

Please send an email to the Parish Office



Baptism Enquiries:

Please send an email to the Parish Office



Dear Parishioners ,Our greetings of good health and wellbeing to you and your families.

PAF is unable to run the Mothers' Day envelope drive this year so instead we are suggesting that if you are able to donate to our annual appeal, you can do so by paying cash/cheque to your parish office: or to the PAF Centre; by cheque or by a direct payment into our account at **WESTPAC BSB: 033 272 ACC: 318726.**

If you would like a receipt, then please provide your name and contact details in an email to pafcares@gmail.com We thought that this year we could extend the appeal to run the length of May, the month of Our Lady,

Our Saviour's Mother. She is mother to all mothers and knows full well the struggles and needs of disadvantaged pregnant women and their babies and families.

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE FRANKSTON INC.

14 Young Street, Frankston, Victoria, Australia 3199 / Telephone: (03) 9770 6226
pafcares@gmail.com / ABN 71 659 195 700 Certificate of Incorporation A005156L



**PREGNANCY
ASSISTANCE**

Nametags: We have had a few inquiries about the wearing of nametags like we use to before COVID. While we are still under COVID guidelines, we will not be offering labels and pens to write your names on:- however if you have a nametag at home, please wear it to Church. This is just one way of us getting to know each other better.

Stewardship

Received last weekend \$1,545

Pledged last weekend \$1.424

Presbytery

Amount received last week \$ 609

(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.

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



STM Social Club

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

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

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.

All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.

New members would be very, very welcome

AMENDED NOTICE:

Friday 28th May

Friday 21st May—**The Walking Group** will meet in the Balcombe Estuary carpark at 10.00am for a walk along the board walk. B.Y.O Morning tea.
For enquiries, contact Christine on 0431 696 084.



Tuesday 1st June **Monthly Meetings will resume** in the Undercroft following 10.00am Mass in the Church.

**The Welfare Officers for May are
Carolyn Gascoigne & Aileen Calley**

Pentecost Weekend 23rd May Morning Tea after 10am Mass

You are all warmly invited after 10am Mass to linger for a cuppa and an opportunity to ...



Welcome the new church year,
Say farewell to the Storr Family,
and an opportunity to get to know your parish
community better.

The next meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be held on Monday 17th May in the Undercroft at 7.30pm.



All parishioners are welcome to come along and talk to our members about the work of the Society. Thank You

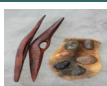
Holy Communion



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.

Do you have any TIP Vouchers from your Council Rate Notices you could donate to the Parish to keep our grounds looking their best?



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.



AN EAST TIMORESE SPONSORSHIP STORY —MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Merlinda Ribiero was born in 2001 the village of Nunira some 150 klms east of Dili, in the central mountains of East Timor.

It was in Nunira that our first school was built in 2005. Merlinda commenced primary school there and after primary school went on to complete six years of secondary school at Don Bosco Laga. Coming from a large poor family and being a girl meant that her family could not afford to pay for her secondary school fees. But for her sponsorship which commenced in year 7 at Don Bosco, she would have been taken out of school and sent to work in the family vegetable garden. She graduated in year 12 From Don Bosco Laga and was accepted in to the medicine faculty at the University of Dili in 2019. She has been sponsored through her secondary and University years and expects to graduate as a medical doctor in three years' time.

Currently over 30 people have their education sponsored by our parishioners .Like Merlinda many are close to graduating as nurses, doctors, teachers, engineers, pharmacists etc. and are ready to make a big difference in their community by giving back.

If you would like to find out about sponsoring the education of poor East Timorese children, contact Les Harper. His mobile is 0408123562 and email is 'lesharper@optusnet.com.au'



Chaplaincy Appeal 2021

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic chaplains can continue to faithfully meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the vulnerable, isolated and marginalised in our community by providing pastoral and spiritual support. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and a financial donation to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

PRAYER LIFE

Jesus showed us that regular prayer is essential for a close and authentic relationship with God. In the gospels, he regularly takes himself to a quiet place to pray. He also prays in the synagogue and with his followers. He prays with the words of Scripture and in his own words, calling out to God from the depths of his heart. Sometimes his prayers are peaceful; sometimes they are a struggle. His prayers take many forms, but he is always praying.

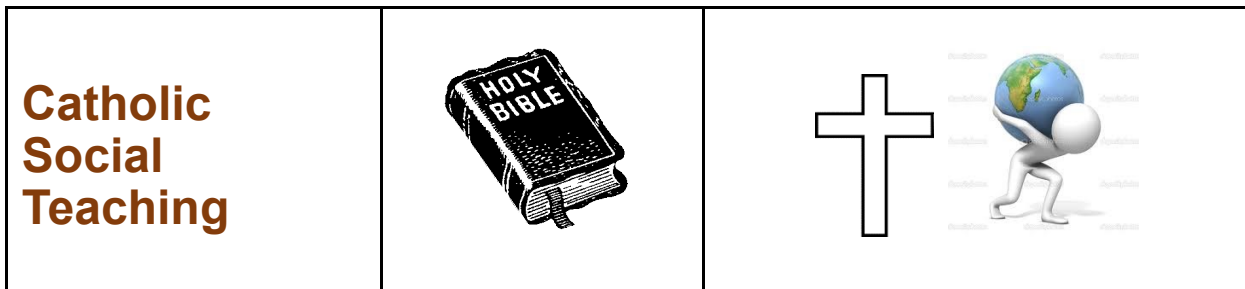
Central to a healthy prayer life is the [worshipping life](#) of the Church. The prayers of the liturgy—and especially the Eucharist—help us, as a community, to foster an attitude of reverence, trust and humility, which in turn enriches our private prayer.

