



SEASONS

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

7th November 2021

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

Upcoming:

Saturday 13th November
5pm Mass Dedication
in loving memory of
Shirley Spry

(please bring a plate and stay for a Cuppa afterwards)

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

no Mass scheduled
at St Thomas More

for this coming weekend,
6th and 7th of November,

nor for the rest of the
following week,
9th—12th of November

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,

It has been uplifting to see many of you at the Masses during the last few weeks since we've reopened. The last several months have been a tough slog and being away from Church and the Sacraments has been difficult for each of us. Some of the Masses we've had so far have been fairly adventurous—including an airborne Gazebo which took off during one Sunday's proceedings!



You would note there is no Mass scheduled at St Thomas More for this coming weekend, the 6th and 7th of November, nor for the rest of the following week, 9th—12th of November. Under medical advice I will need to be out of action for this week and because of the changing complexities around restrictions and vaccination status and ensuring all parishioners and clergy are able to comply with them, Masses will be cancelled until the weekend beginning the 13th and 14th of November. My apologies for this disruption. You will find Mass available at neighbouring parishes – Mornington, Frankston, Hastings and Langwarrin.

I've received some positive feedback about the Mass times that we have been running *ad tem*. As a result we will be trialing some changes to Masses for weekdays once we come back— which will move to 10am on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There has also been strong support for an earlier 5pm vigil on Saturday which we will run as a trial throughout November. Please let me know or drop us an email or phone if you appreciate this change or if the old timetable was more suitable. The existing Mass times of 7pm Tuesday will continue as this fits in with the Sacramental Programme and the Sunday 8am and 10am Masses will remain unchanged.

The last few weeks of reopening has given us an insight into the practical challenges of complying with government mandates—trying to welcome everyone safely while at the same time keeping attendance within the limits imposed on us. This experience has made it clear that we will need to designate the 10am Mass as a vaccinated only Mass. If you are attending this Mass as you enter the Church a COVID marshal will be required to ask for your vaccination details, which show you have received both doses of a COVID vaccine. For many people this information appears automatically as you attempt to check in, otherwise it could be a photo or paper document you display. The requirement for proof does not apply to a dependent with an adult, anyone aged 16 or under, or anyone medically exempt.

Please know that all the other Masses and Sacraments at Saint Thomas More including adoration and reconciliation are open to everyone. This includes Masses on weekdays, the 5pm Saturday and 8am Sunday Mass. I understand this situation is not ideal as it has the potential to segregate our community and cause division and it is being introduced reluctantly. Nonetheless this compromise seems to be the lesser of several worse options.

My hope is that every parishioner will be free and able to attend at least one Mass of their choosing throughout the week. - Fr Patrick

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently... Dianne Mullen

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Mary Donnellan and John Pingiaro

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**

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 Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559.



This year COVID has made getting together very difficult. So instead of our usual Christmas Lunch the Social Club will have a **Social Christmas Morning Tea in the Howard Parker Reserve.** (off Canadian Bay Rd—Melway ref: 101 E12) on **Wednesday 8th December** between 10am-12noon.

BYO tea, coffee, nibbles and a chair if possible.

We will have a chance to catch up with friends and have a good chat. Hope to see you there.



The Welfare Officers for November are Tom & Maree Shelton

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](#)

During the month of November:

Prior to COVID, we would have the Book of the Names of the Dead displayed in the church during November.

You can still put forward your Names of the Dead Prayer intentions via the Yellow November Mass Intention Envelopes in your Thanksgiving sets or pick up an envelope in Church Foyer. Fill out and place in collection bag or hand to Fr Patrick.



Stewardship

Received last weekend	\$	1,656
Pledged last weekend	\$	879
October Weekly Average	\$	2,099

Presbytery

Received last weekend	\$	716
-----------------------	----	-----

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

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

[STM Parish MISSION Discussion](#)

Reflection

The context for today's Gospel continues to be mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish authorities. Mark reports some of Jesus' teaching in the Temple area in today's reading and in the preceding verses not included in our Lectionary sequence. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus warn the crowds not to follow the example of the scribes in seeking honor and attention from others. It is important to recall that Mark indicates that Jesus taught these things while in the vicinity of the Temple in Jerusalem. Mark is setting the stage for Jesus' passion.

Jesus then observes how Jewish pilgrims are making their contributions to the temple treasury. The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish worship in the time of Jesus. It was expected that observant Jews would make pilgrimages to the Temple to offer prayer and sacrifices. Pilgrims were also expected to make a financial contribution to the temple treasury.

As we would expect to be the case, Jesus observes that those who were rich contributed large sums to the treasury. Those with less means made smaller contributions. A similar situation exists in most of our parishes as well. Jesus calls attention, however, to a poor widow who makes the smallest of contributions—two coins of little value. Jesus upholds the poor widow's offering for his disciples' consideration, commending her because her small offering was an act of profound generosity, giving from her livelihood rather than her surplus.

To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, it is also an act of trust in God. We can only give from our need if we trust that God will provide for us. Jesus himself demonstrates the ultimate act of generosity and trust in God as he gives his life for us on the cross.

November 11 - Remembrance Day



Let's We Forget

Remembrance Day is an internationally recognised day of importance. Nations from all over the world take time during the day to commemorate the end of World War with a period of one minute of silence during the 11th hour, rendition of "The Last Post" bugle song, a reading of "The Ode" and a variety of other traditional rituals.

While some traditions vary from country to country, the underlying reasons remain the same: venerating those who fought, and often died, for their country in times of war or in other events involving major military action. Author: Amanda Shankie R.E.L.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading 1 Kings 17:10-16 'Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied'

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring me a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145(146):7-10*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down.
 It is the Lord who loves the just,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age.

*Praise the Lord, my soul!***Second reading Hebrews 9:24-28
Christ, our high priest, has done away with sin
by sacrificing himself**

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;
 the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
 Alleluia!

**Gospel Mark 12:38-44
This poor widow has put in more than all**

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

**Prayer**

Defend us, Lord, against every distress
 so that, unencumbered in body and soul,
 we may devote ourselves to your service in
 freedom and joy.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity
 of the Holy Spirit, (one) God,
 for ever and ever.

Amen.**Next Week's Readings
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Daniel 12:1-3
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14,18
 Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

