



# SEASONS

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

29th August 2021

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



**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,

I am sure you are as disappointed as I am to learn that lockdown has been extended 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.

## Reflection



In the gospel today, while the conversation with Jesus and the religious leaders is still about food, it is more about the Pharisees and their ancient rules and rituals; The Jewish Law.

They gather around Jesus and accuse him and his followers of eating without washing their hands or the bowls from which they eat. They say, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands? Immediately Jesus responds and says, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...' and then very directly he tells them; 'you abandon the commandment of God and hold on to human tradition.' While they focus on the smallest of things, they lose sight of the much big picture and deeper reality of what really matters, their relationship with God and concern for others.

The Pharisees and the Scribes were totally dedicated to the ancient Jewish Law which had been handed down from generation to generation. They were mainly concerned with externals so that their worship of God had become a matter of outward show. They dismissed those who they considered to be sinners. These included the sick, the poor, Gentiles, widows – anyone they themselves condemned and judged on a regular basis, including Jesus and his disciples. On one occasion Jesus said to them publicly; 'You tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they!' (Mtt 23.4).

The Pharisees came to Jesus and asked him, 'Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' His answer to them and to each of us is clear; 'Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second most important is 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mtt. 22.37) Jesus did not come to destroy or abolish the Law, but to give it real meaning, to fulfil it and make accessible to all people, especially the poor. He boils the whole of the Law down to love, love of God, love of neighbour and love of self.

Continued on Page 3

# We pray for..

**Those who have passed away recently...** Gerald Knight (husband of Faye)

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

Eric Fox, John Doherty, Sr Mary Teresita, Leo Mulcahy, Ben Grootscholten, Leslie Russell, Fr John Hardy, Timothy Bruitzman, Nancy Wraight, Fiona Lindner and Claire McGrath.

**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](#)

### Do you shop at the Local Ritchies Store?

Please consider enrolling in the  
Ritchies Community Benefit Program.

It is easy to join using a phone and downloading the Ritchies Card App from the App store or Google Play, or by going online to register at [www.ritchies.com.au/loyalty](http://www.ritchies.com.au/loyalty) by using a tablet or computer. Once you are signed up, and if you prefer to have a card, you can still pick up a physical card from the cashiers in-store, which you can then link to your app or online account. Don't forget to nominate St Thomas More Church Mt Eliza as the beneficiary.

Thank you to everyone who is currently using the Ritchies Community Benefit Program.

**We have received \$9,664.15 over the years.**

### Stewardship

Received last weekend                      \$    584

Pledged last weekend                      \$    989

### Presbytery

Received last weekend                      \$    140

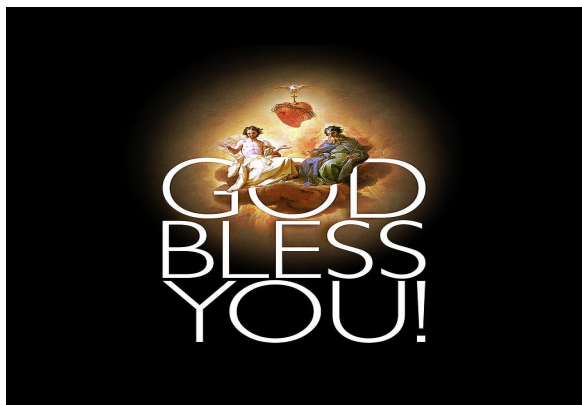
(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)

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

Continued from Front Page....

As always Jesus not only encourages and challenges those in the gospel, but he also does the same with each of us today. As he calls us to follow him, he also challenges us to love God and to love other as we love ourselves. Being a follower of Jesus is about relationships that are built of love, not just rules and regulations. The cost of being a Christian today is that our faith is to be seen in the quality of our love, daily lives and actions. What is the quality of my prayer and friendship with Jesus? Am I in danger of honouring Jesus with my lips but not with my heart and through the quality of my daily life? In the second reading for today from St. James we read, 'We must do what the word (of God) tell us and not just listen to it and deceive ourselves. He continues, pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it.

-Br Michael Moore OMI



### INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE - CANCELLED

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions and the uncertainty when restrictions will be eased, it is impossible to proceed with the planned 4th September Information session. It is regrettably cancelled. The possibility of holding an information session will be considered after any easing of restriction.

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The preferred age limit is being able to be ordained by the 60th year.

For more information:

**Read More:** [Brochure]

<https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

**Contact:** Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 335 (Email) [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)

## We celebrate Social Justice this weekend

The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals.

The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

## 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift,  
put into our hearts the love of your name,  
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,  
you may nurture in us what is good  
and, by your watchful care,  
keep safe what you have nurtured.  
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 Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

**Observe these laws and customs, that you may have life**

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

**Responsorial Psalm 3Psalm 14(15):2-5**

*The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks without fault;  
he who acts with justice  
and speaks the truth from his heart;  
he who does not slander with his tongue.

*The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

He who does no wrong to his brother,  
who casts no slur on his neighbour,  
who holds the godless in disdain,  
but honours those who fear the Lord.

*The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;  
who takes no interest on a loan  
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.  
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

*The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

**Second reading James 1:17-18,21-22,27  
Accept and submit to the word**

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruit of his creation. Alleluia!

**Gospel Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23**

**You put aside the commandment of God, to cling to human traditions**

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow

the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

**Prayer**

God of the universe, you are the living Word, planted deep in our hearts. Grant us the wisdom, courage, and commitment to love and care for your magnificent world of never-ending wonders. Direct our ideas, discernment, and action so that all can fulfil their sacred promise and purpose, according to your law. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.



Create in me a  
clean heart,  
Oh, God.

**Next Week's Readings  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37