



SEASONS

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

3rd Sunday of Lent — Year C

20th March 2022

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



Welcome to
Fr. Joe O'Shea who will
be celebrating the Weekend
Masses with us.



Reflection:

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

Loyola Press

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Office Days/Hours: 9am to 5pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(Leave a Phone Message at other times)
Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

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

Pastoral Leadership Team
Fr Patrick Bradford (Parish Administrator)
Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)
Sue Carr Margaret Jamieson
Carmel Huggard

PPLT Email:
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Church Services: During the Week

Friday	Mass	10.00 am
	The Annunciation of the Lord	
	Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm

Sunday Mass		
Saturday Vigil		5.00 pm
Sunday		8.00 am
Sunday		10.00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday	4:30 - 5:00 pm
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Flood APPEAL - Society of St Vincent de Paul
https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Home/Home_featurettes/We_need_your_help/
or by calling—QLD (07) 3010 1000 or NSW (02) 9568 0262

Caritas Australia—Ukraine Emergency APPEAL
<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/>
or contact 1800 024 413

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently...

Valerie (Val) Veale

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

Unah Burr, Mylee Trevitt, Moira Renouf, Gwen Murtagh, Geoff Wines.

The sick...

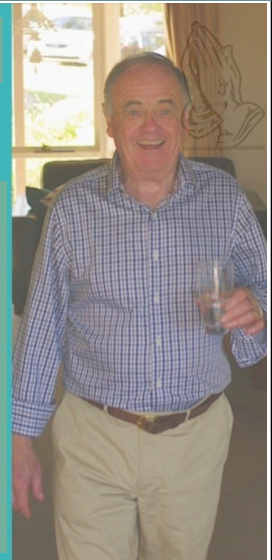
Carmel Kost, Caroline Herbert, Rodney Abbatangelo, April Morrissey, Kerrie Milne, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, Martin & Helen Steyn, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Dennis Mirabella, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte 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, Tequiomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.

Memorial Service for
David James Dole

11.00 am 21st of March 2022
St Thomas More Church,
Mt Eliza,
313 Canadian Bay Road,

Followed by
Refreshments at
Ranelagh Club,
3 Rosserdale Crescent,
Mt Eliza

In lieu of flowers,
please donate to Father Bob
Maguire Foundation
<https://donate.myucause.com.au/charity/1553>



Dennis and Shirley Cleary: We are respectful of family privacy and details for a Memorial Service will be forthcoming.

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 Tom and Maree Shelton

Baptism Enquiries:

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



Confirmation Enquiries:

Program has just started: If you have a child in Year 6 or older who would like to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, and they are not at STM Primary School, please contact the Parish Sacramental Coordinator 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 Officer Faye Sayah on email: fayesayah@gmail.com



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.

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



Harmony Week, running from Monday 21 to Sunday 27 March, celebrates Australia’s exciting and diverse cultural reality. It looks to promote inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, and unity around a core set of values – from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from around the world to make Australia their home. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths and Harmony Week celebrates this.

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

FINANCES

	Stewardship		Presbytery
	Actual	Pledge	
2022-6 March	\$ 1,236	\$ 931	\$ 618

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 sign-up sheet in the Church Foyer if you can help on the day, serve



Archbishop Comensoli has encouraged the community to pray this prayer seeking the intercession of St Joseph

TO THE FATHER

Heavenly Father,
St Joseph set aside his own plans to embrace your dream for us. You invited his help in caring for Jesus your Son, our Saviour, and the Revealer of your wonderful love. Enable us to live by your loving plan and to reflect to the world the light of Christ.

St Joseph, man of dreams and trusting steward, pray for us.

TO THE SON

Lord Jesus,

You grew in wisdom and maturity as you lived in the family of Nazareth in daily communion with St Joseph and Mary your mother. From St Joseph you learned the dignity of human work. Give parents the wisdom to support their children and to guide them in the way and work of your Kingdom.

St Joseph, faithful parent and diligent worker, pray for us.

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Creator Spirit,

We see in St Joseph a tenderness and reverence for all your creation. We learn from him to approach others justly and tenderly, and to see our world as endowed with the glory of God. Teach us to love one another and to be of humble service to all of creation, empowered by your life within us.

St Joseph, wise protector and humble servant, pray for us. Amen

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.



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Lent



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 Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

'I AM has sent me to you'

Responsorial Psalm 102(103):1-4,6-8,11

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

The life of the people under Moses in the
desert was written down to be a lesson for us

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

'Leave the fig tree one more year'

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.

Let us pray.

God our Father,
in your infinite love and goodness
you have shown us that
prayer, fasting, and almsgiving
are remedies for sin.
Accept the humble admission of our guilt,
and when our conscience weighs us down
let your unfailing mercy raise us up.
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 Sunday's Readings
4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

