

SEASONS

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

5th Sunday in Easter — Year B

2nd May 2021

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

Diary Upcoming:

Tuesday May 4th
Sacramental Information Meeting,
7.00pm, Church

Thursday May 6th
Baptism Preparation Meeting,
7.30pm, PPC



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

Tuesday	7.00 pm
Wednesday	8.30 am
Thursday	No Mass
Friday	No Mass

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	6.00 pm
Sunday	8.00 am
	& 10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday	5:30 - 6:00 pm
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Dear Friends,

As we continue to celebrate these days of the resurrection we are assured of the risen Lord's presence with us. His presence is strengthening and preparing us for his physical departure (Ascension Sunday) which allows the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) to come down. Through the spirit, we come to know and love God's Family (Trinity Sunday). These feast days encourage us to take time and consider how the death and resurrection of Jesus impacts our own lives.

During the last week myself and Fr Brendan Hayes, EV celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with children, sponsors and families from St Thomas More Parish. Let us pray that the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit that have been received would build up our Community of faith. I will be taking annual leave over the next three Sundays. During this time Fr Joe O'Shea will be celebrating the weekend Masses at St Thomas More. While I'm away, I will continue to pray for you all and offer Mass each Sunday for our community. For weekdays, parishioners may like to check the Mass times at neighboring parishes: Mornington, Somerville and Frankston.



Fr Patrick

Reflection (Fr Paul Gallacher OFM)

The image of God as the master gardener is familiar. Usually, Israel would have been represented as the vine through which individuals maintain their relationship with God.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a vineyard which God has planted. But the vineyard has refused to bear good fruit. In the gospel text, John uses the image of a vine that carries life throughout the plant to teach the Christian community that it is through their relationship with Jesus Christ that they maintain their relationship with God. Another appealing aspect of this image is that it is difficult to tell where the grapevine's vine ends and the branches begin. Like with grapevines, the different branches spring out from each other and are twisted about each other. The text also emphasizes that the purpose of the plant is to produce a harvest. The nonbearing branches are pruned away from the plant so that new branches will grow that will produce a harvest. The branches cut off from the vine will die.

The vine becomes an image for the new Christian community that is dealing with diversity within itself. That diversity can cause some strain on their relationships with each other and the community itself. The new Christians came from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. They were Jews and Greeks. Among the first followers of Jesus were those, like Paul, who at first openly persecuted Jesus and his followers. John uses the image of the vine to speak to this diverse group of people. The risen Christ gives each of them life and binds them together. To be cut off from the other branches is to be cut off from the life source itself.

A system of patronage was widely used at the time of Jesus. Normally people received the goods they needed through a system of trading. If this system failed to meet the needs of people, other sources would have to be developed. People at the time of the Jesus would seek out someone with more influence to be his or her patron. If the patron accepted the responsibility, they would seek what was needed for the other. A patron had no expectation of repayment. Instead, the patron would receive abundant public praise from those that they sponsored. The public admiration that was inspired by others proclaiming one's generosity and compassion was highly valued by people of the day.

**We
pray
for..**

Those who have passed away recently... Michael Seymour

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Joe Kilgariff, Bernadette Thomas

The sick... 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.**



Funeral Service for Michael Seymour will be held here at STM, next Friday 7th May at 11am.

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.

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.



Walking With Wisdom—Mother Teresa

"We cannot find God in noise and agitation. Nature: trees, flowers, and grass grow in silence. The stars, the moon, and the sun move in silence. What is essential is not what we say but what God tells us and what He tells others through us. In silence He listens to us; in silence, He speaks to our souls. In silence, we are granted the privilege of listening to His voice.

Silence of our eyes. Silence of our ears.
Silence of our mouths. Silence of our minds.
..in the silence of the heart God will speak.

Silence of the heart is necessary so you can hear God everywhere—
in the closing of the door, in the person who needs you, in the birds that sing, in the flowers, in the animals.
If we are careful of silence it will be easy to pray."

- St Teresa of Calcutta #comeintothequiet

Appeal monies raised and forwarded:

Lent—Project Compassion \$ 399.00
Good Friday—Holy Places \$ 402.45

Thank you to all who contributed to these worthy causes.



Stewardship

Received last weekend \$1,548
Pledged last weekend \$1,013
April weekly average..... \$2,509

Presbytery

Amount received last week \$ 648

(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.

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](#)

WE NEED SPONSORS FOR EAST TIMOR

Education sponsorship can make a big contribution improving the lives of children of our poorest neighbours.

Some of the poorer families in East Timor can't afford to send their children to school. The average income for most families is less than \$10.00 per week. This is mostly earned by selling a few vegetables the families may grow.



Putting the people's income into perspective, a teacher as an example will only earn about \$50.00 per month, or a bus driver may earn \$5.00 per week.

