



SEASONS

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD — Year C

29th May 2022

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

Diary:

Wednesday 1st June

Sacramental Information Meeting
(Reconciliation & First Eucharist)
7.30pm, PCC

Thursday 2nd June

Baptism Preparation Meeting
7.30pm, Church

**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)
Emma Chapel Jacinta Griffin
Ruth Hilton Amos Nichols
Joe Sayah Sandra Taylor

Church Services:

Next Week 30/5

Tuesday	Adoration	6.00 pm
	Mass	7.00 pm
Wednesday*	Mass	10.00 am
Thursday*	Mass	10.00 am
Friday	Exposition	9.00 am
	Mass	10.00 am
Saturday	Mass for the Unborn	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
	Filipino Mass	4.00 pm

Reconciliation

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

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,

Whenever we come to the feast of the Ascension, I am drawn to the preface from Mass for this Sunday: "(Jesus) ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before". During these days of Easter, the disciples are still recovering from the death of Jesus, and just coming to terms with his mysterious resurrection where he is in the physical world and yet not constrained by it. Jesus is leaving them, but this is not the end of the story- it is only the beginning. The Father will send the Holy Spirit to dwell in each of them and Jesus goes ahead to heaven to show us what God has planned for us after our time on earth is done. Our bodies are sacred- we see this visually represented at funerals as the coffin is incensed and sprinkled. This is a sign of respect for a temple which once housed the Holy Spirit. This is why Catholics respectfully inter human remains in one place because of God's promise that heaven awaits this same glorious, physical, resurrected body. On this Ascension Sunday we pray for the gift of hope to remain strong within us.



Reflection from Loyola Press:

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the 40th day after Easter. In Cycle C, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Luke.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus' Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each account, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the Gospel to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize as well as to preach. In Luke's Gospel, however, this commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only Mark and Luke actually report Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Matthew's Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' Ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. Already in Mark's Gospel, during his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples out to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now, they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

27 MAY to 3 JUNE The **National Reconciliation Week 2022** theme, "Be Brave. Make Change." is a challenge to all Australians— individuals, families, communities, organisations and government— to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of Reconciliation so we can Make Change for the benefit of all Australians. Find out more about National Reconciliation Week #NRW2022 #BeBraveMakeChange

We pray for..

Those who have passed away recently... Fr Eric John Hodgens PE
Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.. Violet Hoare, Estelle Tracey, Leslie Calley, Ben Bedenikovic, Kathleen Marshall, and Ian Dash.



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, Tequinomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.*

STM Social Club

Wednesday 15th June - Afternoon Movie at Village Karingal. More details to follow. For all enquiries and bookings please contact Margaret Jamieson on 0450 697 203.

The Welfare Officers are
 Gui Hone and Helen Grech

Baptism Enquiries:

Please send an email to the Parish Office.
 Next Baptism Preparation Meeting:
 Thursday 2nd June in Church at 7.30pm



Reconciliation & First Eucharist Enquiries: Information evening will be held at the Parish Community Centre (PCC) 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 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](#)

FINANCES

	Stewardship		Presbytery
	Actual	Pledge	
May 1st	\$ 1,452	\$ 2,487	\$ 926
May 8th	\$ 1,706	\$ 1,113	\$ 837
May 15th	\$ 1,971	\$ 1,847	\$ 724
May 22nd	\$ 1,330	\$ 1,012	\$ 662

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)

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.

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 a 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 Ruth Hilton
 Amos Nichols Joe Sayah Sandra Taylor

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

Next Weekend we will be collecting for the

Catholic Mission
Propagation of the Faith Appeal

Envelopes will be in the Church Foyer.

\$ 973 raised for Caritas—Project Compassion.



\$ 360 raised for Pregnancy Assistance Frankston (PAF) Mother's Day Appeal.



Just released: **Archdiocese of Melbourne Synthesis Report.**

Our local Church in Melbourne has brought together this Report in response to Pope Francis' invitation for the universal Church to reflect upon:

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission;

The theme of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will take place on October 2023.

The Report will now take its part in a combined national report, which will be sent to the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops to be considered alongside contributions from other parts of the Church around the world. **Copies of this Report are in the Church Foyer and available in electronic form on our Website Home page.**

Letter from Archbishop Comensoli

Dear friends in Christ, It is a great joy to share this report from our local Church in Melbourne to the sixteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Pope Francis has invited the Synod to reflect on the following: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission Such a momentous theme, and such a challenge for us all! Each of us has a humble but crucial role to play in the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The mission to share that Gospel has been with us since the beginning of the Church, and is done so in the strength of a new life offered by Jesus. In fact, that mission is the reason for the Church's existence. Dioceses around the world are undertaking the shared journey of becoming a more Synodal Church in every kind of diversity and cultural context. It is heartening to consider that the various reports of local Churches will be submitted to the Synod in many languages, identifying challenges facing our sisters and brothers who wish to share the Gospel in their homes and local communities. The Church in Melbourne has its own distinct history and story, and we offer this report on behalf of our people, conscious of the great changes taking place in our society and in contemporary Australia. For Australian Catholics, the Synod takes place at a time in which we are also journeying with the Plenary Council, a pilgrimage of synodality in which all of us have been invited to give voice to what we have discerned the Holy Spirit is saying. The path of synodality can be rocky, and it draws together Catholics who do not always agree with one another, or do not always share the same vision for the local mission. The journey of encountering difference, respectfully listening to others, and of hearing the Holy Spirit's call even in the midst of competing voices, is the challenge we must step towards. Australian Catholics are meeting that challenge with hearts on fire for Christ and for his beloved, including those who face loss, loneliness, deprivation or vulnerability of any kind. In reading the various submissions made by our people, I was keen that we make the report public and strive for transparency in our journey together. The report is long, and I urge a patient and thoughtful reading of its contents in light of the hope Jesus offers us at every step of the synodal journey. The report will now take its part in a combined national report, which will be sent to the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops as a Synthesis to be considered respectfully alongside contributions from other parts of the Church around the world. For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission 03 On the path ahead, each of us is invited to do the hard yards of ongoing discernment, and you will see some key questions in the report with which to wrestle and pray. Also in our local context, this synodal path is connected with the parish work of Take the Way of the Gospel. If you have not yet given thought to this work, please read our Archdiocesan website and be involved in your local parish. The Body of Christ in Melbourne shares in a great opportunity at this time, to foster again our deep sense of communion with each other, and of an attentive prayerfulness for the wellbeing of those who have experienced great suffering, those with heavy burdens in their daily lives, and for the young as they look out on an uncertain future. As well as communion, I hope we will all re-discover the need for participation in the call to live a life of discipleship with the Lord, and to take our rightful place in the mission of the local Church. The following report is not made up of merely data and statistics, but should stir up in us a desire to love our local Church more and to further its mission with a lively and searching faith. May the Lord be our beginning and end in the mission ahead.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

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 Weekend. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through the following link:

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

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 1:1-11

Jesus was lifted up while they looked on

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

Second reading Ephesians 1:17-23

God made him sit at his right hand in heaven

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my
gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the
world. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:46-53

He withdrew from them and was carried up
into heaven

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.

Next Sunday's Readings

5th June —PENTECOST

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-17

Gospel: John 14:15-16,23-26

