



SEASONS

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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

26th September 2021

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

Diary

Wednesday 6th October

Mission Restructure Meeting
via ZOOM at 7pm
(See Details on Page 2)

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

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

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 5pm

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,

The “Roadmap to Freedom” was revealed by Premier Daniel Andrews on Sunday. Restrictions are likely to remain well into 2022. At 70% vaccination, the majority of permitted activities are limited to 50 people outdoors. Even at 80%, there is still a limit of 150 people and 1 person per 2 square metres in most indoor settings, including Churches. It seems likely that our reopening at St Thomas More will begin in late October with outdoor Masses for small numbers of people. Later this year, perhaps November, we may be allowed 65 people indoors. At this stage, there is no timeline or threshold as to when those numbers might be lifted further. The Archdiocese is in urgent discussions with the State Government seeking further clarity about the impact of these decisions on reopening Churches and access to the Sacraments for all of our people.



We are a Church for all people, and universality of the Church can be traced back to its earliest days. The Church has always taken seriously the mandate from Christ to minister and care for the spiritual and temporal needs of our neighbour as taught by Christ in the parable of the Good Samaritan. These two needs- spiritual and physical - go hand in hand. St Thomas More Parish has continued this apostolate through the efforts of our parishioners working for affordable housing, education and development in East Timor and to be more welcoming to refugees and migrants, to name a few.

The Church’s preferential option for the poor was affirmed by Pope John Paul II in his 1991 encyclical *Centissimus Annus* – itself written one hundred years after Leo XIII’s important letter on Social Teaching named *Rerum Novarum*. Pope John Paul II wrote somewhat prophetically “There are many forms of poverty, especially in modern society – not only economic but cultural and spiritual poverty as well... In the countries of the West, different forms of poverty are being experienced by groups which live on the margins of society”

A growing margin within our society is emerging in line with increasing vaccination rates – namely that which is associated with vaccination status. At one level there seems to be a good foundation for this. Epidemiologists tell us that unvaccinated people are more likely to catch COVID, more likely to pass this on to others, and much more likely to get seriously unwell as a result. Vaccinated people are less likely to catch COVID and less likely to end up in hospital. The public policy decisions associated with managing these risks are not straightforward as they attempt to balance the rights of personal freedom around medical treatment with the responsibility to the health of society and the common good. The Government wants to protect our hospital system from being overwhelmed and from preventing illness. These are noble and worthy goals. For this reason, Catholics are being encouraged by Pope Francis, by Archbishop Comensoli and myself to carefully evaluate the facts, to speak with their GP and to make an informed decision about getting a COVID-19 vaccination for their health and the good of society.

On the other hand, there are a small number of people who have sought such advice and for different reasons are not able to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at this time. Many of these people have approached me for advice and support.

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We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...Rhonda Smith

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Bernice Chute, Sheila Walker, Norman Hellard, Joan Enright, Leo Ryan, Mary Irene Pearson, and Thomas Kelly

The sick... Keith Donovan, Martin & Helen Steyn, Nicole Thornhill, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, Jo Chaney, Yvonne Holmes, 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.**



The Shelton Family wish to thank everyone for their prayers over the last few months, Tom has recovered with no more treatments scheduled, except for future check-ups. Thank you to everyone and God Bless you.

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 Officers for September are Nancy Collinson & Colleen McNamara

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 \$ 1,564

Pledged last weekend \$ 2,029

Presbytery

Received last weekend \$ 111

(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.



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

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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PARISH "MISSION" MEETING

Fr Patrick Bradford is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting...

Topic: "Take the Way of the Gospel" STM discussion

Time: Oct 6, 2021 07:00 PM

Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting.....

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86148434074?pwd=cDlkVGcrbkRTbWthNkxMUeIicDlVUT09>

Visit our Website's Home page to look at the available documents and a direct link to the Archdiocese webpage.

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Their decision is not made lightly, as the State Government has indicated their ability to participate in civic life will be severely restricted for the foreseeable future.

Keeping all of this in mind, I believe Catholics have two important responsibilities.

Firstly, to be aware of the important issues facing our society, to inform our conscience with reliable information and to constructively participate in the debates of civic life. A good place to start is the Australian Bishops' Conference website <https://catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. There is also a statement on COVID-19 and vaccination from the Vatican https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccin-anticovid_en.html

The US Conference of Bishops has published this document:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Answers%20to%20Key%20Ethical%20Questions%20About%20COVID-19%20Vaccines.pdf>

Our faith can help us to keep good perspective on these issues and not to fall into extremes. The teachings of Christ and his Church help us to hold the different claims upon human dignity, the common good, proportionality and freedom in tension. Our rights correspond with responsibilities. Solidarity teaches us that every person has a place within society. We should defend the poor and vulnerable wherever we find them excluded. This is part of our civic responsibility as Catholics.

Secondly and following from this, our Church must remain a place of welcome for all. We need to find a way to manage and minimise any health risks posed by the unvaccinated and to welcome all people to Mass and the Sacraments. We do not want to see parishes divided. On a practical level the proposed policy of restricting church access to the fully vaccinated would put parish volunteers and clergy in an impossible situation of having to determine who can and cannot be allowed into church to practice their faith and to receive spiritual nourishment. It raises serious questions about freedom of conscience. It would draw a line within and between families; it would separate and segregate our parish groups. It would further isolate a group who often have other underlying health issues; who need our support and encouragement.

Every Catholic should have the same opportunity to receive the Sacraments, to worship God and to gather together in person (United Nations Declaration on Freedom, 1948). This argument was taken up by Archbishop Peter and is being pursued with the State Government together with the leaders from other faiths and Christian denominations. This intention deserves our eager prayer and support. Pope Francis has said that the Church is like "a field hospital, one that takes in the weakest people". Catholics should not tolerate the promotion of physical health at the expense of spiritual health. The rights to both must be balanced and protected.

Fr Patrick

Current government restrictions allow for limited outdoor social interaction between two people in public when certain other conditions are met.

Up to four people from the same household could meet if further conditions are also observed. While our ability to celebrate the Mass remains restricted, I know many of you are feeling the separation from the Church and Sacraments keenly.

Each Thursday and Sunday morning I have set aside time to meet around the Memorial Garden near the entrance to the Church and school ground.

The prevailing health advice around masks, time limits and social distancing will need to be observed.

Please let me know by email Patrick.bradford@cam.org.au or by phone 03 9787 7777 option 4 and I would be happy to arrange a time to meet up.
Fr Patrick

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collect

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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 Numbers 11:25-29

If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 18(19):8,10,12-14

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second reading James 5:1-6**The Lord hears the cries of those you have cheated**

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48**Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name**

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer

Lord, you reveal your mighty power most of all by your forgiveness and compassion: fill us constantly with your grace as we hasten to share the joys you have promised us in heaven.

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.



Next Week's Readings
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



1st Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16