



SEASONS

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

31st October 2021

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



Reflection:

As we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, our Lectionary skips a chapter that helps set the context for today's reading. If we were to read the sections skipped (chapter 11 and part of chapter 12), we would hear about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his cleansing of the Temple, and the questioning of Jesus' authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders. The context, therefore, for this Gospel is Jesus' growing exposure before the Jewish authorities. Jesus is being questioned and tested by the Jewish authorities, yet the scribe who addresses Jesus in today's Gospel seems to be an admirer; he is not testing Jesus.



The question posed in today's Gospel requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional commandments, numbering into the hundreds. For a devout Jew, adherence to the Mosaic Law is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of these commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus was not the only Jewish religious teacher to connect these two commandments, love of God and love of neighbor. Both of these commandments were central elements of the religious tradition that Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed, these commandments continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbor. Many believe, however, that this connection was heard in a new and fresh way when spoken by Jesus.

The scribe who questions Jesus in today's Gospel engages in a positive dialogue with Jesus. He agrees with Jesus' teaching that the commandments to love God and love neighbor stand above the commandment to offer worship and sacrifice in the Temple. With this dialogue, Jesus appears to close the debate with the Jewish authorities. Mark reports that no one dared to question Jesus further.

November Prayers for the Dead

In the month of November the Church traditionally remembers things involved with the end: the end of our lives, the end of time, the second coming of Christ and the four last things. We begin with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, then conclude November with the Solemnity of Christ the King and the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of special preparation for Jesus' return in glory. It's a great month to remember what really matters in our life: our eternal destiny and the destiny of those around us.

Keeping with this theme, praying for the dead is an important tradition for Catholics in November as well. Those who die in a perfect relationship with God will immediately experience the glory of God in heaven. But those who are not yet perfect (or in other words, are still holding on to some attachments to things that aren't from God) when they die will go to heaven, but through the purification of purgatory. It's in purgatory that we are perfected so that we can experience the full beauty, splendour and glory of God.

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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

Temporary Schedule

(During transition)

Mass

Monday All Saints 10 am

Tuesday All Souls 10 am

Wednesday 10 am

(Thursday-No Mass)

Friday 10 am

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 10 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4.30 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.



We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Len Crowe (relative of Judy Jones) and Shirley Spry

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... William and Irene Ryan, Mona Kelly, David Mitchell, and Amelia Smith

The sick... Keith Donovan, Martin & Helen Steyn, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Dennis Mirrabella, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Luke

Carroll, Betty Corke, David Dole, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Jake Steyn, Adrian Gobel, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Chronos / Ranelagh Gardens Nursing home and the parishioners of **St Thomas More Parish, Tequiomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**



Sacramental Program Enquiries:
Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation



Baptism Enquiries:
Infant and older Children



Please send an email to the Parish Office

STM Social Club

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

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

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.



This year COVID has made getting together very difficult. So instead of our usual Christmas Lunch the Social Club will have a **Social Christmas Morning Tea in the Howard Parker Reserve.** (off Canadian Bay Rd—Melway ref: 101 E12) on **Wednesday 8th December** between 10am-12noon.

BYO tea, coffee, nibbles and a chair if possible.

We will have a chance to catch up with friends and have a good chat. Hope to see you there.



The Welfare Officer for October is Catharina Tirtowinoto

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859



Existing Volunteers are asked to provide to the Parish Office :

1. A copy of their Working With Children Card and
2. Sign the Code of Conduct Declaration Form after reading the Code of Conduct.

[Code of Conduct Document](#) to read

[Code of Conduct Declaration Form](#) to sign

[How to apply for WWCC Card instructions](#)

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

[STM Parish MISSION Discussion](#)



Stewardship

Received last weekend \$ 1,794

Pledged last weekend \$ 1,029

Presbytery

Received last weekend \$ 670

Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

Lockdown Light—a weekly series

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at www.bit.ly/LockdownLight

Lord, we pray for our civil and political leaders. May they act and speak with wisdom, compassion and generosity, fostering unity and charity rather than fear and division. Amen.



Continued from Front Page....

How Can Our Prayers Benefit Our Brothers and Sisters who have died?