When the children reach their early teens many poor families send them to work in the family vegetable garden instead of sending them to school, thereby overcoming the need to pay school fees which they can't afford.

The cycle of poverty is very difficult to break. We attempt to do this by sponsoring the education of poor children.

Sponsors are asked to make a contribution of \$200 at the beginning of each school/university year. This goes a long way to meeting school/university fees. The sponsored support continues for the educational life of the child, continuing in many cases through to University.

Sponsored children's parents are required to enter into an agreement allowing their child to continue being educated.

A copy of the child's end of year school/university report is presented to sponsors together with a 'letter of gratitude' from the child.

If you would like to become a sponsor or discuss the possibility of sponsorship further, contact Les Harper on mobile 0408123562 or email 'lesharper@optusnet.com.au'.

More details can be seen on the web site "HELPING EAST TIMOR" AT 'lesharper.org'.

Help for marriages under stress:

The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future.

Visit: smartloving.org/breakthrough
Divine Mercy Discount - 50% | until May 10



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.



Bring and Buy Stall - Homemade, Handmade, Homegrown



What a joy it was to see and hear all the happy faces and animated conversation as friends, old and new, gathered around the Bring and Buy stall this past weekend!

Perhaps it was because it was a tangible sign of a return to 'normal' existence post COVID, that prompted everyone's good spirits. Certainly connecting with fellow parishioners and gathering as community after such a long hiatus was reason to celebrate.

Thank you to all the generous makers, bakers and growers. The stall was bursting at the seams. Thank you to all of you who purchased goods. We made \$437. A remarkable effort considering numbers at masses have not yet returned to normal. Thank you to the volunteers who helped 'woman' the stall at each mass. If you would like to assist in this regard please let me know.

The next stall is on 29/30th May. See you there.
Maree Taverna 0425 721 207

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 Common Good

This refers to the Greatest good for all just because they are human beings. We are connected with other people. Each individual and group has the right to achieve their potential. Each social group must take account of the rights and aspirations of other groups, and of the well-being of the entire human family. It refers to the moral formula of the greatest good for all simply on the basis that they are human beings and therefore inherently worthy of respect.

What are the consequences of this principle for those living in poor countries?

John 1. 3:18-24 calls us to love one another as he commanded us, to love all members of the human family. The Gospel (*John 15:1-8*) reinforces this connectedness with Jesus saying *he is the vine and we are the branches*.

The Papal Encyclical **Rerum Novarum** (1891) In 'On the Condition of the Working Person' stated: 'In protecting the rights of private individuals, however, special consideration must be given to the weak and the poor. For the nation, as it were, of the rich, is guarded by its own defences and is in less need of governmental protection, whereas the suffering multitude, without the means to protect itself, relies especially on the protection of the State. (#54)

Quadragesimo Anno (1931) 'After Forty Years' reflects a change in emphasis in papal teaching directed to the concept of social justice. It teaches that it is the responsibility of all groups, organizations, nations and individuals to pursue the common good. This obligation to pursue the common good falls, in different ways, upon all in society, the state, voluntary associations, businesses and professional groups, religious and cultural organisations and citizens.

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**



**Do you have any TIP Vouchers from your
Council Rate Notices you could donate to
the Parish to keep our grounds looking
their best?**



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.

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.

All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.

New members would be very, very welcome

Wednesday 12th May Lunch in the BAYVIEW RESTAURANT at the Mornington Golf Club at 12 noon. Two courses (Entrée & Main) with glass of house wine or pot of Australian tap beer. **\$39 per head.** Desserts at \$15.50 are also available. Book with Fiona on 5976 7064 by May 5th. Booking is essential.



Friday 21st May The Walking Group will meet in the Balcombe Estuary carpark at 10.00am for a walk along the board walk. B.Y.O Morning tea. For enquiries, contact Christine on 0431 696 084.



Tuesday 1st June Monthly Meetings will resume in the Undercroft following 10.00am Mass in the Church.

**The Welfare Officers for May are
Carolyn Gascoigne & Aileen Calley**

Dear Parishioners

Our greetings of good health and wellbeing to you and your families.

PAF is unable to run the Mothers' Day envelope drive this year so instead we are suggesting that if you are able to donate to our annual appeal, you can do so by paying cash/cheque to your parish office; or to the PAF Centre; by cheque or by a direct payment into our account at **WESTPAC BSB: 033 272 ACC: 318726.**

If you would like a receipt, then please provide your name and contact details in an email to pafcares@gmail.com

We thought that this year we could extend the appeal to run the length of May, the month of Our Lady,

Our Saviour's Mother. She is mother to all mothers and knows full well the struggles and needs of disadvantaged pregnant women and their babies and families.

We wish a Happy Mothers' Day to all the mothers reading this
and may you and your families be blessed abundantly.
Kind regards from the PAF Committee and Volunteers

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE FRANKSTON INC.

