

# SEASONS

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

#### 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

Dear Friends.

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

<u>Upcoming:</u>

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

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

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## Pastoral Leadership Team Fr Patrick Bradford (Parish Administrator) Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson) Sue Carr Leonie Bourke Carmel Huggard Margaret Jamieson

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#### no Mass scheduled at St Thomas More

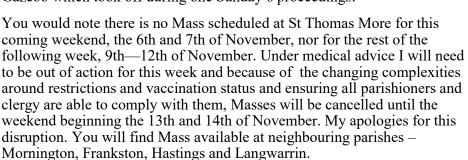
for this coming weekend, 6th and 7th of November,

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. 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!



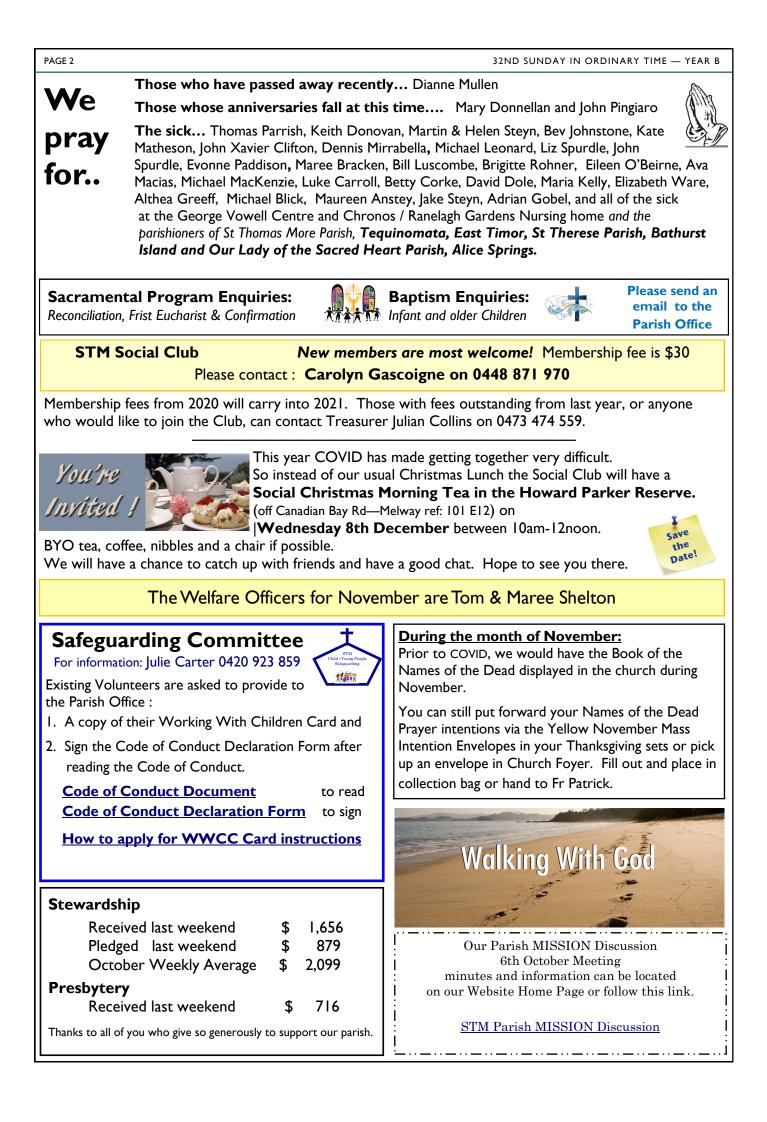
I've received some positive feedback about the Mass times that we have been running *ad tem*. As a result we will be trialing some changes to Masses for weekdays once we come back— which will move to 10am on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There has also been strong support for an earlier 5pm vigil on 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

7th November 2021



#### 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

**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, arendition of "<u>The Last Post</u>" bugle song, a reading of "<u>The Ode</u>" 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



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