



SEASONS

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

Corpus Christi— Year B

6th June 2021

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

Diary Upcoming:

Wednesday 16th June
Finance Committee Meeting
PCC, 7pm



**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

During the Week

Friday 9.15 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am
& 10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:30 - 6:00 pm

Dear Friends,

This Sunday the Church celebrates the last of the Post Easter commemorations—the Feast of Corpus Christi. These post resurrection feasts demonstrate how Christ continues to love and care for his flock even while not physically here. At Pentecost we are given God’s Holy Spirit and on Trinity Sunday we learn that this Spirit invites us to enter into the life of God’s family. But there is more— Jesus has left a concrete sign, a *Sacramentum*, and a promise of his **real** presence with us. The feast Corpus Christi reminds us that Jesus was a real person, like us, made up of flesh and blood; someone who changes and transforms us with real food and real drink. He offers us food and sustenance for our journey to heaven. The lamp which flickers faithfully in the sanctuary is a sign that God is with us at St Thomas More physically as well as spiritually. I know this truth offer many great consolation and encouragement.

Looking back over the years, there have been many difficult times where Catholics were not been able to gather and celebrate the Eucharist. The image below depicts a home in Sydney in 1818 after the last Catholic Priest remaining in Australia, Fr Jeremiah O’Flynn, was arrested and deported. Before he boarded his ship, Fr O’Flynn left the Blessed Sacrament in the safe keeping of a local family until one day, a Priest would finally return and celebrate Mass with them again.

While this time of separation from the Mass and Sacraments was very painful, it appeared to foster in those early settlers a deeper appreciation and longing for the Eucharist. We can see in their expressions of devotion that their faith and joy was kept alive in that time of doubt and uncertainty. (CONTINUED PG 3)



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.

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Roger Pearson, John Herbert, Frances Taylor, Tony Collins, Harold Redfern, and Federick Egghins,



The sick... Eileen Dalley, 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, 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.**

Sacramental Program Enquiries:
Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation
Please send an email to the Parish Office



Baptism Enquiries:
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



New Readers Rosters for June to September will be sent out next week via email.

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 Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559. All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.

Next Week’s Readings 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



1st Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

The Welfare Officers for June are Gui Hone and Helen Grech

Safeguarding Committee

John Natoli 0418 208 778
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	\$ 239
Pledged last weekend.....	\$ 823
May weekly average	\$1,772
Presbytery	
Amount received last week.....	\$ 130

(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.

YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.



DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021
catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph

As we face another lockdown in Melbourne we might find ourselves feeling like some of the early Catholics in Australia. We are not able to come together for Mass. We are isolated and separated from the community of faith. We might wonder what that things will look like when we get back to 'normal' and if things might ever go back to the ways there were before. We take great comfort knowing that whatever happens, Jesus remains with us in the Blessed Sacrament to strengthen and nourish us on our pilgrimage of faith. He left us a "real presence" - something we can taste and see and smell. It is a concrete sign that Christ never abandons his flock.

A few weeks ago Archbishop Comensoli spoke with clergy and the lay faithful about the future of the Melbourne Archdiocese. In speaking about what the future might look like, the Archbishop looked back to the earliest foundations of the Church in Melbourne. In those early day the Catholic faithful first gathered not as parishes, but as "Missions". Each Mission was united together in one Catholic faith but each expressed a diversity of cultures, backgrounds, languages and traditions. The missions developed organically amongst the physical and cultural landscape of each place.

Archbishop Peter has published a letter to all the faithful in Melbourne detailing his vision. The letter is included in this weeks copy of *Seasons*, and I warmly encourage each of you to read it and begin thinking and praying about what this Mission might mean for us. I've come to appreciate in the few months since I arrived at St Thomas More a proud history of welcoming, building community, joyful worship and faith formation. In the coming months every parish in the Archdiocese will be invited to consider how they see themselves, and their attributes as participating in a "family of communities".

This process is expected to take years rather than months to fully materialise and there will be several opportunities to gather in small groups, as a Parish and with the wider Catholic community to discuss and discern. I would be very happy to speak with anyone about your initial thoughts and contributions and in the coming weeks we will be hearing more the Archdiocese about their plans for more local and regional meetings.

On a personal note, after a few weeks of holidays with my family in New Zealand its good to be back (into lockdown!) I'm looking forward to seeing you in person as soon as restrictions are lifted. My sincere thanks to Fr Joe O'Shea who looked after the Masses and Sacraments here and Vicki looking after day to day administration. As the lockdown has been extended for Metropolitan Melbourne (including Mt Eliza) there will be no Mass this weekend 5th and 6th of June and for the weekdays through to Thursday 10th of June, at this stage. To keep updated you're welcome to ring the Parish where the initial phone directory/greeting will have up to date information on Mass times and any booking requirements. Details for Masses will also be updated on the website, as well as through *Seasons* (either mailed or emailed and also available on the website) and printed on the front doors of the Church.

