



SEASONS

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

12th September 2021

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



When you notice a change,
no matter how small

Trust the Signs, Trust your Gut
& Ask R U O K?

Learn the signs and how to ask at ruok.org.au

RUOK?
A conversation about changeable

Suicide & Crisis Support/
Lifeline 13 11 14

Beyond Blue Support Service
1300 22 4636

**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

Dear Friends,

The lockdown continues well into the coming month. Please let me know 03 97877777 if you are in need of the sacraments or any other spiritual ministry.

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.

Reflection:

In the book of Genesis the author identifies a burden which faced our first parents, something which the theologians call “original solitude”. In the second chapter of Genesis God said “it is not good for man to be alone”. As it turns out it was not very good for woman to be alone either! So God set about remedying this problem by putting our first parents into relationship and communion with each other. The first family was a type and sign of the Church- a communion of fellowship bound by love of God and each other. Throughout his ministry Christ continued building on these early foundations – appointing twelve apostles, confidants and collaborators who would establish the Church. At the cross Jesus gave his mother, Mary to become our mother, and the Church to become our family. Even more = the Church became the tangible sign of God’s communion, union and presence with us, especially through the Sacraments and the Priesthood. It is in, through and with this family that we come to love and be in relationship with God and each other.

As we now approach our sixth week of lockdown it is worthwhile to acknowledge this extended time of isolation goes against some of the powerful natural and spiritual instincts given to us by God. While media and technology can help bring people closer together, they are poor substitutes for real communion. On the other hand, media and technology can become overwhelming with their daily pilgrimage of press conferences and depressing statistics about ‘cases’ ‘deaths’ and ‘spread’. In the midst of all of this, it is important we foster that virtue of Christian hope.

St Thomas Aquinas noted that hope is tied up with friendship; we hope more when “we have friends to rely on”. We do not hope alone but we hope together. Christian hope doesn’t promise that life will be easy, but it helps us to keep a perspective on what it truly important in our lives and what is not. Paul Wadell writes in America Magazine “Hope is imperiled not so much by the misfortunes, struggles and sometimes inconsolable losses that come our way. Rather hope diminishes—and eventually disappears—when we lose sight of who we are and where we are going. Who are we? We are pilgrims on a journey to God, making our way to God and helping others do so as well”.

With the COVID-19 pandemic drawing into new phase let us conscious in how we hope and what we hope for. Christian hope is not driven by statistics about case numbers, deaths and hospitalisations. Hope is not determined by vaccination rates, effectivity or which strain of virus is able to evade the vaccine. Hope doesn’t come or go with government restrictions, lockdowns or exemptions. This kind of ‘hope’ can appear and disappear just as quickly, as we’ve seen over the last eighteen months. These kinds of ‘hope’ can turn out to be false and fleeting.

Christian hope reminds us that we are pilgrims on a journey to God and to heaven. Christian hope gives us perspective and wisdom about who we are and where we’re going. This hope validates the pain and suffering we go through here and now, and turns us back to our consolation and strength – God. It helps us to face the roller coaster of life’s ups and downs with less fear and worry because God is in control and God helps us through them. Hope assures us we were not made for solitude or isolation; we can only truly hope in relationship and communion with each other, with the Church and with the Sacraments. Christian is a gift from God that we pray for and earnestly desire especially at this difficult time.



Fr Patrick

We pray for..

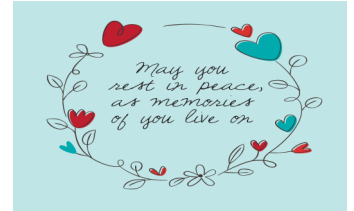
Those who have passed away recently... Yvonne Holmes and David Congdon.

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Myrtle Haines, Maurice Doyle, Matthew Kelly, Monica Prendergast, Patricia Ginnane, and John Murphy.



