



SEASONS

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

3rd Sunday of Advent-Year B

December 17th 2023

Diary

Parish BBQ & picnic

Sunday 17th December 11.15am

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777**

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au
Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

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 18th Dec

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.

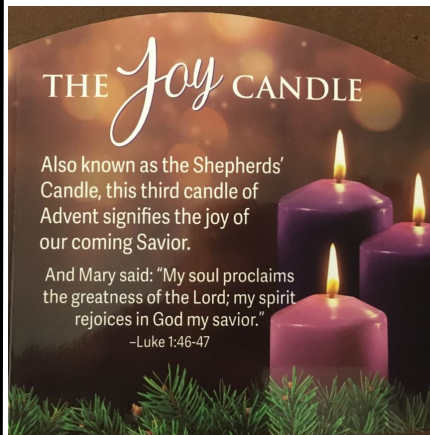
Reconciliation

Tuesday	6.00pm –6.30pm
Friday	9.30am -10.00am
Saturday	4.30pm - 5.00pm

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	5.00pm
Sunday	8.00am
Sunday	10.00am

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.



Dear Friends

A Reflection from First Things, written by Gerald E. Murray :

The Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent strikes a note of joy amidst this penitential time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The priest wears a rose-colored chasuble in place of the accustomed violet vestments. The entrance antiphon, taken from the fourth chapter of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, proclaims: "Gaudete in Domino"—"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

In the Collect of the Mass, the Church prays that God, who sees "how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity," would "enable us to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing." This prayer to attain the joys of salvation points us to our heavenly homeland, where there is only "glad rejoicing" as the blessed worship God forever in spirit and in truth. All sorrow is gone; those who see God face to face have the gift of perfect peace.

Yet the faithful here on earth already rejoice, as St. Paul reminds us, for "the Lord is near." Our rejoicing is an anticipation of heaven. Our faith in the Lord's nearness teaches us that God does not call us to slog through this life in sorrow, but rather to tread our pilgrim way with a light step, rejoicing always in our closeness to him.

One of the pleasures of being a parish priest is celebrating weekday Masses, usually with a small congregation. The "regulars" at these Masses and their ministry of intercessory prayer is the backbone of every parish. Their daily decision to take time to pray and be close to the Lord transforms their spirits. They truly celebrate, in their own quiet way, the solemn worship of the God they love so much and draw from him in abundance the fruits of glad rejoicing.

The search for joy in life is a frustrating experience for those who do not seek that joy in the Lord. Entertainment is a commonly sought substitute for joy .

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

Those who have passed away recently...Peta Murphy, John Welsh

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

David Duff, Tom Sanders, Margaret Wunder, Carmel Bainbridge, Jason Sutton,
Frank McConville, Marie Peters, George Vines, Tom Shannon, Margaret Rutherford-Smith,
Marianna Landman, Margaret McLoughlin, Margaret Bourke, John Mitchell, Ria Wilson

The sick... Adrian Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, 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'Brien, Elaine (Dee)
Smith, Sr Elizabeth Browne-Russell, Philip Yee, John Miller, Jim Bourke, Gui Hone, Mina Jones 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.



Women's Fellowship Group

Let's get together ladies!

Every first Friday of the month :7pm to 9pm
(after dinner) for women 18 - 100 years +
A chance to connect, chat, laugh and
share.

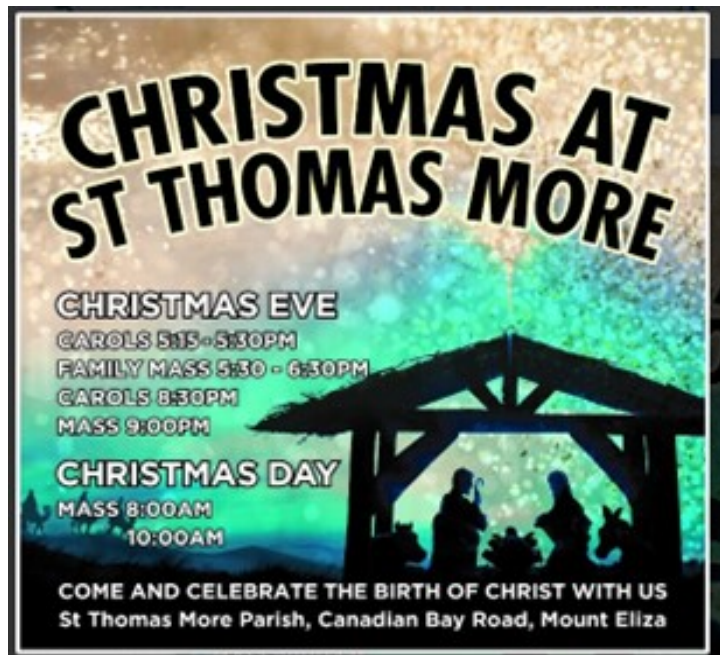
Next get together : **Friday 5th January.**

