

SEASONS

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

First Sunday in Lent — Year B

21st February 2021

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

Diary Upcoming:

Wednesday February 24
PPLT Meeting, 7.30pm, PCC

Friday February 26
Lenten Program, 10am, PCC
Ongoing during Lent

Thursday March 4
Baptism Preparation Meeting,
7.30pm, Church

Tuesday March 9
Parish Education Board Meeting,
7.30pm, SSR

Thursday March 11
Finance Committee Meeting,
7.00pm, PCC

Saturday March 13
Parish Working Bee
8am—1pm



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

Weekday Mass

Wednesday 9.15 am
Friday 9.15 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am
10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:30 pm - 6:00 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,

In a year where we hoped to find life returning to normal, once again we find ourselves disrupted by COVID-19. There will be a special mass on Saturday 20th at 10am (for those who receive this bulletin electronically) which will be the Mass for Ash Wednesday. As we begin this season of Lent, the Church invites us to walk with Jesus. His journey of self restraint and generosity prepared him for his public ministry and in time, his death and resurrection. Let us each make the most of this season so we can fully experience the grace of Easter and Pentecost



Reflection:

Having started our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, we now find ourselves in the desert with Jesus as he is tempted and tested. Mark's account of Jesus in the desert is short, sharp and very direct; Jesus is in the desert with the wild beasts. This is a real and as human as it gets. He is tested but does not give in nor give up. There is no actual mention of the 'temptations' but they there are never the less; they are implied rather than named. Rather than give into his temptations, Jesus remained faithful to God and his mission of announcing the arrival of God's Kingdom. He left the desert with courage and conviction and began to proclaim the Good News. Jesus began his public ministry and we begin Lent with the message repent and believe the good news.

We know that each of us is tempted and tested in many ways each day. These 'temptations' are often small and seemingly insignificant. Our temptations may not be as dramatic as those of Jesus, but they are no less real or dangerous. Temptations come to us as attractive and appealing. If and when we give into them, we hand over our power to them and they control us. If however, we can not only face but also resist them, then we retain our power over them. This requires more than just our efforts. Like Jesus, we need to turn to God and ask for the strength and courage when we are tempted and tested.

As St. Paul knew well from his facing his own demons and temptations when he wrote, 'three times I have asked the Lord that it might leave me; but the Lord said, my grace is enough for you: for my power and presence is strongest when you are weak.' (2 Cor. 12.9-12)

Paul had the wisdom and humility to be honest both with himself and God. He knew he couldn't face his weakness and temptations on his own; like Jesus, he too needed to ask God to strengthen and encourage him. As we begin Lent, can we in faith and with humility ask Jesus to walk with us to guide, lead and protect us? While he was in the desert being tempted Jesus was not on his own and neither are we as we make our way through Lent. We don't have to face our temptations and weaknesses on our own. Jesus, because he himself has been tempted, he is able to help others who are tempted. (Hebrews 2.18)

If we try to be faithful to our Lenten promises by ourselves and if we try to make this forty day journey on our own, it is going to be a long hard road. We need the prayers and support of those around us to strengthen and encourage us. When we say the I Confess, we pray these words; I ask you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to Lord our God. This is what it means to belong to the Body of Christ; we are called to pray with and for each other. During Lent we need each other especially when we are tempted and feel like giving up. Following the example of Jesus, let us also turn to God and ask for the strength we need for the journey ahead. Jesus turned to God and was not alone; as we make our way through Lent, neither will we.



Prep Mass THIS SUNDAY at the 10am Mass

all Prep students and their families are especially invited to come along as we celebrate the beginning of their school years with them. This will be a chance for us to get to know the youngest members of our Parish, and their families, at this special and exciting time of their lives.

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed “Be More”. Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world’s most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or phoning 1800 024 413 or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion



Working Bee

Our next parish working bee will take place **Saturday March 13th, 8am-1pm.**

There are plenty of jobs to be done to prepare the church and surrounds for Easter.

Does anyone have any spare Tip Vouchers?

Please add your name and number to the signup sheet after Mass (outside EXIT Door) if you can help on the day, serve or prepare morning tea.



