

SEASONS

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent — Year B

21st March 2021

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

Diary Upcoming:

Tuesday March 23

Baptism Preparation Meeting,
7.30pm, Church

THURSDAY March 25

Lenten Program, 10am, PCC

All welcome

WELCOME
we're glad you're here

**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

Tuesday 7.00 pm

Wednesday 9.15 am
after Mass
+ Stations of the Cross

Thursday 9.15 am

Friday NO MASS NO MASS

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am

10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday a number of parishioners attended the working bee. I want to sincerely thank each of you for the enthusiasm, energy and solidarity that you brought to the morning. It reminded me of St Paul's image of the body, having many parts but one common identity and purpose. Each parishioner contributed their unique skills and together we achieved a lot. The pride that the parish community takes in maintaining a tidy and inviting common space welcoming all was a great blessing for me to witness. My special thanks to Barry Hansen who coordinated the morning so well. I know for different reasons many parishioners were not able to join us, and that so many have faithfully contributed to the Parish in various ways over the years. Thankyou for your past and present support. The next working bee is scheduled for November, all are welcome.



Reflection

We recall from the many stories and parables that Jesus told that he was a master story teller. He knew his audience well. He spoke to largely farming and fishing communities about fish, gardening, baking bread, farming, seeds, vines, sheep and shepherds. He spoke their language using images that they appreciated and understood.

When speaking about himself he says; *'unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'* Farming and gardening are processes of *transformation*. Seeds are sown in the earth. The ground is tended to and cared for; weeds are removed and the seeds are watered. Then the waiting starts until what was sown slowly and somehow mysteriously transforms from a single seed into something altogether new different; a plant bursting with new life. The old gives way to the new. There is in this a sense of sacrifice and dying; the seeds let go, yield and are transformed. One can imagine that this is a painful process of the seed seemingly losing itself. But new life does come from this painful transformation; new life comes from this loss and death.

Holy Week and Easter are in sight, but we are not there yet. This gospel leads and points towards the great event of the passion of Jesus. He is the seed that will be 'sown' in the earth. He will let go, yield, offer his life for us and be transformed. From his death will come new life. Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the fruit of eternal life. From this apparent loss will come the ultimate good. Only with death is there resurrection; what seems like Jesus' loss is our gain.

Next week we begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday. We are being called and invited by Jesus to stay with him so we can experience Good Friday and the stark reality of the cross. These are only steps on the way. The story does not end there; but we are called to stand at the cross before we can stand at empty tomb at Easter.

The cross is central not only to Lent, but to the whole message of Christianity. In the gospel today Jesus clearly says, *'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'* This glory will not come through power or prestige but through his dying and rising. He is the seed that will be 'sown' in the earth. He will let go, yield, offer his life for us and be transformed. From his death will come our new life.

If we have the courage and strength to stay will Jesus as he dies, then we will also share in the fruit of this; his resurrection, because **we are heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; we share in his suffering, so as to share his glory.** (Rmns: 8.17)

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....
Unah Burr, Gwen Murtagh, Geoff Wines

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, Tequimata, 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.

The **Walking Group will resume on Friday 16th April**, with a Heritage Walk along Main Street, Mornington. A leisurely walk of about one hour, followed by morning tea Meet at 10.00am at the Monument on the corner of Main Street and The Esplanade. For enquiries, contact Christine on 0431 696 084.



The Welfare Officers for March are Jim & Betty Bourke



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.

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>

Stewardship

Received last weekend.....\$ 3,759
Pledged last weekend\$ 1,392

Presbytery

Amount received last week\$ 765

(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.

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

EAST TIMOR UPDATE –LAST CONTAINER TO ET

We are about to deliver our last container to East Timor. Over the last 21 years we have sent 40 containers filled with desks, rice, clothing and many other useful things to the parish of Laga and its surrounding villages. This joyful journey has come to an end because the pandemic has caused us to run out of money to cover freight. Also we face an uncertain prospect of generating more. Each container costs \$8000-\$9000 to send. We have just enough money to cover the last container. Of course if in the future funds arrive to cover freight we will happily fill and send more containers. For the future we will concentrate of sponsoring the education of children who but for the sponsorship would be taken out of school and sent to work in the family vegetable garden.

Currently over 30 children are being sponsored through school and university.



If you would like to find out more about sponsorship, email Les Harper: lesharper@optusnet.com.au

Or phone 0408 123 562

Reserve your seat for
the EASTER Masses

Please use the On-line
booking service—

<https://www.trybooking.com/BPRYK>

If you do not have internet
please call the Parish
Office to make the booking
for you.

EASTER volunteers:

Readers, AV Operators,
Registration Desk and
after-Mass Cleaners are
REQUIRED for **MASSES** held on:

Holy Thursday	7.00 pm
Good Friday	3.00 pm
Easter Saturday	8.00 pm
Easter Sunday	8.00 am
Easter Sunday	10.00 am

**Please contact the Parish
Office to put your name on the
lists.**

Parish Sacramental Program 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.