Christ in His suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension (called the Paschal mystery), destroyed death and opened up the way for eternal life. His sacrifice removed our sins, renewed our human nature, and gave us the opportunity to have eternal life with God in heaven.

St. Paul gives us something to think about in Colossians where he says "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake," he writes, "and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church." If Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins, how do St Paul's words make any sense?

Here we can remember how the Church views the Paschal mystery. Although Jesus' sacrifice was substitutionary (he took on our fate), it's much more than that: it's also participatory. We don't just remember the love of Christ that landed Him on the cross and which gives us salvation, we participate in the Paschal mystery with Christ. St. Paul says in the New Testament that if we've died with Christ, we will rise with Him. Our lives are bound up with that of Christ, who united us to Himself in Baptism.

This makes it possible for all our prayers, works, joys and sufferings to be offered together with Christ in his ultimate gift to the Father on the cross. It's through offering our lives for others that we die with Christ so as to rise with Him to the glory of the resurrection in heaven. This offering takes place in a unique way through the Sacraments, which are a profound way to enter into Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10:16 that "the cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?"

This means that our prayers for the faithful depart are not just pious thoughts about the afterlife or our loved ones. Our sacrifices, the crosses in our life can become a way that God reveals the power of the Paschal mystery. Later this month of November there will be an opportunity to remember our loved ones at St Thomas More and to pray for their peace and eternal glory. You are welcome to join us at 10am Mass for the feasts of All Saints (Monday) and All Souls (Tuesday).



Prior to COVID, we would have the Book of the Names of the Dead displayed in the church during November.

You can still put forward your Names of the Dead Prayer intentions via the Yellow November Mass Intention Envelopes in your Thanksgiving sets or pick up an envelope in Church Foyer. Fill out and place in collection bag or hand to Fr Patrick.

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert Street East Melbourne VIC 3002

Email: Ted.Javernik@sosj.org.au

Phone: +613 9926 9310 Mobile: 0419 513 184

'Çuppa with Mary' - MMHC is reopening for parishioners on Mon 8th Nov from 9 am – 5 pm. Come visit the Museum that tells Mary and the SOSJ's story, do a walking tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and Mary's place of birth. Special times have been set aside for Parish groups to have a 'Çuppa with Mary' which includes a presentation, tour and prayer reflection in the Chapel where Mary prayed, at a cost of \$20 per person. Contact Kate on 9926 9300 for a group booking.

Accommodation Specials - With Melbourne opening up again, events like the Boxing Day Test and Australian Open will be big draw cards! Book your next stay at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Please contact Kate on 9926 9300.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collect

Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

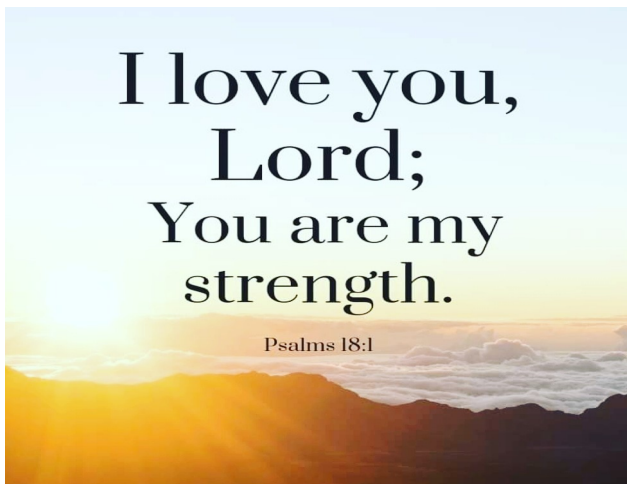
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,
 my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
 My God is the rock where I take refuge;
 my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
 The Lord is worthy of all praise,
 when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
 Praised be the God who saves me,
 He has given great victories to his king
 and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading Hebrews 7:23-28
Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
 and my Father will love them,
 and we will come to them.
 Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 12:28-34**'You are not far from the kingdom of God'**

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

**Prayer**

God of power and mercy,
 by whose grace your people give you praise
 and worthy service,
 save us from faltering
 on our way to the joys you have promised.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
 Holy Spirit, (one) God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Next Week's Readings**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16

2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44



For the next few weekends

Mass will be at

Saturday 5 pm**Sunday 10 am**

QR Sign in — No need to book