



# SEASONS

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

4th Sunday of Advent — Year A

18th December 2022

## STM School Staff & parishioner Mass

Tuesday Dec 20 10.00am  
(This Mass is in addition to the usual evening Mass. )

## Volunteer's Mass

Wednesday Dec 21 10.00am

**313 Canadian Bay Rd  
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930  
Phone: 9787 7777**

**Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au**

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

**Office Days/Hours:**

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

## Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton

Paul Keane

Sandra Taylor

Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple

Kathy Raccanello

## Church Services:

### This Week

### from 19th Dec

Tuesday	Adoration	6.00 pm
Tuesday	Mass	7.00 pm

Wednesday*	Mass	10.00am
Thursday*	Mass	10.00am
Friday	Mass	10.00am

\*Rosary before Mass

### Sunday Mass

Saturday	Vigil	5.00 pm
Sunday		8.00 am
Sunday		10.00 am

### Reconciliation

Tuesday	6.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday	10.30 - 11.30am
Friday	9.00am - 10.00am

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.

## Dear Friends

Please read below, a reflection by John Paul Thomas on

## Joseph's Mercy & Fidelity

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. Matthew 1:22-24*



Try to imagine Joseph's dilemma. He loved Mary, but suddenly she was pregnant. And Joseph knew that he was not the father. So his first thought was not to chastise her, question her, or ridicule her. Instead, the Gospel says that Joseph was "unwilling to expose her to shame." This is a beautiful statement about the mercy and goodness of Saint Joseph. Instead of being self-concerned, his concern was for Mary not to experience shame at this unexpected pregnancy.

But of course the story goes much further. The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, explaining to him that "it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her" and that this Child "will save his people from their sins." Joseph's response, as quoted above, was to then do "as the angel of the Lord had commanded him" and to take Mary and her new child into his home. Therefore, this Gospel passage for today reveals to us the mercy of Joseph as well as his fidelity to the will of God, no matter what God asked of him. These two qualities will greatly assist our lives, also, if we can strive to imitate Saint Joseph.

First, we all need to have mercy in life. This means that our only interest should be to think of the good of the other. Too often when we have conflict in life, or are faced with some unexpected difficulty, we turn our eyes in upon ourselves. But a merciful heart never thinks about itself first. Instead, it thinks about the other and is fully detached from its own feelings to the point that the merciful soul is able to desire mercy for everyone, even those who have hurt us. Of course, Mary did not do anything to hurt Saint Joseph, but before he understood how she became pregnant, he certainly would have been tempted to be upset and hurt by this surprising news.

Perhaps Saint Joseph's crowning virtue was his fidelity—not only to his new wife, but also to the will of God as it was revealed to Him through the mediation of this angel. And though we do not have angels appearing to us in dreams in the same way, we are gifted with the Gospels, the teachings of the Church, the lives of the saints to lead us into God's will. When are still and quiet, God also speaks to us through our prayer and in our consciences. Like Joseph, the invitation from God is fidelity to all that God asks.

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**We  
pray  
for.....**

**Those who have passed away recently...**



**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**

David Duff, Tom Sanders, Margaret Wunder, Carmel Bainbridge, Jason Sutton, Frank McConville, Marie Peters, George Vines, Tom Shannon

**The sick...** Maureen Mirabella, Adrian & Maree Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, Rodney Abbatangelo (kidney transplant 18/8/22) , Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Betty Corke, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Rosalie McKiernan, Julian Collins, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre *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 Parish Welfare officers for December are Betty and Jim Bourke 0429 011 082**

**Thank you!**

**Mass for Volunteers**

Wednesday's 10 Mass will be offered for parish volunteers to say thankyou. Followed by refreshments in Parish Community Centre.

While every parish relies on the goodwill and generosity of volunteers, in 2022 as we have reopened and reconnected St Thomas More Parish is particularly grateful to the many volunteers who have helped in so many practical ways around the Parish. From the working bees, looking after the grounds, hospitality after Mass, helping around the altar and sacristy, reaching out to the disadvantaged. All volunteers are welcome to join us for Mass on Wednesday at 10am, to be followed by refreshments in the Parish Community Centre. No need to RSVP. -Fr Patrick

### **Parish Social Function**

#### **Fashion Parade**

Parish Community Centre  
Tuesday February 7 at 2.00pm

**U and I Fashions:** a well known brand both in Victoria and the Gold Coast (and daughters of Lois Bracken) will present classic, classy and casual clothing.

Phone Lois to book before February 1st  
9787 –2970 (after 5.00pm is best)

A message from **Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN** is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal **Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas.** The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria.

It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas!

To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit [www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022](http://www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022)

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So we reflect on this Sunday upon these virtues of Saint Joseph and consider how they are lived in my life. Do I show mercy to others and will their good? If yes, then I am imitating the virtue of fidelity to the will of God. God's will is mercy itself. This is Who He is. Mercy must permeate our lives

*My most merciful Jesus, You inspired Saint Joseph to be compassionate to Your dear mother at the time of great confusion over her pregnancy. Help me to imitate the mercy and goodness of Saint Joseph by not judging and by growing in a desire for mercy for all people, including those who have hurt me. May I do this in complete fidelity to Your most holy will. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## Advent Reconciliation

Advent is about watching and preparing -we are watching and preparing for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, at Christmas, but the readings remind us that we are also watching and preparing for his second coming. We are taught that we do so by our attempts to "go up to the Lord's mountain," to learn his ways, and to "walk in his paths" (Isaiah 2:3). Isaiah suggests to us that Advent has something to do with conversion. Conversion is a "radical reorientation of the whole life". This reality is at the heart of this blessed season, and it is meant to lead us to the joyful celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. We encounter St. John the Baptist in the Gospel readings for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent, and in him the message of conversion comes to the forefront. John is presented to us as the one who prepares the way for the Lord, and he is the one who calls us to "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

During this Season of Advent the Church invites us to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation which offers healing, restoration and hope. This week there will be three opportunities to receive the Sacrament:

### Reconciliation Times

Tuesday 20th Dec 6-7pm

Thursday 22nd Dec 10:30-11:30am

Friday 23rd Dec 9-10am



**Family Mass -6.30pm**

Preceded by Carols at 5.45pm

**Christmas Eve Mass - 9.00pm**

Preceded by Carols at 8.30pm

**Christmas Day Mass - 8.00am**

**Christmas Day Mass - 10.00am**

To those who will be attending **Christmas Day Masses at 8am or 10am ...**  
To mark the festive occasion, there will be carols at both masses, so come prepared to raise your voices in song!

**Entrance Antiphon**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**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**                      **Isaiah 7:10-14**

The maiden is with child.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second reading**                      **Romans 1:1-7**

Our apostolic mission is to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations.

**Gospel Acclamation**                      **Matthew 1:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

**Gospel**                                      **Matthew 1:18-24**

How Jesus Christ came to be born.

**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.

**The mystery of faith**

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Next Sunday's Readings for Mass during the day.

**25th December - The Nativity of Our Lord**

1st Reading:    Isaiah 52 :7-10  
2nd Reading:    Hebrews 1:1-6  
Gospel:            John 1:1-18