Let us keep praying for each other, and for a speedy resolution to this fourth lockdown. In each lockdown there are mental, financial and spiritual pressures felt throughout our community. If you or anyone you know have any pastoral needs you're welcome to contact me at the Parish Office— option 3. For any administration matters, our Secretary Vicki is working from home and can be reached by email: mounteliza@cam.org.au.
—Fr Patrick

QR CODES

New regulations from the State Government mean that when we reopen for Mass next week, all parishioners will need to be registered before entering the Church by scanning a QR CODE through the Service Victoria app.

In practice, this wont make much difference for parishioners who have already been scanning the QR code on their phones. As all organisations now require signing in via this app, eg supermarkets, petrol stations, cafes, etc, it is likely that the majority of Victorians will be end up needing feature on their phone. If you have not yet downloaded the app, you can do so via the Service Victoria Website: www.vic.gov.au

We are aware there will be a few parishioners who may need assistance to register their entry to Church. We will ensure that newcomers will be able to register your visit through a parish device within the foyer. Once we've worked out all the details, we will let you know how this will work in practice - Fr Patrick

Take THE Way OF THE Gospel

RE-IMAGINING OUR LOCAL CHURCH AS MISSION COMMUNITIES

A Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli
Pentecost 2021

AT PENTECOST, the Spirit of the Risen Lord came among the household of disciples gathered in prayer, filling them with Gospel power, and sending them out on mission as the Church of Jesus Christ. On that day, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples new eyes and ears, and a fresh heart to form the family of the Church, and to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all nations.

On this great feast of Pentecost, I warmly welcome you home! After many long months we are finally opening our doors more fully, and it is time we return to gather as God's people – to worship together, to pray together and to prepare our lives to go out in mission together. And I write to you today – God's family of the Archdiocese of Melbourne – to invite you into a new conversation about our common mission for the years ahead.

To begin this conversation, I called two meetings over the past month – one with all the clergy of the Archdiocese and the other with lay representatives from each of our 209 parishes. These initial meetings had one purpose in mind: to open up the question as to how our local Church in Melbourne might best be organised into the future, such that:

- The mission of the Gospel is at the heart of our life, worship and outreach;
- Local faith communities are arranged to allow for them to flourish;
- Our faith communities be effectively resourced – spiritually, ministerially and materially.

When I was appointed to Melbourne nearly three years ago, I saw a great need for us to find new and life-giving ground in which to plant the seeds of the Gospel. For decades, the clergy and faithful of Melbourne have been exploring ways to bring about a re-framing of the local Church to become more vital for God's people. The challenges, wounds and disruptions of recent years, coupled with the life-changing reality of the COVID pandemic, have opened my own eyes, ears and heart to recognise that our present way of doing things needs to be re-imagined in the face of the changing circumstances in which we live.

But what might this look like?

In discerning this question, I have drawn insight from the first Archbishop of Melbourne, James Goold. When he came to Victoria in 1848, he did not set about arranging the Archdiocese into parishes, but instead established Missions into various localities. Each Mission comprised a family of local faith communities, gathered around a shared life of faith, worship and outreach. These Missions would then grow within them more local communities as the need arose.

Each Mission comprised a family
of local faith communities,
gathered around a shared life
of faith, worship and outreach.

When the day of Pentecost had come, the [disciples] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-3

It is a renewal of this vision for today that I want to explore with you over the coming months and years, so that we might walk together towards a more energised purpose for our local Church in the light of Pentecost. This will be a journey that will take time and effort, and we will need to take it together.

Our local Church, in all its vast spread, is wonderfully rich and varied in its many realities – be they parishes, language communities, or faith movements. But it is also true that our accompaniment and nurturing of these realities could, and should, be more life-giving. It falls to us to take on this task as Christ's disciples today.

Let me describe this task ahead by way of asking three questions:

- Where might be the local Missions of our Archdiocese today?
- Which parishes might organically fit together to form a family of communities?
- How might we better resource these Missions – spiritually, ministerially and materially?

Why should we be doing this? The Way of the Gospel – the path of missionary discipleship – has always been adapted by every generation to fit the local circumstances. How this is arranged has varied according to time and place. Now is our time; here is our place. As Pope Francis has been reminding us, we must be open to change if renewal is to be possible, and sometimes new structures are required for apostolic spirit to gain momentum.

Our parishes will remain at the heart of the gathering of God's people locally, but we need to adapt the way we resource our local communities, including the placement of clergy, catechists and other lay leaders, to form Missions that comprise a family of faith communities.

