



SEASONS

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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

August 20th 2023

Diary

SVdP Meeting

Monday 21st August 9.30am in CC

Catechism Classes

Tuesday 22nd August 4.30pm in CC



Dear Friends

A Reflection from Loyola Press:

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

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Parish Priest:

Rev. Fr. Patrick Bradford

Secretary: Ann Hancock

Office Days/Hours:

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple Sandra Taylor

Kathy Raccanello

See your happy team on the Notice Board!

Church Services from 21st August

Tuesday	Mass	10.00am
Tuesday	Mass	5.30pm
Tuesday	Adoration	6.00pm

Wednesday * Mass 10.00am

Thursday* Mass 10.00am

Friday Adoration 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.00pm -7.00pm

Friday 9.30am -10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm - 5.00pm

St Thomas More acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional owners of the land on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

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

**Those who have passed away recently...
Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**



Thomas Smith, Ruby McCartney, Kevin Sheehy, William Lindner, Trevor Connolly, Ida Smeeton, Frederick Taylor, Rex Swann, Doris Hill, Gerard Carra, John Bourke, Ethel Blake, Valerie Crowe, John Gallagher

The sick... Adrian Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, 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, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose, Charlie Ebsworth, Noel Anstey, Mary Doherty, Annette O'Brian Patrick Guest, Elaine (Dee) Smith 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.

Parish Mission on September 18, 19 and 20 from 7:30-8:30pm



We are excited to be hosting international speaker John Pridmore for a Parish Mission to be run in late September.

MISSION NIGHTS

John has given over 250 missions in parishes. Please join us for these nights:

Monday 18 September

NIGHT 1: GOD'S LOVE

Tuesday 19 September

NIGHT 2: GOD'S MERCY

Wednesday 20 September

NIGHT 3: GOD'S HEALING

John has spoken to millions around the world about his past and remarkable conversion. He has inspired countless individuals through his powerful talks, conferences and parish missions. John was a serious "face" in London's East End. His drug deals netted him thousands; he lived the 'high' life ... when he found himself nearly killing a man. What happened next can only be called extraordinary.

To hear more, we warmly invite you to join us and John on the three mission nights held in the Church. Each night will include a talk by John, music and scripture readings, and a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

To prepare for the mission, John will briefly address the congregations at the three Sunday Masses. We are planning for John to speak at our local Catholic Schools and invite the students to join us for the mission nights. If any parishioner is interested in helping to plan, promote and host this significant event please contact the Parish Office to be put in touch with the Parish Mission Organising Committee. More information about John and the Melbourne tour is available on the website www.jpเมลบ.com.au

Want to become a Catholic?

At S.T.M, we are about to start classes for those who would like to learn about our beautiful Catholic faith. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this invitation, please contact Ann at the parish office on 9787-7777.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA



Women's Retreat
Saturday
9 September 2023

ST ROCH'S PARISH
GLEN IRIS



Discover the beauty of authentic friendship rooted in faith as you join our Catholic retreat, where you'll find a safe space to share, grow, and deepen your relationship with God together with a supportive community of women. Come join us!

DATE: Saturday 9 September 2023
TIME: 9.00am to 12.15pm
VENUE: St Roch's Parish, 198-200 Burke Rd, Glen Iris

This retreat offers Holy Mass, inspiring talks, time for personal reflection, Adoration, and Confession.

GUEST SPEAKER: Sr Mary Sarah OP
THEME: The Pilgrim's Path: Finding Happiness through the Beatitudes

Morning tea provided.

Don't miss this opportunity to take time to reflect and deepen your relationship with God.



REGISTRATION
Register at www.trybooking.com/CJ0PT
Or contact us at cwlvicww@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
www.facebook.com/CWLVicWW
www.instagram.com/catholicwomensleague

Margaret Jamieson

Dear friends

After 24 years of dedicated service, Margaret is finishing her working life with us at St Thomas More. Margaret has generously worked for five Parish Priests and I will miss her cheerful, friendly and hardworking presence around the presbytery and parish office.

We wish Margaret all the best in the next chapter of her journey.

A morning tea will be hosted on Sunday 27th August after the 10.00am Mass. Please join us in thanking Margaret for her wonderful contribution to the S. T. M. community.

(A letter from Margaret to parishioners can be picked up from the back of the church or emailed upon request to the parish office.)



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN

STM PLAYGROUP

At the Undercroft
St Thomas More Primary school, Mt Eliza
Every Tuesday 9:00 am - 10:30 am



Coffee, tea and water provided.
Please BYO travel cup and/or drink bottle and snacks.

CONTACT: STMPLAYGROUP.AU@GMAIL.COM

Parish Social Functions



Thank you to all who made our lunch at C. B. such a happy occasion!

Colleen

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St Thomas More Parish schedules a number social events throughout the year. These events are intended to build up our Parish community and deepen the bonds of friendship and faith. If you are an active parishioner at St Thomas More and would like to be involved with planning and hosting some of our social events, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

Be Still and Know—Anima and Maker's Table Women's Retreat –Saturday 2nd September

We realise that different people often need different things to restore or renew our relationship with God. We wish to invite you to a day (9.00am –3.00pm at Don Bosco Centre -Lysterfield) where you can retreat from the things that distract you from Him. We want to provide you a space to connect in the way you need.

There will be confession, adoration and Mass with Fr Paschal as well as a talk by Anna Krohn. Two Maker's tables will be set up, flower arranging and a kitchen rosary. You may knit, paint or perhaps just walk around the beauty of the retreat centre or sit in the Chapel in Christs presence.

Price: Catered \$65, BYO \$50

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1096056>

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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 56:1, 6-7**

I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 66**

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second reading **Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32**

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 15: 21-28**

The Canaanite woman debates with Jesus and
saves her daughter.

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

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful
redemption.

Next Sunday's Readings:
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
2nd Reading: Romans 11: 33-36
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20