



SEASONS

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

5th September 2021

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



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<http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford (Parish Administrator)

Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)

Sue Carr Leonie Bourke

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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



“Ephphatha!”— that is, “Be opened!”

These are powerful words. Why are they powerful? They are powerful because they are more than words. They are words that actually accomplish what they say. These words are spoken by Jesus after the deaf man is brought to Him with the request for healing. By saying the command “Be opened!”, the deaf man’s ears are opened and his speech impediment is removed.

When Jesus speaks, His word changes things. This is true in this story, but it is also true in our lives. We all are deaf and struggle with a speech impediment in the sense that we do not always hear the voice of God and we do not always speak His word and words of charity. For that reason, these words of Jesus must be spoken to us. We must let Him take us off to a quiet place alone and speak to us. We must let Him say those words to us: “Ephphatha!–Be opened!”

What is it that you are not hearing properly? What is it God has been saying to you for a long time that you refuse to hear? What is it you have allowed yourself to become deaf to? Let our Lord open the “ears” of your heart so that you can hear all that He wishes to say to you. Once that happens, Jesus will also help you speak His words of truth and love.

Reflect, today, upon how open you are to hearing the voice of God. We all struggle at times with listening, and we especially may struggle listening to God. Spend some time alone with our Lord and let Him heal you, so that you can hear and understand all that He is saying to you. Lord, I do not always listen to You. Please speak Your words of healing to me so that I can hear You more clearly. In hearing You, may I listen to all that You have to say Jesus, I trust in You.

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Susan Taylor, Grzegorz Budny and Eileen Hooker

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

Reginald Leydin, Norma Jackson, Jim Hunter, and Mary Sheila Butler

The sick... Kate Matheson, Jo Chaney, Evyonne 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.**



Funeral Service for Susan Taylor will be livestreamed on Wednesday 8th September at 11am. When the link is available we will post it on our Parish Website home page.

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	\$	379
Pledged last weekend	\$	979
August Weekly Average	\$	1,493

Presbytery

Received last weekend	\$	60
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(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 below.

Podcasts for Christian living

Quality podcasts navigating marriage and family life

Parenting as a team

This podcast from the Messy Family Project gives some great practical advice on how couples can be truly in sync with one another and parent together with unity, respect and God's grace.

Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving1

Getting to know your Bible

Resources to help you explore the Bible

How to read the Bible

Getting started: In this short video, Fr Mike Schmitz shares several reasons we should pick up our Bible again, see it with fresh eyes and allow it to transform our lives.

Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted1

Going deeper: In this video, Bishop Robert Barron looks at different approaches to understanding Scripture and how we can use them to hear God speaking to us today.

View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper1

5:00pm Sunday night's on Zoom!

YOUTH GROUP

Games, socials, laughs and Fuel for the week!





Details: All youth are welcome!
5:00pm each Sunday night
 Email

morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au
 for zoom Link

**Come along to compete for a
 home delivered pizza!**

'Treasuring Our Later Years' (Reflection series via ZOOM), 6 x Wednesdays, 22 September to 27 October 2021, 12.45pm-3pm.

Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include input, conversation and the opportunity to depth and integrate reflections and learnings through personal reflection and creative expressions. Topics covered include: ageing; spirituality; relationships; meaning; gratitude; death. Cost \$180 for the series, or \$30 per session. Bookings and payment via Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation website at www.heartoflife.melbourne For more information, contact email: secretary@heartoflife.melbourne or tel: (03) 9890 1101.

SmartLoving Breakthrough—An Online Course for spouses in troubled marriages

If your marriage is under stress or you feel disconnected from your spouse, but don't know how to ease the pain, join us for this online course.

Identify your conflict triggers.

Learn strategies to de-escalate an argument.

Restore hope with practical relationship strategies.

CONTACT: smartloving.org/breakthrough

50% Sale for Our Lady Undoer of Knots (ends

Sept 30) Use coupon code: **UndoerofKnots**



Aid to the
 Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

Education of Catechists – ACN supports the formation and training of catechists so that where there are no priests or sisters, catechists are trained and sent forth to nurture the Christian community. With the help of our benefactors, ACN supported the formation of 18,389 catechists and lay leaders in 2020. Can you help provide support and formation to catechists to help spread the Faith? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/catechists.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
 look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
 that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom
 and an everlasting inheritance.
 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 35:4-7**
**The blind shall see, the deaf hear,
 the dumb sing for joy**

Say to all faint hearts,
 'Courage! Do not be afraid.
 Look, your God is coming,
 vengeance is coming,
 the retribution of God;
 he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 the ears of the deaf unsealed,
 then the lame shall leap like a deer
 and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
 streams in the wasteland,
 the scorched earth becomes a lake,
 the parched land springs of water.

The Word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145(146):7-10*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down.
 It is the Lord who loves the just,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second reading James 2:1-5
God chose the poor according to the world to be rich in faith

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
 and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 7:31-37**'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

**Prayer**

Since it is from you, God our Father,
 that redemption comes to us,
 your adopted children,
 look with favour on the family you love,
 give true freedom to us and to all
 who believe in Christ,
 and bring us all alike to our eternal heritage.
 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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

2nd Reading: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35