



# SEASONS

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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

22nd August 2021

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

## Diary



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Mount Eliza Vic. 3930  
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<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,

I am sure you are as disappointed as I am to learn that lockdown has been extended for two weeks, until at least 2nd September 2021.

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,

Earlier this week we passed the ominous milestone of 200 days of lockdown in Melbourne. These days have not been easy. Please let us know if we can help in any way, particularly if you're needing a chat or any of the Sacraments.



The Parish website is currently in the process of being redesigned and updated so that we can engage with you more easily. This will make it possible to host multimedia content and better connect the various groups in the parish. We will let you know how to access this as soon as it's ready, hopefully in the next week or two.— Fr Patrick

Reflection: Jesus the Word of Life

Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Today we continue the conversation that Jesus is having with the people about his claim to be the Bread of Life that has come down from heaven. As the conversation continues, so too does the conflict and their complaining. The gospel begins straight away with this; 'When many of disciples heard this, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' It is worth noting that among those who are complaining and beginning to reject Jesus are not just strangers or the religious leaders but his disciples, his closest friends and followers.

The choice to follow Jesus is never easy. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus began to call people with these words, 'Those who want to come with me, must forget themselves, take up their cross and follow me.' There is no small print or hidden clause in what Jesus is asking us or what he is offering us. He is very clear and direct in what he says in the gospel and in what he is saying to us today. The reaction and response of the crowd is equally clear and honest; 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?'

Many listening cannot accept the teaching of Jesus, so they walk away from him. Just as with those in the gospel, Jesus freely and honestly invites us to follow him. And, like those in the gospel, we too are free to either reject or accept this call from him. In the gospel some leave Jesus. He both respects and accepts their decision; he lets them go and does not run after them and beg them to stay. He does not water down his teaching in favour of the crowd or popularity. He stands by his teaching and does not alter it.

Continued on Page 3

# We pray for..

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

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....**

William Lindner, Dr Trevor Connolly, Ida Smeeton, Frederick Taylor, Rex Swann, Doris Hill, Gerard Carra, John Bourke, Ethel May Blake, Valerie Crowe, Helene Hellard, Corrie Grootcholten

**The sick...** Kate Matheson, Jo Chaney, Evyonne 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.*



**Sacramental Program Enquiries:**  
Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation



**Baptism Enquiries:**  
Infant and older Children



Please send an  
email to the  
Parish Office

## 313 Canadian Bay Road

Currently there are three places on site sharing the same mailing address at 313 Canadian Bay Road. This means that Woodlands Early Learning Centre, STM Parish and Presbytery and STM School all share the same physical address. Unfortunately, this also means that we share the same physical mail box and deliveries and visitors often make their way to the wrong entrance. It can take some time for mail and visitors to get where they need to be. PPLT and STM PAC have recommended that we renumber our address:

# 313 for STM School; # 311 for STM Parish; # 309 for Woodlands Early Learn. Centre.

Please let us know any feedback as to how this would affect you in the coming weeks. —Fr Patrick

### 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 August is  
Margo Munro**

### 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](#)

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

**An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.**

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

**Please check our website for more details.**

We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: **10 -12 September 2021** or a non -residential weekend: **16 - 17 October 2021** in west Gippsland.

Information/Bookings:

Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

### Stewardship

Received last weekend \$ 1,679

Pledged last weekend \$ 2,089

### Presbytery

Received last weekend \$ 40

*(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.*

Continued from Front Page....

So confident is he in himself and his message that Jesus even asks his apostles, 'Do you also want to go away?' The apostles exercise their freedom by choosing to stay with Jesus and follow him. It is Peter, acting as voice of the group who exclaims, 'Lord to whom would we go? You have words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Those who stay with Jesus in the gospel do what you and I are called to do: keep on choosing Jesus, remain with the one who not only has the message of eternal life, but who is the Word of Life.

If we accept this challenging call and invitation from Jesus, then we are also asked to accept the responsibilities with which it comes. When Jesus asks us to follow him, he never says that it will be easy. Following Jesus also means that we live our own daily life trying to put his message into practise as best we can. We are asked to love each other as he loves us, to serve each other as he has shown us and crucially to forgive others as he forgives us. He even asks to love our enemies, those we find it difficult to even like.

Br Michael Moore OMI



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

#### Message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:

Emergency Aid for Haiti. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International) has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti and immediately approved an emergency aid package of half a million Euros (\$800,000 AUD) for the Haitian people. In response to this, ACN Australia has set up an emergency appeal to provide help for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are going through a very hard time.

To donate visit [www.aidtochurch.org/haiti](http://www.aidtochurch.org/haiti)

Next Week's Readings  
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8  
2nd Reading: James 1:17-18,21-22,27  
Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

# 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

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 Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

### We will serve the Lord, for he is our God

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'



**Responsorial Psalm 33(34):2-3,16-23**

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*



**Second reading Ephesians 5:21-32**  
**Christ loves the Church, because it is his body**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.  
Wives should regard their husbands as they regard  
the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and  
saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of  
his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so  
should wives to their husbands, in everything.  
Husbands should love their wives just as Christ  
loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to  
make her holy. He made her clean by washing her

in water with a form of words, so that when he  
took her to himself she would be glorious, with no  
speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy  
and faultless. In the same way, husbands must  
love their wives as they love their own bodies; for  
a man to love his wife is for him to love himself.  
A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it  
and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats  
the Church, because it is his body – and we are its  
living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his  
father and mother and be joined to his wife, and  
the two will become one body.* This mystery has  
many implications; but I am saying it applies to  
Christ and the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel John 6:60-69****Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers  
of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How  
could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his  
followers were complaining about it and said,  
'Does this upset you? What if you should see the  
Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.'  
For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not  
believe, and who it was that would betray him. He  
went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could  
come to me unless the Father allows him.' After  
this, many of his disciples left him and stopped  
going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about  
you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter  
answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have  
the message of eternal life, and we believe; we  
know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**Final Prayer**

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,  
the healing work of your mercy  
and graciously perfect and sustain us,  
so that in all things we may please you.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**