



SEASONS

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

4th Sunday of Lent — Year C

27th March 2022

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

Diary:

Thursday 7th April

Baptism Preparation Meeting

7.30pm, Church



PRAY FAST GIVE

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

Office Days/Hours: 9am to 5pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

(Leave a Phone Message at other times)

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Website:

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

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford (Parish Administrator)

Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)

Sue Carr Margaret Jamieson

Carmel Huggard

PPLT Email:

MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Church Services:

During the Week

Tuesday	Adoration	6.00 pm
	Mass	7.00 pm
Wednesday	Mass	10.00 am
Thursday	Mass	10.00 am
Friday	Exposition	9.30 am
	Mass	10.00 am
	Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm
Saturday	Mass for the Unborn	10.00 am

Sunday Mass

Saturday	Vigil	5.00 pm
Sunday		8.00 am
Sunday		10.00 am
	Filipino	4.00 pm

Reconciliation

Tuesday	6:30 - 7:00 pm
Saturday	4:30 - 5:00 pm

Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.



Reflection:

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

Loyola Press

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.... Kate Gloury, Jack Hooker, Betty Sullivan, Mary Russell, Bartolo Vino, Nancy Flume, William 'Bill' Hunt, Adolf Wigger, Patricia Lawton, Janet Lindner, Melinda Flahive, and Nancy Smith-Johnston



The sick... Carmel Kost, Caroline Herbert, Rodney Abbatangelo, April Morrissey, Kerrie Milne, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, Martin & Helen Steyn, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Dennis Mirabella, 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, 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 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.*

Dennis and Shirley Cleary: Details for a Memorial Service will be forthcoming.

Reading Rosters for April to July will be issued over this weekend via email.

A separate Sign Up Sheet for our **Easter Services Reading Rosters** will be available in Foyer next weekend.

STM Social Club Contact : **Carolyn Gascoigne 0448 871 970**

New members are most welcome! Membership fee is \$30 If anyone has any questions about Membership fees— please contact Treasurer Julian Collins on 0473 474 559.

The Welfare Officers are Betty and Jim Bourke

Welcome!



Please donate to Project Compassion 2022

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413. OR Please take home a set of envelopes or collection box from our Church Foyer.

Baptism Enquiries:

Please send an email to the Parish Office. Next Baptism Preparation Meeting: Thursday 7th April in Church at 7.30pm



Confirmation Enquiries:

Contact Sacramental Co-ordinator Faye Sayah on email: fayesayah@gmail.com

Reconciliation & First Eucharist Enquiries:

Program will start in June. Please register your interest now—contact the Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator Faye Sayah on email: fayesayah@gmail.com



Parish MISSION Discussion 6th October 2021 Meeting minutes and information can be located on our Website Home Page or follow this link. [STM Parish MISSION Discussion](#)

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority. We too acknowledge that children, young people and adults at risk may require additional safeguards to promote their participation, wellbeing and safety.

We respect the human dignity of each person and strive to create an inclusive and welcoming Church that enables its people to grow and develop in their faith freely and in a caring and supportive environment.

Existing Volunteers are asked to provide to the Parish Office : A copy of their Vaccine Certificate

FINANCES

	Stewardship		Presbytery
	Actual	Pledge	
2022-20 March	\$ 1,929	\$ 1,977	\$ 564

Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish. (Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)



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.

Working Bee

Our next parish working bee will take place

Saturday April 2nd, 8.30am-1pm.

There are plenty of jobs to be done to prepare the church and surrounds for Easter.

Does anyone have any spare Tip Vouchers?

Please add your name and number to the signup sheet in the Church Foyer if you can help on the day, serve or prepare morning tea.



Young Adults Dinner

Last December, St Thomas More Parish began hosting a monthly dinner for young adults aged 18 to 35.

This informal dinner is a chance to meet up and fellowship with other young people from St Thomas More Parish and the Mornington Peninsula to share a meal together.

The next dinner will be on Tuesday, 29th March at 7:30pm at the Presbytery and conclude at 9:30pm. If you would like more details, or know someone who might be interested please catch Fr Patrick after Mass, or phone, or

by email: patrick.bradford@cam.org.au.

Why Youth Ministries Aren't Working, and What to Do About It

After running a series of large and vibrant youth groups across the US, youth pastor Everett Fritz found that the majority of youth lost interest in their faith as they got older. Over many years working in this area, he discovered a model that does work: based on personal invitation, support and friendship. This was the same approach Jesus took to forming his own twelve disciples. The personal model of youth ministry has the power to transform the lives of young people today and is being supported and resourced by the Archdiocese in parishes around Melbourne.

Fr Nicholas Pearce is senior chaplain to youth and will be visiting us on Sunday, 27th of March from 4pm-5pm in the Parish Community Centre. He will present an exciting vision of outreach to youth in our parish. Any parent with young adults aged 12-18 are invited to attend to learn how we might better reach young people around Mount Eliza this year. Any young adult 18+ who is interested in serving as a leader is also most welcome to attend. Please speak with Fr Patrick to learn more.

Be More
Prayer

God of Justice, awaken in me the determination to work for a more just world.

God of Love, prompt me to always seek the truth.

God of Compassion, strengthen me to raise my voice in solidarity with those experiencing poverty and marginalisation.

God of Strength, enliven in me the courage to stand beside those fighting injustice.

God of Grace, inspire me to be more rather than to want more.

May I learn to walk your way of mercy and compassion with all.

May I be generous with what you have freely given so that my brothers and sisters can live life to the full.

Amen.

Caritas AUSTRALIA The Catholic agency for international aid and development



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

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12

The Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land

Responsorial Psalm 33(34):2-7

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled himself to us through Christ

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned
heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The prodigal son

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.

The mystery of faith

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

Or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you
come again.

Or:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your
Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Next Sunday's Readings

5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

