



SEASONS

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter — Year C

22nd May 2022

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

Thursday, 26th May

Social Justice Meeting

7:30pm Parish Community Centre

1st weekend of each month

Saturday Mass for the Unborn 10.00 am

Sunday Filipino Mass 4.00 pm

**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

Church Services:

Next Week 24/5

Tuesday	Exposition	6.00 pm
Tuesday	Mass	7.00 pm
Wednesday*	Mass	10.00 am
Thursday*	Mass	10.00 am
Friday	Exposition	9.00 am
	Mass	10.00 am

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	5.00 pm
Sunday	8.00 am
Sunday	10.00 am

Reconciliation

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

Dear Friends,

On Tuesday the 24th of May we will celebrate the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians. This feast finds its beginnings in the early 1800's and can be traced to the times of Napoleon Bonaparte who had imprisoned Pope Pius VI. After him, Pope Pius VII was elected in 1801 but he too was forced to spend time in and out of jail at the orders of Napoleon. During this time, the Pope prayed to Our Lady for his release and promised that if he could return to Rome, he would create a special feast day in thanksgiving for her powerful intercession. When the Pope was finally released on 24th May 1814, Pius made a slow, triumphant return from France to Italy where along the way he stopped to encourage devotion to Mary. He then re-established the heart the Church in Rome. This feast was instituted the year after, in 1815.



About this time the infant Church in Australia was also going through difficult times. Despite growing numbers of Catholics arriving from 1787 onwards, no Catholic priests were allowed to care for the people (except for one year) until 1820. During this time without access to Mass and the Sacraments, Catholics turned to Our Lady and the Rosary to sustain them in their faith. Finally, in 1820 Fr Therry, an Irish Priest arrived in Sydney and began construction on St Mary's Cathedral—named in thanksgiving for Mary's help and guidance over these many difficult years. At the first Provincial Synod in 1844, the whole of Australia was placed under our Lady's protection. She remains co-patroness of Australia, along Saint Mary Mackillop.

This feast helps focusses our attention on two things. Firstly, the role of Mary in helping us to find freedom and justice in all its different forms—both personally and collectively as a nation. Secondly this feast speaks to the power of Mary to help protect the rights of Christians and Catholics to freely practice our faith in our secular society.

This week, as we begin a new term of Federal Parliament we once again entrust Australia to the care and protection of our Lady, Help of Christians. During this time we hold in prayer our elected representatives and the work of the Federal Parliament, that it would continue to work together for the common good and especially support the rights of the weak and vulnerable in our society. - Fr Patrick



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.

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 Acts 15:1-2,22-29

‘It has been decided by the Spirit and by our-
selves not to burden you with any burden be-
yond these essentials’

Responsorial Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us

And let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth

And all nations learn your saving help.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the nations be glad and exult
For you rule the world with justice
With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide
the nations on earth

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the peoples praise you, O God:

Let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing

Till the ends of the earth revere him

O God, let all the nations praise you!

**Second reading Apocalypse 21:10-14-
22-23** He showed me the holy city coming
down out of heaven

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 John 13:31-33,34-35

A peace the world cannot give is my gift to
you

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.

**We
pray
for..**

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.. Bernard Thomas, Marie Fulton, Sr Patricia, Sam Ransom, Sydney Jackson, Ted Marshall, Francis Lindner and Kevin O' Grady

The sick... Tony Fiume, Carmel Kost, Caroline Herbert, Rodney Abbatangelo, April Morrissey, Kerrie Milne, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, 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, Adrian Gobel, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre *and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish,*



STM Social Club

Next month's activity will be a movie on the 15th of June, at Village Karingal. "Downtown Abbey" will be our first choice. For all enquiries and bookings please contact Margaret Jamieson 0450697203 .

The Welfare Officer is Carolyn Gascoigne

Baptism Enquiries:

Please send an email to the Parish Office.
Next Baptism Preparation Meeting:
Thursday 2nd June in the Church at 7:30pm



Reconciliation & First Eucharist Enquiries:

Information evening will be held at the Parish Community Centre on 1st of June at 7:30pm.
Please register your interest now—
contact the Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator Faye Sayah on email: fayesayah@gmail.com



Parish office—

Vicki will be on leave for two weeks.

Please return your Project Compassion / Caritas boxes and envelopes.