The sick... Kate Matheson, Jo Chaney, Yvonne Holmes, 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, 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.**

The Holmes Family wish to thank everyone for their prayers for Yvonne over the last month. Rest In Peace



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. *All activities will be advertised in SEASONS.*

The Welfare Officers for September are Nancy Collinson & Colleen McNamara

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](#)

Stewardship

Received last weekend \$ 2,576

Pledged last weekend \$ 3,266

Presbytery

Received last weekend \$ 185

(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.



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

PRODUCED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Lockdown Light—week two

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 below.

Podcasts for Christian living: Unity in marriage (part 1)

In this podcast, Catholic counsellors, Dr Bob Schuchts and Jake Khym discuss how marriage is a union of two broken people, and yet when the love of God is invited in, unity is made possible. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving2

Getting to know your Bible: Exploring the Gospels

As Christians, we have four accounts of the life of Jesus, called Gospels. How should we read them?

Getting started: This video by a Franciscan priest looks at how it's possible to understand different Gospel accounts and stories about Jesus. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted2


Going deeper: This year, we are reading Mark's Gospel at Mass. This video provides an introduction into the crafting and structure of the Gospel and the portrait of Jesus presented. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper2

Anima
EDUCATION


AN APOSTOLATE OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA INC.

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

AN INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE



At the heart of the Sacred Tradition of the Church, and forming with it "one sacred deposit of the word of God" (Dei Verbum, 10), are the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. This series seeks to introduce you to Scriptures, what kind of writings they are, how they came to us, and how the Church reads them. As a collection of books by many authors from many centuries, the Bible contains many different kinds of writing. The course will particularly focus on the narrative sections of Scripture and on the history of our salvation, which is the "Greatest Story ever told".



20 hours of interactive lecture/discussion (5 x 2-hour sessions).

Presented by David Schütz
MTh (cand.), GradCert Higher Ed., GradDip Ministry, GradDip LIM, BA, BTh.

DATE: Monday nights – from **13 September to 11 October**
TIME: 7pm
WHERE: This unit is offered in both face-to-face mode at Mary Glowrey House and on Zoom. Zoom classes will broadcast David's live lectures (facilitated by Natasha Marsh).
COST: \$95
BOOKING: <https://www.trybooking.com/BTEYP>
When enrolling please indicate which mode you wish to participate in.
UNIT OUTLINE: <http://animanetwork.org/anima-education>
ENQUIRIES: David Schütz 0400 978 938 or animaeducation@animanetwork.org

"If we really wanted to summarize very briefly the content of the Faith as laid down in the Bible, we might do so by saying that the Lord has initiated a narrative of love with us and wants to subsume all creation in it."

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

CW/WWW/ASB/18/342/08/335

Dear friends,

Today Archbishop Comensoli advised that the Victorian Health Department has given new information regarding the broadcast of religious services. This advice allows for a small number of essential workers to assist with streaming and broadcasting of prayer. As we don't have the technology to live broadcast at St Thomas More owing to bandwidth and technology constraints these recordings will be made available online for later access via our parish website.

Masses are scheduled for 10am on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with devotions will be at 3pm on Friday. Mass will be also celebrated on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday 9am. I invite anyone who would be willing to help assist at Mass either as a one off or on a regular basis to contact myself or the Parish Office to express your interest. Volunteers will need to be issued with a workers permit and follow strict protocols to ensure everyone's safety.

Fr Patrick

Sacramental Program Enquiries:

Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation

Baptism Enquiries:

Infant and older Children



Please send an email to the Parish Office

5:00pm Sunday nights on Zoom!
YOUTH GROUP
Games, socials, laughs and Fun for the week!



All youth are welcome!

5:00pm each Sunday night

For the Zoom Link:
Email
morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au

Come along to compete for a home delivered pizza!

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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 Isaiah 50:5-9
I offered my back to those who struck me

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me?

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 114(116):1-6,8-9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord, my God, deliver me!