QR Code Registration System

To be able to use the QR code system you will need to have a smart phone with a camera and internet connection.

Request for volunteers:

Can you help / assist people lining up to Register

Are You New to Our Parish ?

Please take and fill-in a new parishioner form from the Church Foyer



Wall of Remembrance

Have you considered buying a brick on our Parish Wall of Remembrance?

You can either reserve a place for yourself, to be used many years from now, or purchase one for family or loved ones, and have a plaque attached now. Bricks cost \$120, and the current cost of a standard plaque is around \$280, depending on the wording and design. For more information, please contact Vicki in the Parish office.

1st Sunday in Lent—Year B

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

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

*I will recall the covenant between myself and you...
the waters shall never again become a flood to
destroy all flesh.*

Responsorial Psalm

RESPONSE:

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth and teach me;
for you are God my Saviour. **R**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R**

The Lord is good and upright.
and shows the path to those who stray,
The Lord guides the humble in the right path;
and teaches his way to the poor. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

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.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

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.

Mystery of Faith

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Communion Rite

Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Communion

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Next Week's Readings —Year B

Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

2nd Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10



We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently... Maria Barbon

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Helene Seymour, Catherine Kost, Alex Hamilton, Genevieve Payne.

The sick... John Xavier Clifton, Patricia Leerson-Dash, Bill Hunt, Shirley Spry, Dennis Mirrabella, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison,



Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, 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.

STM Social Club

New members are always most welcome! Membership fee is \$30

Please contact : **Carolyn Gascoigne on 0448 871 970**

Because of virus restrictions, there will be no Monthly Meeting in the Undercroft for the time being and no A.G.M. in 2021. Committee positions from 2020 will remain, except for Brian and Carmel who are retiring.

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 the Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559.

New members would be very, very welcome.

All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.

Wednesday, 17th March: St Patrick's Day lunch at C.B. Hotel, Mount Eliza, at 12 noon. A chance to wear that new (or old) Green outfit! Please book with Carol on 0448 871 970 or Colleen on 0408 314 409 on or before Sunday, 14th of March.



The Welfare Officers for February are Tom & Maree Shelton



Contemplative Prayer

"Let tiny drops of silence fall gently through your day" Silent prayer in the Church each Wednesday from 8:45 am to 9:15 am, followed by Mass.

Baptism Enquiries:

Please send an email to the Parish Office



Stewardship

Received last weekend..... \$1,123

Pledged last weekend \$1,520

Presbytery

Amount received last week \$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.



Holy Communion

During Communion adults or children who are not Catholic or not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Please indicate your wish for a blessing by crossing both arms in front of you.

The Bishops of Victoria have suspended the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholics in Victoria until further notice.

Mass is broadcast via the Ten Network (6am Sunday) for any one who would like to participate.

OR www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

OR <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

OR <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Safeguarding Committee

John Natoli 0418 208 778

Julie Carter 0420 923 859



FEEL SAFE AND BE SAFE AT OUR CHURCH

To our children and vulnerable:

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

You have the right to feel safe and be safe from harm.

YOU ARE VALUED & RESPECTED

You have the right not to be hurt, spoken to rudely or made to feel uncomfortable.

WE WILL PROTECT

We will protect children and young people.

WE WILL LISTEN & BELIEVE

We will listen to children and young people and believe them.

WE WILL RESPOND

We will respond to matters of safety and harm.

Parish Sacramental Programs

Confirmation

Classes will be beginning soon and an
Information Night will be held at

7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd March

If you have a child in Year 6 or older who would like to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, and they are not at STM Primary School, please contact the Parish Office on 9787 7777 or email mounteliza@cam.org.au before the Information Night.



Reconciliation & First Eucharist

**An Information Night will be held
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th May**

If you have a child in Year 3 or older who would like to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this year, and they are not at STM Primary School, please contact the Parish Office on 9787 7777 or email mounteliza@cam.org.au before the Information Night.



World Social Justice Day—Saturday 20th February

We Pray.....

Loving God,

You have given all peoples one common origin, and your will is to gather them as one family in yourself.

