



SEASONS

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

1st Sunday of Advent — Year C

27th November 2022

Diary:

SVDP Meeting

Monday Dec 12 9.30am
Undercroft

**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:

Tuesday 10.00am to 4pm
Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm
Friday 9.30am to 4pm

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton Joe Sayah
Paul Keane Emma Chapple
Sandra Taylor Kathy Raccanello

Church Services:

This Week

from 28th Nov

Tuesday Adoration 6.00 pm
Tuesday Mass 7.00 pm

Wednesday* Mass 10.00 am
Thursday NO MASS **CANCELLED**
Friday Mass 10.00am

*Rosary before Mass

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am
Sunday 10.00 am

Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.00pm
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

This weekend marks the first Sunday of Advent and so the Church begins a new liturgical year, where we turn our hearts and minds to the coming of Jesus at Christmas.



The following article is taken from Catholic World Report, and was written by Dawn Beutner.

Why did Michelangelo paint seven Old Testament prophets in the Sistine Chapel? Because Jewish prophets such as Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah are important figures both in the Jewish faith and to Christians.

The Catholic Church recognizes this and includes almost every one of the Old Testament prophets in its liturgical calendar. While the major and minor prophets are not celebrated with solemnities, feasts, or memorials, they are still present in the liturgical calendar of the Church. The Church's most recent complete collection of saints and blessed includes these great Jewish people of faith, and some of them are remembered in December.

The timing of those dates is surely not coincidental. Remembering the Old Testament prophets during Advent can help our understanding of Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah. But what events inspired these six men to preach to their countrymen in the first place? The prophets Nahum (celebrated December 1), Habakkuk (December 2), Zephaniah (December 3), Haggai (December 16), Malachi (December 18), and Micah (December 21) are all considered minor prophets in the Old Testament. Their six writings span a period of almost three hundred years, from approximately 720 B.C. for Micah to 450 B.C. for Malachi, with the other four prophets scattered in between those two dates. Some of these prophets predicted disaster because of the people's unfaithfulness (Micah and Zephaniah), while one of them explained the meaning behind a disaster when it occurred (Nahum). Others reminded the people to look past recent disasters and return to the practice of the faith (Habakkuk, Haggai, and Malachi).

Dire warnings hardly seem appropriate for the joyous season of Christmas, but they are certainly appropriate for the penitential season of Advent. Each of these six prophets wanted to encourage people of faith to return to God, to repent of past sins, to recognize God's presence even in their difficulties. But each of these prophets also offered messages that were obviously inspired by God to prepare the world for a Messiah, although they did not know His name.

Where will the Messiah come from?

King Herod the Great wanted to know the answer to that question, and the chief priests and scribes quoted Micah 5:2 to him in response. All Herod wanted to know was where to send his assassins; for us Christians, the same passage points much farther back in time. *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days"*

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

Those who have passed away recently...



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Rita Fisscher, Millicent Leydin, Lola Lamm

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 Welfare officers for November are Tom and Maree Shelton 0418337950

Note: Changes for Mass this week

Thursday December 1: No Mass

The next meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be held on



Monday the 12th December
in the Undercroft at 9.30am.

STM Social Club - December

Lunch at the **Girl and Bull Mt Eliza** on **Wednesday 7th December** at 12.30

Please book/confirm by:
Wednesday 30 November.
Contact Fiona on 0420 764 234

Christmas Toys 2022

St Vincent de Paul Conference have placed a Christmas Tree in the foyer of the church, with tags on it showing the gender and age of the children from the families we have visited during this year. We would appreciate it if those who take a tag could return an **UNWRAPPED** toy to the box by **Sunday Nov 26.** Many thanks in anticipation.

	Stewardship	
	Actual	Presbytery
Oct 30th	\$ 889	\$ 1,055
Nov 6th	\$ 2,188	\$ 918
Nov 13th	\$ 804	\$ 1,067
Nov 20th	\$ 1,910	\$ 728

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

Special Collections this month

Catholic Deaf Collection \$ 131
Catholic Missions \$ 360

Many thanks also, for your kind contributions to these worthy causes.

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.



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What kind of Messiah should we expect?

The prophet Zephaniah predicted terrible retribution by God because of His people's faithlessness. But if his listeners thought that meant that God was distant and angry, Zephaniah (3:14, 17) taught them otherwise. "Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ... The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love"

Will the Messiah be a mighty warrior who brings violence and war?

Nahum (1:15) offered a different answer *"Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!"*

Where is God when disaster seems imminent?

The people of Habakkuk's time had experienced great suffering. Habakkuk (3:17-19) reminded them that God is present, not absent, in times of waiting, just as our Lord later showed us. *"Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like deer's feet, he makes me tread upon my high places"*

Where is God when fear is overwhelming?

Did the prophet Haggai (2:4-5) know that some of the first words spoken by the Messiah would be in response to human fear? When he wrote these words, did he have some inspiration about how God's Spirit would dwell within those who believe in that Messiah, to strengthen them? *"Yet now take courage ... all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit abides among you; fear not"*

What will be the sign that the Messiah is coming?

The prophet Malachi (4:5-6) made the following prediction. *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse"*

That prophecy can only be understood with the help of the words of a major prophet who is celebrated in a different month: Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah (40:3) predicted the coming of one who would "prepare the way of the Lord", and that helps us to recognize Saint John the Baptist hidden in Malachi's words.

But that passage also reminds us of one of the critical tasks for every Catholic during Advent: to prepare our hearts for Christ as we remember his birth on Christmas. Not only do our hearts need to be softened toward unhappy family members, fearful friends, and disgruntled co-workers at Christmastime, those hearts also need to be turned toward Jesus Christ so that we can receive Him more completely. Those great ancestors of faith who were waiting for the Messiah hundreds of years before His birth can help us remember this amazing gift. That is, they can help us remember that God is waiting to dwell among and within us each Christmas—and every day of our lives—until He comes again.

Welcome Home !! (From the Melbourne Archdiocese)

The longing for home is deeply human, and so much more than just the desire for a roof over our heads. We long for a place of deep connection, of warmth and rest, and for family. In a profound sense, we are homesick for God, who patiently calls us back to our true home in the Church.

This week, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli released a pastoral letter to the Church in Melbourne called 'Welcome Home'. Reflecting on the sadness of being unable to gather physically in our communities during the pandemic, he pointed us towards Jesus Christ, 'the Word who became flesh' and who 'left for us his sacramental presence'. This bodily reality at the centre of our communities draws us in and binds us together.

In light of this, the Archbishop announced that the time has come for us to return home. As of the 1st Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2022, the general dispensation from our Sunday and Holy Day obligations will be lifted.

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none
who hope in you be put to shame.

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 2:1-5**

The Lord gathers all nations together into the
eternal peace of God's kingdom.

Responsorial Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second reading **Romans 13:11-14**

Our salvation is near.

Gospel Acclamation **Ps 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us
your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 24:37-44**

The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not
expect.

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

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth
shall yield its increase.



Next Sunday's Readings

4th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12