



# SEASONS

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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

10th October 2021

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

## Diary

Wednesday 20th October

PPLT Meeting  
via ZOOM at 7.30pm



**313 Canadian Bay Rd**  
**Mount Eliza Vic. 3930**  
**Phone: 9787 7777**  
Email: [MountEliza@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au)

Dear Friends,  
The lockdown continues well into the coming month. Please contact 9787 7777 if you are in need of the sacraments or any other spiritual ministry.

**Reconciliation**  
Saturday 4.30 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,

Our first ZOOM parish discussion went for 90 minutes on Wednesday night. It was attended by 19 families, around 25 parishioners altogether. The first 50 minutes entailed a presentation where Fr Patrick and Jacinta Griffin shared their experiences attending these meetings, the last 40 minutes entailed a discussion and sharing among parishioners.



Fr Patrick talked about the timeline for the rollout of “Mission” so far – beginning with the Archbishop’s letter in May, a meeting with all clergy, then regionally with parishes and finally with zones represented by two from St Thomas More – Jacinta Griffin and Vicki Abbatangelo. Fr Patrick spoke about some of the reactions to the implementation of this process including concerns raised by many priests and laity about its speed and direction. In terms of focus, the Mission process is meant to begin within our parish before discussions happen with neighbouring parishes. It is to be driven by our community. Based on demographics, the diocese has suggested that we form a mission with Mornington and Hastings/ Western Port. Maps and details were provided (and available in full on our website). More than a hundred priests have contacted Fr David Cartwright who shared his challenges in establishing a mission around Brighton. Fr Cartwright has provided a locus for clergy and lay to voice their concerns with about some or all of these matters. This resulted in a meeting and a summary of this discussion was sent to the Archbishop for consideration. Following this, Archbishop Peter scheduled a series of ‘listening posts’ to hear more from smaller groups of priests about their concerns.

Jacinta shared her experiences associated with attending the regional meetings. At the Southern Regional Meeting Jacinta noted *I felt encouraged and relieved by an acknowledgement that people were overwhelmed and frustrated by the plans revealed in the first meeting- there was a sense that the end point had already been decided and we would need to follow the directions to get to that point. It was stressed by the organisers that the timeline is more of a checklist than a schedule, that any mission boundaries are nominal and might be adapted, and that it is up to each parish to drive their engagement in this process.*

Jacinta observed that *the Archbishop, the Vicar General and those leading and presenting this model have been surprised by the responses across the Diocese- from priests, progressive, moderate and conservative who have all voiced strong opinions, as well as a number of laity across the Diocese who have written to the Archbishop with their concerns. A number from St. Thomas More have also done this. So, the first part of the meeting was to 'calm things down' - 'We're not closing parishes' was said loud and clear.*

Jacinta recalled a number of people at this regional meeting spoke at up saying things like: Clergy need to let go; overwhelmed but a sense of inevitability; Plenary Council- shouldn't we wait; the process is too focused on logistics, we don't want to lose sight of the spiritual; we need to listen to what parishes have to tell us; we need to take time.

Continued on page 3.....

# We pray for..

**Those who have passed away recently...** Maureen Brennan

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....** Joy Morrison and John Deighton

**The sick...** Keith Donovan, Martin & Helen Steyn, Nicole Thornhill, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, Len Crowe, John Xavier Clifton, Shirley Spry, 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, 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.*



**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. *All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.*

**The Welfare Officer for October is  
Catharina Tirtowinoto**

## 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](#)

## Stewardship

Received last weekend	\$	2,794
Pledged last weekend	\$	3,214

## Presbytery

Received last weekend	\$	210
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Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

## Meeting Fr Patrick

Current government restrictions allow for limited outdoor social interaction in a public space. Further information and requirements are available on the Victorian Government Website

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-settings>

While our ability to celebrate Mass and public worship remains restricted, I know some of us are feeling the separation from each other, the Church and the Sacraments very keenly.

Each Sunday morning from 10am-12pm I am available to meet parishioners individually outdoors. The health advice around masks, time limits and social distancing will need to be strictly observed.

Please let me know by email [Patrick.bradford@cam.org.au](mailto:Patrick.bradford@cam.org.au) or 03 9787 7777, option 4 and I would be happy to arrange a time to meet.  
- Fr Patrick



A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at: [www.bit.ly/LockdownLight](http://www.bit.ly/LockdownLight)

PRODUCED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

## Lockdown Light—a weekly series

*A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...*

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**Prayer:** For all married couples, particularly those celebrating special anniversaries this year, we pray that their marriages and families may continue to be blessed. Lord, hear our prayer.