Survey for Parish Volunteers

According to Pope Francis, volunteers represent the hand of Christ reaching out. Every week approximately 22,000 parishioners across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne reach out to perform many diverse and necessary roles within parishes to create vibrant local communities of grace. Volunteers in ministry are the lifeblood of our parishes and are a precious resource to be nurtured.

In October 2020, the Professional Standards Unit, Human Resources and the Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal teams came together to form a working group with the intention of creating a volunteer management framework and resources encompassing safeguarding, human resource and missionary renewal perspectives to strengthen parish capacity to engage parishioners in ministry.

Your feedback as a volunteer in ministry in your parish will be helpful in developing a framework that will better support the recruitment, engagement and support of volunteers within your parish.

Completing the survey...

This survey may take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

Your survey responses are confidential.

We value for your participation in this survey and kindly ask that all responses are submitted by COB on 16th of April 2021.

You may wish to complete the survey by selecting this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNBE1R9>



Or by scanning the QR code on your mobile device.

Further information...

For further information about this survey or the work of the Volunteer Management Working Group, please contact:

Suzette Diaz
Human Resources Business Partner
9926 5615
suzette.diaz@cam.org.au

Tamara Cugnetto
Team Leader
Professional Standards Unit
0447 128 125
tamara.cugnetto@cam.org.au

Llewy Berchy
Animation Consultant
Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal
0439 764 546
Llewy.berchy@cam.org.au

Linda Franco
Senior Policy Advisor
Professional Standards Unit
0429 816 342
linda.franco@cam.org.au



Baptism Enquiries:
Please send an email to
the Parish Office



Are You New to Our Parish ?
Please take and fill-in
a new parishioner form
in the Church Foyer



Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff.



Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour across Australia. You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to lent.caritas.org.au.

Do you have any TIP Vouchers you could donate to the Parish to keep our grounds looking their best?



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-

THURSDAY, 25th March The seven last words: Jesus the teacher

After the 9:15 Mass on Wednesday there will be Stations of the Cross celebrated during Lent; all are welcome.



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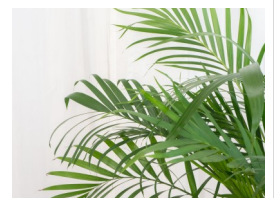
QR Code Registration System



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

Request for volunteers:

Can you help / assist people lining up to Register with the QR Code system before each Mass? This will help reduce the queue waiting times.



Do you have any Palm Fronds we can use to decorate our Church for next weekend. Please contact the Parish Office. We are looking for some larger ones for outside and some smaller Palms, Olive branches /twigs etc., to give to the congregation. Deliver by next Thursday.



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

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

This year the Church all over the world celebrates 2021 as the Year of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.

In his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-stjoseph.html>

Feast Days of St Joseph:

Friday 19 March - Solemnity of St Joseph,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 1 May - Memorial of St Joseph the Worker Year of St Joseph -

Spouse of Mary and loving father to Jesus.

St Joseph is the patron saint of: Universal Church; Workers; Families; The Dying; Fathers & Married couples.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

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

Palm Sunday 2021

Palm Sunday walks will be held in every major city in Australia in 2021.

This is a chance to show solidarity with many individuals and groups who want to welcome people seeking refuge and treat all those who have arrived with dignity and care.

Melbourne's walk will commence at the State Library corner of Swanston and La Trobe Streets at 2pm and end at the park opposite the Arts Centre.

There will be performances from artists with a refugee background from 1.30 at the library site.

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network and co-sponsored by **BASP (Brigidine Asylum Seeker Resource Centre)**. To endorse the rally, email info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au

This event will be COVIDsafe, please wear a mask and register with our QR code on the day.

Walk for **JUSTICE & a fair go for REFUGEES** 2021

Release ALL refugees - End Offshore Processing - Bring Them Here
Permanent Visas - Income Support - Family Reunion

Palm Sunday 28 March
2pm State Library cnr Swanston & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network to endorse the rally email info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au
call Marie 0409 252 673 or Chris 0403 013 183 or visit <https://fb.me/w/55qGj5fy> for more info
This event will be COVIDsafe, please wear a mask, and register with our QR codes on the day

Reader's Workshop

The celebration of Mass is at the heart of our life as Catholics. Through the Liturgy of the Word we hear the living voice of God speaking to us at Mass through the lectionary.

We're currently looking for new volunteers to assist with proclaiming readings at Sunday and Weekday Masses. To assist parishioners in this sometimes daunting task, we'll be running a workshop on **Saturday, 17th of April at 10am.**

This workshop is for all new volunteer readers and all existing readers are welcome to join for a refresher. The workshop will explore why readings are chosen and combined, and highlight how readings fit into the liturgical year.

Parishioners will learn how to interpret the text to help them proclaim more effectively. If you're interested, please contact the Parish Office .



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.

5th 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

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

RESPONSE:

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me God in your kindness
in your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

A pure heart create for me O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
That I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you **R**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

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.

Communion Antiphon

Amen, Amen I say to you; Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Next Week's Readings Palm Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1– 15:47