



SEASONS

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

The Holy Family — Year C

26th December 2021



Dear Friends,

We have come at last to this great celebration of Christmas where God enters into our world in a new and powerful way. If we look back 12 months to last year's Christmas, we might have sensed back then a quiet optimism that the year ahead might offer a little more predictability and stability than the one that came before it. How strange life can be!

As I think back to my arrival at St Thomas More almost twelve months ago, I could not have imagined the kind of year that would unfold. My first weekend was a disappointment: 30 minutes before our first Mass I received a text message saying I had to immediately isolate and get tested for COVID. Since I arrived, we have gone through 108 days of lockdown in five chunks from March to October. For a new pastor, this see-saw off and on, stop and start has been deeply frustrating and disappointing. Like so many of you have experienced these times have sapped my energy and made it harder to plan with any certainty for the future. I know it has also created barriers for parishioners in finding the confidence to return to Mass safely. Next year, I look forward to rebuilding and reconnecting with our community, building up the life and spirit of St Thomas More as we journey towards "Mission" both with our own community and inviting others to join us.

Though I have been a priest for six years, it is very different experience when you become a pastor of a community. I am honoured by the welcome and trust you have been given to me. It has been a humbling and enriching time getting to know so many of you through the Masses and gatherings we've shared together. Through our Lenten gatherings and times reflecting on films and books I have seen the deep faith and understanding that underpins our community. I've been impressed by the work done to promote justice in Mt Eliza, in our local Vinnies conference, around Australia and overseas. For a smaller community, we are diverse and I've been touched how our parishioners find such joy in welcoming visitors and newcomers to be a part of our community, each person sharing their own unique gifts. I look forward to the next year ahead and seeing what God will do in our Parish in and through each one of us.

Christmas is that time of the year when we look forward to exchanging presents with our loved ones. In our family this Kris Kringle ritual is a well-loved tradition. It turns out that what makes a good gift is not always the price tag, since value and cost are two different things. What makes a great gift is the value and worth that something will have in the hands of the receiver, and the thoughtfulness and intention of the giver. There is a sense of excitement and anticipation as the presents of all shapes and sizes beckon under the tree. At Christmas a profound exchange of gifts happens between God and us. St Irenaeus of Lyon wrote that in the incarnation, in birth of Jesus, God gives to us his divinity, and we give God our humanity. We become divine, and God becomes human. We are able to grasp the heights of heaven, and God enters into the depths of our lowliness. This beautiful exchange is revealed in Jesus, son of Mary and Son of God.

This has profound implications for our own lives. It means that no matter whether we go through good times or hard times, God is never faraway from us. As we consider the year ahead, 2022, we can already see signs that the turmoil and uncertainty of this pandemic is not over yet. Things may get worse before they get better. But whatever happens, Christmas teaches us that God is with us, and that God brings good out of every situation. From a stable in Bethlehem came the creator of the world. From our own crosses comes the joy of the resurrection. Whatever happens, we trust and hope that God is with us, sharing his life with us, and we sharing our life with him.

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<http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford (Parish Administrator)

Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)

Sue Carr Margaret Jamieson

Carmel Huggard

PPLT Email:

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Next Week:

During the Week

Tuesday 7.00 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am

Thursday 10.00 am

Friday 10.00 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm

NEW YEARS DAY

Sunday 8.00 am

& 10.00 am

JANUARY:

During the Week

Wednesday 10.00 am

Thursday 10.00 am

Friday 10.00 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am

& 10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 - 5:00 pm

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

December Remembrances: David Duff, Tom Sanders, Margaret Wunder, Carmel Bainbridge, Jason Sutton, Frank McConvill, Marie Peters, George Vines, Tom Shannon, Margaret Rutherford-Smith, Margaret McLoughlin, Margaret Bourke, John Mitchell, Marianna Landman, and Ria Wilson



January Remembrances: George Morrow, John Koppenol, George Grech, Valda Pierce, Narelle Bracken, Tomasine Hennessy, Maurice Carr, Sidney Smith, Karel Merkus, Tony Pinnuck, Brendan Dickson, Agnes McDonald, Aubrey Stainislaw Pearson, Inga Kufer, Rosemary Ivey, Keith Jackson, Michael Gleeson, James Breen, Ralph Skinner, Elizabeth Morse, Margaret Connolly, Mary Horrigan, Doreen Lloyd, Johannes Bruitzman, Doris Clark, and John C McCartney.

The sick... Thomas Parrish, Keith Donovan, Martin & Helen Steyn, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, 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, 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**

If anyone has any questions about Membership fees—
please contact Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559.

The Welfare Officer is Christine Stewart

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](#)

Our Parish MISSION Discussion
6th October Meeting
minutes and information can be located
on our Website Home Page or follow this link.

1st Meeting [STM Parish MISSION Discussion](#)

WELCOME
to our
PARISH

New to
our Parish
Community

Please fill in a
form found in
the Foyer,

- hand your
form to one of
our Greeters or
Fr Patrick



Stewardship

Received last weekend	\$ 2,027
Pledged last weekend	\$ 2,102

Presbytery

Received last weekend	\$ 756
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Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.
(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically
via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)

A word of thanks to all the Volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered during our 2021 Advent / Christmas Season, our Family's Christmas Carols & the Choirs —We are grateful to the those who set up our beautiful crib, and the Christmas trees, decorations, set up chairs and the outside Sanctuary, music & IT, our Readers, Greeters, car parking marshalls, Flower arrangers, cleaners, Sacristans and those performing any other ministries during these Masses.
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

**Wishing you and your family
A Merry Christmas &
A safe & healthy New Year 2022**

Pick up your Stewardship Envelopes on 2nd and 9th of January Weekends

Stewardship (Thanksgiving) Envelopes sets will be available in the Church (near EXIT sign) on the 2nd and 9th of January Weekends for collection.

Receipts will be emailed to those people who contribute electronically.

If you contribute by Direct Debit or Credit Card and we don't have your email address, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you..... Vicki



**No SEASONS during January.
In the New Year the first edition of
Seasons will be on 6 February 2022.
If you have something you would
like included in it, please send it
to the Parish Office by
9am Thursday 3rd February.**



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.

The Holy Family

**Sunday
26th December 2021**



Penitential Act:

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.
we praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
We give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28
**This is the child I prayed for: he is made over
to the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm 3(84):2-3,5-6,9-10

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second reading I John 3:1-2,21-24
We are called God's children, and that is what we are

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:41-52|Mary
stored up all these things in her heart

Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;



he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.**Hosanna**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and
lived among us.

Let us pray.

God our Father, in the Holy Family of
Nazareth, you have given us the true model
of a Christian home. Grant that by following
Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their love for each
other and in the example of their family life,
we may come to your home of peace 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.