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second reading James 2:1-14-18
If good works do not go with it, faith is quite dead

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 8:27-35**The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously**

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer

Look upon us, Lord, creator and ruler of the whole world: give us grace to serve you with all our heart that we may come to know the power of your forgiveness and love. 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
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



1st Reading: Wisdom 2:12,17-20

2nd Reading: James 3:16-4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37



CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. THOMAS MORE

313 CANADIAN BAY ROAD, MOUNT ELIZA 3930

TEL: (03) 9787 7777 EMAIL: mounteliza@cam.org.au WEB: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Dear friends

Last Tuesday Jacinta Griffin from the PPLT, Vicki Abbatangelo from the Parish Office and myself represented St Thomas More Parish at a virtual meeting which discussed the Archbishop's plan "Take the way of the Gospel". A copy of Archbishop Peter's letter was published in Seasons on two occasions earlier in the year which outlined his vision and rationale for undertaking this review of Parishes. The Archbishop hopes for a Melbourne Church that is joyful, evangelical, pastoral and responsive to changing needs and demographics. I know there have been some good discussions about this in some of our parish groups and informally among our parishioners, and a few people have spoken with me directly about their thoughts, which has been welcomed. Owing to the lockdown and the difficulties in meeting together as one group the opportunities for further dialogue have been very limited.

On Tuesday for the first time more localised information was made available to us. Of particular note is that St Thomas More, Mount Eliza has been arranged together with St McCartan's, Mornington and Western Port Parish, Hastings & Somerville to form a proposed "Mission". Every parish in the diocese will eventually be part of a mission; for some of the larger parishes in the North and West their canonical structures will not change. However, in most cases parishes will be asked to adapt their structures, boundaries, administration and/or clergy ratios. In some cases it has been proposed that parish boundaries are radically reshaped. The modellers were asked to use the various data sources from the Census and mass counts to determine a number of "missions", now 62 across the diocese, which will have a minimum level of level of income, Masses, Priests, Parishes, Sacraments (baptisms / weddings / funerals / anointings); or combinations thereof.

The operation of a "Mission" has not been defined. It has loosely been described as a "family of parishes" but this too could have many applications. At one end, this 'family' could involve independent parishes choosing to cooperate and pool their resources for the common good. For example, this could mean a shared resourcing of a youth minister, child safety officer, secretary, administration, catechist, etc, who could work between and within parishes as mutually agreed. A 'family of parishes' could involve a deanery approach where one Priest co-ordinates and oversees the pastoral outreach of the surrounding parishes. 'Family' could also operate on a partnership model where existing parishes are run by the same Parish Priest who has curates, lay staff and volunteers assisting him. In some cases clergy will live and work together in shared offices or residences, which means current buildings would be reproposed. It has been stressed that this review is not intended to amalgamate or close parishes, but it was acknowledged by Archbishop Peter that the amalgamation and merging of parishes could occur after some time of working and living together as a mission.

At the moment, we're not sure about much else! There is a proposed timeline for further discussion within the parish until the end of this year (2021), and then with neighbouring parishes beginning next year (2022). We have been assured that no concrete decisions have been made about any parish and that each existing parish community will drive this journey through prayer, dialogue and discussion. This is not an easy process. Already around the diocese letters have been authored by Parish Priests involved in nascent missions to all parishes offices and clergy with strong views speaking both for and against different models.

There are many questions we will have to explore as we consider how to respond to this as a community. It is important that every voice is heard and that the great work of building up St Thomas More Parish inspired by Father Hilton Deakin and continued by Fathers Fulton, Pearson and many others is able to continue with God's help and strength. We have so much to offer, and there are opportunities for us to be enriched and shaped by our neighbours and friends. In the next few weeks I would like to host an online discussion via ZOOM within our parish to give an opportunity for parishioners to discuss their initial thoughts and to get a sense of where we're at. Further details will be sent out in the next week or two. In the meantime let us keep each other in prayer and remain open to what God might be doing in our midst.

Fr Patrick

St Thomas More Parish Mount Eliza is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.