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859



St Thomas More PPLT Membership

After some time of preparation, discussion and prayer I am pleased to announce the current membership of the Parish Pastoral Leadership Team for St Thomas More Parish. This was the result of prayer and discernment—both personally and collectively together. I am grateful to those parishioners on the PPLT who have generously offered their time and talent to assist me in guiding St Thomas More through the next steps of our journey as a Parish. Next week I will include a short biography of each member and a photo in Seasons, and there will be an opportunity to formally meet the members at an afternoon /morning following Mass in the coming weeks. PPLT members are another point of contact for parishioners to engage with the life and mission of the Parish and to build relationships within our community.

The PPLT members are:

Fr Patrick Bradford
Emma Chapel
Jacinta Griffin
Carmel Huggard
Ruth Hilton
Amos Nichols
Joe Sayah
Sandra Taylor

Please pray for us as we continue this important work—Fr Patrick

Excelsis Choir Classical Concert @ St McCartan's Mornington

On Saturday, 11th of June 2022 Excelsis choir will be performing under the direction of Tom Buchanan, with accompanying soloist Rachael Joyce. The concert is being run as part of the Mornington Winter Music Festival over Queens Birthday Weekened. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through the following link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/excelsis-liturgical-choir-mornington-winter-music-festival>

Dear Friends,

Once a month on the first Sunday at 3:30pm, St Thomas More Parish hosts the Mornington Peninsula Filipino Community for a Mass celebrated by Fr Joselito. Following Mass, the community gathers for refreshments and fellowship. All are very welcome to attend. The following article appeared on the Archdiocesan Website in recognition of the many groups and cultures who have made an important contribution to the vitality of the Church in Melbourne —Fr Patrick

As we approach the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, there is much to celebrate, not least the contributions of the many immigrant communities that have enriched and helped shape the Church of Melbourne. In the first of a series celebrating these communities, we hear about the important contributions of Filipino Catholics over the years to our shared life of faith.

For more than eight years, Monsignor Joselito Asis has been serving the Filipino community of the Archdiocese of Melbourne as their Chaplain. He first came here from the Philippines as an associate to the Scalabrinian Fathers of Australia, who are based at St Brigid's Church in Fitzroy North, and to whom the pastoral care of Filipino migrants in the Archdiocese is entrusted. He spoke with *Melbourne Catholic* about the rich history of the Filipino Catholic community in Victoria, and about their diverse and significant contributions to the life of the Church.

While most Filipino migration to Melbourne—and to Australia—has occurred since the mid 20th century, Monsignor Joselito points out that the presence of this community goes back much further, with the first wave of Filipino migrants to Australia arriving as early as 1879 to work as pearl divers in Broome, Darwin and the Torres Strait Islands. Along with Malays and Japanese, Filipinos—or 'Manilamen' as they were commonly called in the 19th century—were respected and sought-after pearl divers and made an important contribution to this burgeoning industry. Since most of them were also practising Catholics, they also made an important contribution to the early mission churches of Broome and Darwin, swelling the numbers of faithful parishioners.

It would be another twenty-two years, though, before Filipino migrants were recorded as having arrived in the state of Victoria, with the Australian Census in 1901 recording just 13 male and three female Victorian residents of Filipino descent.

Monsignor Joselito says that subsequent waves of Filipino migration to Victoria can, in the most part, be explained by the search for a steady income and a better life.

In the fifties, the Colombo Plan—an intergovernmental program to strengthen relationships and promote social and economic development within the Asia-Pacific region—attracted young Filipinos to Australia to pursue further studies and enhance their technical abilities. Today this tradition continues, with many Filipino students still travelling to Melbourne to pursue their education.

In the seventies, after the Marcos regime imposed martial law in the Philippines, others sought a new home in Australia for political reasons, many of them finding work as nurses, tradespeople, teachers and secretaries.

By 2006, the Filipino population in Victoria had soared to 24,777 residents, 15,634 of whom were female. Much of this immigration can be attributed to the Australian government's family reunion program and to waves of 'bridal migration', with many young Filipina women coming to Australia as brides or fiancées, and many older women arriving here to take care of their grandchildren.

As Monsignor Joselito observes, job opportunities continue to drive more recent migration from the Philippines to Victoria, with Filipino immigrants working mostly in the medical and aged-care professions, in the IT sector and in hospitality.

By 2011, Filipino-born Catholics in the Archdiocese of Melbourne had become the second largest group of overseas-born Catholics, after the Italians. By 2016, there were more than 68,000 Filipinos residing in Victoria, mostly in Melbourne, and almost 34,000 Filipino-born Catholics. While Filipino families and communities can be found right across Melbourne, a large proportion live in the western suburbs, particularly in Truganina, Werribee (Wyndham) and Brimbank.