Where?: at my home - Please email me for
details if you're interested in attending
(raccanellokathy@gmail.com).

If you can, please bring something to share
with everyone.

Hope you can come!

Kathy



Anytime access to the Church for Private Prayer

“Because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat. Jesus said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mk 6:31).

In our busy lives we can find it hard to find the time to spend with God. The wisdom of the monastic tradition suggests that our physical environment has a big part to play in removing distractions and being focussed in prayer. The environment, our posture, lighting and noise all have an impact.

Anytime access to the Church for private prayer is possible via the electronic keypad. Access is initially granted by completing an application form and registering your contact details with the Parish Office. Your thumbprint will be taken which will grant access via the side door. This system ensures the safety of visitors as only authorised users can access the Church, and all movements in and out of the side door are monitored. Inside the Church, Parishioners can find a range of spiritual resources to help with prayer. In the white stand on the left hand side of the gathering space as you walk in, you will find a range of brochures, booklets and leaflets which offer formation on prayer, the Mass, the Sacraments and more. Near this stand is also a small library which contains a selection of bibles and spiritual reading available for use while in the Church.

If you are a St Thomas More Parishioner and would like to have anytime access to the Church, please contact the Parish Office for an application form. You can find these on our website, print out and return to the Parish Office for processing. Alternatively you can approach Fr Patrick after Mass.

Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.

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Certainly there is a place for entertainment in our lives. But fleeting diversions and delights are, in the end, merely faint hints or foretastes of the otherworldly happiness found only in that other, invisible world we yearn for, whether we realize it or not. Everyone seeks happiness, yet true happiness is elusive. It requires faith to understand that everything here on earth is provisional and, in greater or smaller measure, unfulfilling, yet indicative of the joys that await us in paradise.

Our secular Christmas season is in full swing, even if it has been renamed “the holiday season.” Incessant television ads exhorting viewers to “buy yourself” this or that expensive item during the “holiday sale of a lifetime” because “you deserve it” confirm the narcissistic stupor of our age. A self-consumed materialistic focus in the weeks leading up to Christmas is the world’s poor substitute for the restrained joy of waiting for the Lord’s coming in a penitential Advent spirit. He is the giver of the true gift that will bring us unsurpassed joy—the gift of himself.

Are we worthy of such a great gift? “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed” (Matt. 8:8). This avowal of both our unworthiness and our healing by God’s word, who is the Word made flesh, teaches us that God makes us ready to receive him when he comes: at Christmas, at Mass, at his second coming, at the moment of our death. Becoming ready to meet the Lord is our task and duty, accomplished in cooperation with his grace. May Gaudete Sunday remind us that the Lord is not far away, and his grace already fills us with a share in the eternal joy we so eagerly seek.

Reflection taken from First Things, written by Gerald E. Murray

**St Vincent de Paul—
Annual Christmas collection**

A collection will be taken at all Christmas Masses to support the ongoing care of those in need. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

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 Mission thanks the parish of St Thomas More’s for your support of this year’s World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$377.70 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need.



Parish BBQ & picnic : Today!!!

Come and have some fun with your fellow parishioners ...

17th December after 10am Mass.

Please bring your own meat and refreshments. (BBQ’s will be available.)



Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed the Lord is near.

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 61:1-2, 10-11**
I exult for joy in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: **Luke 1:46-50, 53-54**
My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading **I Thessalonians 5:16-24**
May you all be kept safe for the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation **Isaiah 61:1**
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to
bring Good News to the poor Alleluia!

Gospel **John 1:6-8, 19-28**
'There stands among you, the one coming after
me.'

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

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Next Sunday's Readings:

4th Sunday of Advent –Year B



1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38