The Catholic prayer tradition is rich and diverse, and includes praying the Rosary, (link to Rosary prayer card on CAM website) [contemplative prayer](#), [prayerful meditation on Scripture](#), and [praying with Mary](#) and the saints. We can pray on our own, during Mass, with our friends and family or in parish-based prayer groups. Each day, we might pray the [Liturgy of the Hours](#), practise the [Ignatian Examen](#), [keep a prayer journal](#), or use an online resource such as [Sacred Space](#) or [Pray as you go](#). Time in nature, spiritual music or sacred art might help to focus our minds and inspire us, and current events and [Catholic Social Teaching](#) can inform our prayers for the world.

Whatever form your prayers take, the important thing is to keep praying. As Henri Nouwen observes, the more we surrender ourselves to God in prayer, the more we 'begin to suspect that to pray is to live'.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

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



PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

5. The Principle of Stewardship

We have a responsibility to care for the world's goods as stewards and trustees, not merely as consumers. We show respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation.

They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."
(Acts 1:11)

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.
(Mk 16:19).

The ancient view was that God was in the heavens above. Jesus returns to the right hand of God. The vertical section of the cross may remind us of the God in the heavens whereas the horizontal arms may remind us of the pastoral ministry of Jesus as he wraps his arms around all of creation. As believers we are invited also to stop "looking up to the heavens" and to continue the healing and re-creative ministry of Jesus to all creation.

The encyclical letter of Pope Francis on Ecology and Climate '*Laudato Si'*' is the latest teaching of the Church on Stewardship. It teaches that there is a **relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature**. The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. Yet "the gravest effects on the environment are suffered by the poorest". # LS 48



"for we know that things can change"
(LS 13)
16-25 May 2021

'Laudato Si' Week, beginning on Sunday, will be the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion.

To find out more about Laudato Si' week and learn how to participate in an event or action, download the week's programme or visit the [Laudato Si' week website](#) for information and opportunities to be involved.



To celebrate the end of the *Laudato Si'* Special Anniversary Year, Pope Francis invites the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to joyfully participate in [Laudato Si' Week 2021](#), to be held 16-24 May.

The theme for the weeklong celebration is, "for we know that things can change" ([Laudato Si'](#) §13). This year's event coincides with the sixth anniversary (24 May) of when Pope Francis finished writing the encyclical.

Since then, *Laudato Si'* has enlivened Catholic communities across the globe to work against the ecological crisis and climate emergency. However, more urgent action is needed to create a more just and sustainable future. As [Pope Francis said on Earth Day](#), 'When this destruction of nature is triggered, it is very difficult to stop it. But we are still in time. And we will be more resilient if we work together instead of doing it alone.'

During *Laudato Si'* Week, Catholics are invited to come together and present to the world a living testimony of *Laudato Si'* transformations. The week will feature online presentations from world-renowned leaders that will showcase how they've transformed their communities and invite Catholics to take similar action regionally and locally. The week will also finish with a preview of the tool that will help the global Church realise more progress in the decade ahead: the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The Vatican-led effort will empower Catholic institutions, communities, and families to implement *Laudato Si'*. Presentations will be made from around the world and will be available to view on Vatican news channels and at the [Laudato Si' website](#).

Laudato Si' Week 2021 is sponsored by the [Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) and facilitated by the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis and dozens of Catholic partners around the world.

Australian event (21 May): "Sowers of Hope"

At the grassroots level, local leaders are invited to hold similar opportunities, including educational events and prayer gatherings, that will seek to inspire concrete action for our common home. This includes an online prayer and reflection event from 5.30pm on Friday 21 May.

The event is being co-hosted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office of Social Justice and Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program to celebrate the conclusion of the *Laudato Si'* Year. All are invited to this special online event and are encouraged to invite others who would like to participate.

[Register for Australian event via Zoom](#)

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



Next Week's Readings
Pentecost

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11
 2nd Reading: Galatians 5:16-25
 Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15



The Ascension of the Lord

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: Acts 1:1-11
Jesus was lifted up while they looked on.

Responsorial Psalm

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-13

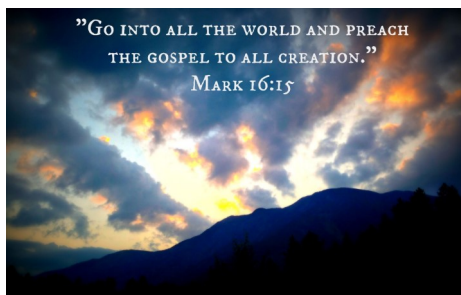
**We are all to come to unity, fully
mature in the knowledge of the Son of
God**

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the
world. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

**Go out to
the whole
world;
proclaim
the Good
News**



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.

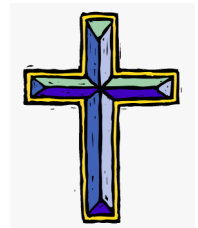
We lift them up to the Lord.

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 Rite

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away
the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should
enter under my roof, but only say the
word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.