Fill the hearts of all with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our sisters and brothers.

By sharing the good things you give us may we secure justice and equality for every human being, and end to all division, and a human society built on love and peace.

John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 1987

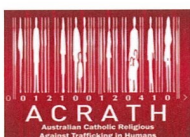


Let's Make ONE Change in 2021, the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Chocolate is delicious and millions of people around the world know it. But some of this chocolate is tainted by slavery and comes at the cost of a child's health, education and sometimes his or her freedom. Much of our chocolate is made using cocoa beans harvested by children, often in the West African region. Many of these children are forced into labour. We can help change this.

NAME YOUR CHANGE IN 2021!

MAKE A CHANGE TODAY

- ◆ Buy only chocolate that is certified slavery-free
- ◆ Join ACRATH's 'Name your Change for 2021' zoom morning tea on Thursday 4 March 2021 from 10:30-11am. See website for details.
- ◆ Tell at least one person about slavery-free chocolate and share some with them. They will discover how delicious it tastes



www.acrath.org.au
People are NOT for sale

Join ACRATH's Slavery-free Easter Chocolate Campaign
For information, resources and a zoom link to the morning tea, go to <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/>



Look for these labels when purchasing your Chocolate products



Parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Patrick in the Parish Community Centre during the Fridays of Lent to discover the Holy Land with Best-selling author Edward Sri's DVD series "No Greater Love".

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us by guiding us through the last hours of Christ's life. We will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

Meetings will take place in the Parish Community Centre on Fridays (after Mass) at 10AM. After Morning tea we'll watch a 30 minute video, followed by a time of fellowship and discussion. No need to register- all are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, which will conclude around 11am.

Friday, 26 th Feb	The Prayer of Agony: Jesus in Gethsemane
Friday, 5 th March	Are you the Christ? Jesus arrest and trial
Friday, 12 th March	The Trial: Jesus is condemned to death
Friday, 19 th March	The death of the Messiah: Jesus carries his cross
Friday, 26 th March	The seven last words: Jesus the teacher

FOR THE INFORMATION OF PARISHIONERS

LENT 2021

109. *The Lenten season has a twofold character:*

- 1) *it recalls baptism or prepares for it;*
- 2) *it stresses a penitential spirit.*

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself and in the liturgy-centred instructions, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced. Hence:

- a) *Wider use is to be made of baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy...*
- b) *The same approach holds for the penitential elements...*

110. *During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social...*

In any event, let the paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- (a) **Prayer** -for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
- (b) **Self-Denial** - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.

- (c) **Helping Others** - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over-burdened; or in other ways.

- All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252).

- The Season of Lent is a time of penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves.

- Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday, 17 February 2021 and Trinity Sunday, 30 May 2021 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

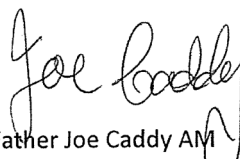
- The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament.

All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

HOLY WEEK - The 2021 Ordo contains instructions for the Rites of Holy Week.

FUNERALS – On Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday all Masses for the Dead, including Funeral Masses, **are forbidden**. Funerals on these days are celebrated with the Liturgy of the Word and without the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

WEDDINGS - Weddings should be discouraged during the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Should a couple be particularly insistent on a wedding for one of these days, then please indicate that no decorations (including flowers), no music nor Nuptial Mass will be permitted.


 Father Joe Caddy AM
VICAR GENERAL



Catholic Parish of St Thomas More
Mount Eliza

Holy Week/Easter Calendar 2021

Wednesday 17th March

7:00 pm Reconciliation

Saturday 27th March - Passion (Palm) Sunday

6:00 pm Mass with Blessing of Palms

Sunday 28th March – Passion (Palm) Sunday

8:00 am Mass with Blessing of Palms

10:00 am Mass with Blessing of Palms and Procession
(beginning in Memorial Garden)

Thursday 1st April – Holy Thursday

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 2nd April – Good Friday

3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday 3rd April – Holy Saturday

8:00 pm Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection

Sunday 4th April – Easter Sunday

8:00 am and 10:00 am Mass