My letter to you today is simply an introduction to this task. This is the beginning of a way of thinking and acting that will involve us all – bishops, clergy and laity. It will be a journey of listening and learning, and walking together. Bring it to prayer; begin to talk with one another; open your hearts to where the Lord is calling us; reach out to your neighbours in faith.



More information will be made available soon, so the steps of discernment and consultation are readily available for everyone. I would like to note though that this is a period of growing and learning, not of haste. It is not about change overnight, it is not about parish closures or amalgamations, but a reframing of our thinking, and a resourcing of where our current need is, not where it was, in order to bring renewed life.

As the disciples gathered on that first Pentecost, might we now start this journey in prayer – together. Let us open ourselves to Christ Jesus with a new depth of trust and conviction in his guiding hand, so that we may discern our journey with compassionate and humble hearts and come to know the Spirit moving within and amongst us, and so be transformed.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Mary, Mother of Church, pray for us.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Support our project of the month and help contemplative religious sisters in Peru to contribute to the pastoral work in Peru and the world through their prayer, their presence and the testimony of their faith.
Visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject

Advance notice after COVID Lockdown has finished:
Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre is now open
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne



In 200 years of Catholic Education, Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison-Woods and the Sisters of St Joseph have contributed significantly to the establishment and operations of schools, children's homes and providence centres.

In this significant year of St Joseph, we are reminded of the important role that the Heritage Centre can play in faith formation and how the lives of St Mary, Julian and the Sisters, in the name of Joseph, can inspire people of all ages to respond to the needs of the time.

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre has reopened for pilgrims, parishioners, and community groups on Monday to Friday from 9 am – 5 pm. The Centre offers retreats and programs with a specific design for parish groups and invites you to view one or more of the following:

- A dedicated Museum to Mary, Julian and the SOSJ's with emphasis on Victoria.

- The Mary MacKillop Heritage trail, which includes Mary's place of birth.

- A chapel, set in a very spiritual and sacred space where Mary walked, lived and prayed.

- A dedicated gift shop with a wide range of gifts, books, cards, and souvenirs, including products from the Peruvian Women's Project.

- Accommodation that consists of competitively priced self-contained apartments that parishioners may like to access for a night out in Melbourne, for the theatre, football or dinner! Off street parking and lift access is available.

For Parishes requiring special group bookings, please contact us on 9926 9300

We are also seeking people interested in volunteering at the Centre

Financial and material aid for struggling families and individuals

CatholicCare, as part of CatholicCare Victoria Tasmania (CCVT), provides Emergency Relief across Greater Melbourne, Geelong and Gippsland.

What is Emergency Relief?

Emergency Relief provides financial or material aid to assist people experiencing financial hardship resulting from their current life situation or an unexpected crisis event - including the COVID-19 pandemic. CatholicCare provides confidential, non-judgemental support to maintain the dignity of individuals and families.

Who can access it?

Emergency Relief can be accessed by anyone experiencing a financial crisis which has left them unable to pay for necessities such as food.

How can I access support? [\(03\) 9287 5555](tel:0392875555) . There is no charge to access this service.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

NEWS

'He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.' Lk 9:2

Catholic Social Teaching



PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Principle of Participation

Because of their intelligence and free will, people have both a right and a duty to participate in those decisions that most directly affect them. Individuals and groups have a right and a duty to shape a more just and human society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

We have a right and a duty to participate in decisions that affect us and to shape a more just society, one that sows respect for the well-being and dignity of all, especially the oppressed and vulnerable.

Today's Gospel tells us that we have a covenant with our God. Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread and wine of the Eucharist we are invited to participate in the risen Christ and to also share that life with others.

(Mark 14:12-16, 22-26)

The encyclical **Quadragesimo Anno** (1931) 'After Forty Years' teaches that it is the responsibility of all groups, organizations, nations and individuals to pursue the common good.

Centesimus Annus (1991) – 'The Hundredth Year' affirms the participation of citizens in political democracy.

Corpus Christi

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.'

Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than the one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us.

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

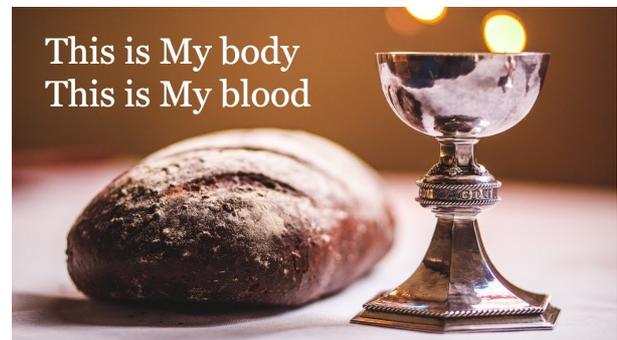
Gospel: Mark 14:12-16,22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went

to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover. And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

Praise to you lord Jesus Christ.



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.