14 Young Street, Frankston, Victoria, Australia 3199 / Telephone: (03) 9770 6226 Fax: (03) 9770 6227
pafcares@gmail.com / ABN 71 659 195 700 Certificate of Incorporation A005156L



TO THE FATHER

Heavenly Father,
 St Joseph set aside his own plans to embrace your dream for us.
 You invited his help in caring for Jesus your Son, our Saviour,
 and the Revealer of your wonderful love.
 Enable us to live by your loving plan
 and to reflect to the world the light of Christ.

St Joseph, man of dreams and trusting steward, pray for us.

TO THE SON

Lord Jesus,
 You grew in wisdom and maturity
 as you lived in the family of Nazareth
 in daily communion with St Joseph and Mary your mother.
 From St Joseph you learned the dignity of human work.
 Give parents the wisdom to support their children
 and to guide them in the way and work of your Kingdom.

St Joseph, faithful parent and diligent worker, pray for us.

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Creator Spirit,
 We see in St Joseph a tenderness and reverence for all your creation.
 We learn from him to approach others justly and tenderly,
 and to see our world as endowed with the glory of God.
 Teach us to love one another
 and to be of humble service to all of creation,
 empowered by your life within us.

St Joseph, wise protector and humble servant, pray for us.

St Joseph Prayer

At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli placed the Archdiocese of Melbourne under the intercession and guardianship of St Joseph.

Since then, parishes, schools, diocesan staff and the wider community have been invited to pray to St Joseph during this time of uncertainty.

On the feast of St Joseph, 19 March 2021, and as we enter into this Year of the Family, Archbishop Comensoli has encouraged the community to pray this new prayer seeking the intercession of St Joseph:



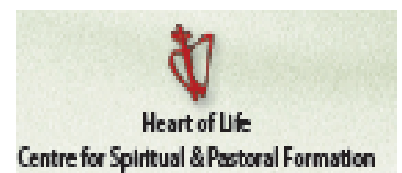
Aid to the
 Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: ACN distributes over one million Bibles and religious books thanks to the help of our benefactors every year. Jesus commanded "Go out into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation." ACN takes this command seriously by spreading the faith through these Children's Bibles. Often in poor countries, the Children's Bible is the first book that children receive in their own language and frequently, it is the only picture book that they will ever hold. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/bibles

Spiritual accompaniment is an ancient Christian tradition whereby a trusted companion (a spiritual director) journeys with you to listen deeply to your life experiences and invites you to become more aware of how God is present in your everyday life. If you would like to experience spiritual accompaniment, Heart of Life is currently offering monthly Spiritual Direction free of charge for people who will be accompanied by students of the Spiritual Direction

Formation Program (Siloam) under the supervision of our Heart of Life qualified supervisors. **If interested, please contact Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation Rear 41, Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC 3144 03 9890 1101 • info@heartoflife.melbourne** Experience Spiritual Accompaniment An Invitation to Have you ever wanted to explore God's presence in your daily life?



Nametags: We have had a few inquiries about the wearing of nametags like we use to before COVID. While we are still under COVID guidelines, we will not be offering labels and pens to write your names on:- however if you have a nametag at home, please wear it to Church. This is just one way of us getting to know each other better.

Next Week's Readings
Sixth Sunday of Easter



1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

2nd Reading: I John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More Fundraiser - Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle

Please note that **ALL** of the net proceeds from the sale of these tickets will be returned to the Parish of St. Thomas More.
ie: for every \$2 Ticket Sold—
we retain \$1.50 for our Parish.

The prize pool is 1 car and 19 gift vouchers.
Permit 10110/21—100,000 tkts issued.

L A S T W E E K E N D

the Parish is selling tickets for the annual Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle.

- 1st Prize :
Suzuki Baleno GL 1.4ltr Auto including on-road costs valued at \$22,390
- 2nd Prize :
Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of \$5,000
- 3rd Prize :
Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of \$2,000
- 4th—6th Prizes :
Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of \$1,000 (x 3)
- 7th-20th Prizes :
Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of \$500 (x14)

Tickets sell for \$2 each.

We will be selling tickets and distribute books of tickets outside the Church after Mass.

We encourage parishioners including school families to take a book to sell.

To request a ticket - or better still - a book of tickets, call 9787 7777, or drop into the Parish office or School office.

All raffle books (including unsold tickets) must be returned to the Parish office with payment **by Wednesday 5th May.**

5th Sunday of Easter

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: Acts 9:26-31

Barnabas explained how the Lord had
appeared to Saul on his journey

Responsorial Psalm

*I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.*

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

*I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

*I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.*

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
‘These things the Lord has done.’

*I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.*

Second Reading: I John 3:18-24

The commandment of faith and love|

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:1-8

I am the vine, you are the branches



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 Rite

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away
the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

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

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.