Life, Marriage and Family Sunday

### Continued from Front page.....

Further points raised at this regional meeting include: *Where does the Archbishop see religious congregations in the picture? At what point will we know how resources will be shared? How do we bring the non-church people into the discussion? What about parishes with older parishioners, how do we involve them- zoom's not the answer? How do we look after staff- if 5 parishes come together and each one employs a parish secretary what happens?*

Following these observations, Jacinta invited St Thomas More Parish to come together and see how we can retain our identity as a Parish into the future and keep our history and traditions alive. Once again it was stressed that we want to hear from all parishioners via email, phone or letter and as soon as possible meetings will be organised so that all can attend and share their thoughts.

Following these presentations from Jacinta and Fr Patrick there was a discussion and several questions from our parishioners. These could be sorted into five areas. Firstly, Defining terms. What do we mean by “mission” and what do we mean by “deanery”? We need to be clear and define what we mean, as these words can mean many different things to different people. Les Harper spoke about “mission” and the work that has been supported by St Thomas More helping East Timor. He hoped this could be expanded and promoted further with co-operation among parishes at the deanery level. Secondly, there were questions raised about the impact of the Plenary Council and how this might incorporate the full participation of laity, women and respect different ecclesiology's. This should be a part of our journey. Thirdly: the importance of youth, schools, and reaching out to young people is vital. They were once a vibrant part of our Church and are now sadly underrepresented. Why is this? Fourthly, our parish has a proud history of welcome, hospitality and outreach that should be honoured and pursued in the future. Finally, there were comments that we want this process to be positive, creative and a source of new energy, not something imposed upon us which is resisted, as this will not help us or others.

All the material that was presented as well as a verbatim of discussions (taken with permission of those who spoke) can be accessed on our parish website. We look forward to meeting together in person to continue this journey.



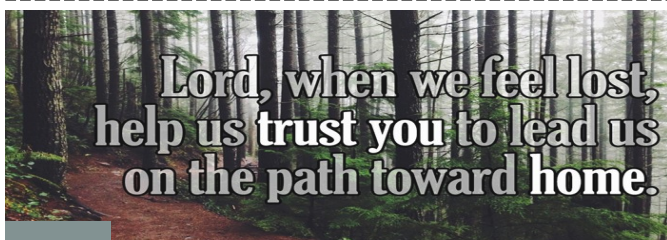
Fr Patrick

#### **Heart of Life's offering this October are as below.**

Book and pay via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101.

**'Keeping a Journal - A Key Part of Discernment' via Zoom, Tuesday 12 October 2021, 9.15am-11am.** Keeping a journal is deeply transformational. This session provides the opportunity to allow the subtle movement of our hearts and souls to overflow onto the pages of our journal, whose sections accord with the natural contours of human experience. It is just like coming home. 'At the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time (T S Eliot, 'Little Gidding'). The morning is led by Paul Beirne, lecturer in Discernment, spiritual director, and director of Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$30.

**'Mindfulness & Meditation' via Zoom, Saturday 23 October 2021, 10am-2pm.** This is a day of reflection in the practice of Mindfulness & Meditation, and we invite you to come prepared to be still and journey within. This event is led by Paola Cheng, a qualified meditation teacher, spiritual director and social worker, who brings an inclusive and gentle approach to her sessions. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$40.



## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Collect

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.

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 Wisdom 7:7-11

#### **I esteemed Wisdom more than sceptres or thrones**

I prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.  
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;  
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.  
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,  
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,  
and beside her silver ranks as mud.  
I loved her more than health or beauty,  
preferred her to the light,  
since her radiance never sleeps.  
In her company all good things came to me,  
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89(90):12-17**

*Fill us with your love,  
O Lord, and we will sing for joy!*

Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?  
Show pity to your servants.

*Fill us with your love,  
O Lord, and we will sing for joy!*

In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Give us joy to balance our affliction  
for the years when we knew misfortune.

*Fill us with your love,  
O Lord, and we will sing for joy!*

Show forth your work to your servants;  
let your glory shine on their children.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands.

*Fill us with your love,  
O Lord, and we will sing for joy!*

**Second reading Hebrews 4:12-13****The word of God cuts more finely than a double-edged sword**

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

**Gospel Mark 10:17-30****Give everything you own to the poor, and follow me**

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know

the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

**Prayer**

Lord God, open our hearts to your grace.

Let it go before us and be with us,  
that we may always be intent upon  
doing your will.

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****29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

