



SEASONS

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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

July 9th 2023

DIARY

Infant Baptisms

Sunday 9th July 11.30am



**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 10th July

**No Masses /Sacraments on
Tuesday , Wednesday or
Thursday as Fr Patrick will
be at the ACCC conference.**

Friday Mass 10.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation

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.

Dear Friends,

Our Lord encourages us with these words this Sunday: "come to me, all you who are exhausted and weighted down beneath your burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



The following is an adapted commentary from the Scripture Scholar William Barclay:

Jesus spoke to those desperately trying to find God and desperately trying to be good, who were finding these tasks impossible and who were driven to weariness and to despair. To them and to us Jesus says, "come unto me all you who are exhausted." His invitation is to those who are exhausted with the search for the truth and for God. The Greek philosophers believed that it was difficult to find God, and, when you have found him, it is impossible to tell anyone else about him. In the Old Testament, Zophar demanded of Job: "Can you find out the deep things of God?" (Jb.11:7). It is Jesus' claim that the weary one's search for God ends in Him. W. B. Yeats, the great Irish poet and mystic, wrote: "Can one reach God by toil? God gives himself to the pure in heart. He asks nothing but our attention." The way to know God is not by a mental search, with our heads, but by giving attention to Jesus Christ in our hearts, for in Jesus we see what God is really like.

Jesus says, "Come unto me all you who are weighed down beneath your burdens." Jesus said about the Scribes and Pharisees: "They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders" (Matt. 23:4). The religious leaders used the phrase 'the yoke' for being subject to something or someone. They spoke of the yoke of the Law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the Kingdom, the yoke of God. But it may well be that Jesus took the words of his invitation from something much nearer home than that.

Jesus promises "My yoke is easy." The word "easy" is in Greek chrestos, which can mean well-fitting. In the Holy Land ox-yokes were made of wood; the ox was brought, and the measurements were taken. The yoke was then roughed out, and the frame brought back to have the yoke fitted and finished. The yoke was carefully adjusted, so that it would fit well, and not hurt the neck of the ox. There is a legend that Jesus made the best ox-yokes in all of Galilee, and that from all over the country farmers came to him to buy the best yokes that skill could make. In those days, as now, shops had their signs above the door; and it has been suggested that the sign above the door of the carpenter's shop in Nazareth may well have been: "My yokes fit well." It may well be that Jesus is here using a picture from the carpenter's shop in Nazareth where he had worked throughout the silent years before he began his public ministry.

Jesus says, "My yoke fits well." What he means is this: "the life I give you is not a burden to hurt you; your yoke is made perfectly to fit you." Whatever God sends us is made to fit our needs, abilities and circumstances. Jesus says, "My burden is light." As a Rabbi said: "My burden is become my song." It is not that the burden is easy to carry; but it is laid on us in love; it is meant to be carried in love; and love makes even the heaviest burden become light. Our burden is not meant to exhaust us. The burden is lightened by the gift of love which inspires us to love God and to love each other.

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

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



William Underwood, Alice Vino, Nanette O'Connell, Muriel Fulton

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 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.

Change to Tuesday Mass time.

From Tuesday 18th July...

Mass will be at 5:30pm.

Adoration and confession will be from 6-7pm

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.

Women's Fellowship Group

Let's get together ladies! Every first Friday of the month from 7pm to 9pm (after dinner) for women 18 - 100 years plus!

A chance to connect, chat, laugh and share.
Next get together Friday 4th August.

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

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

Hope you can come!

Kathy

Dear Melbourne Parishes

Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraiser Project Compassion has been a success this year thanks to the dedication and support of over 1,700 schools and 1,200 parishes across the country. Your kindness and generosity will help us to all stand in solidarity with communities who face the challenges of poverty and ecological injustice. It is the passion and spirit of our supporters across Australia whose generosity of heart enables us to have our hands and feet in marginalised communities across the world.

Thank you so much for your support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal this year!

On behalf of Caritas Australia and the communities we support, thank you to your staff and parishioners for all their fundraising efforts this year. Your compassion in action will allow real change for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Kind regards
Gwen



First Reconciliation & Eucharist

A sacramental program for children (not attending Catholic Schools), who want to take the next steps in their Catholic faith in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, will commence this term. Those hoping to receive these Sacraments should be baptised Catholics. For more information and to register, please contact Faye on fayesayah@hotmail.com

Special Collections

Caritas <i>Project Compassion</i>	\$476.85
Catholic Mission <i>Propagation of the Faith</i>	\$517.85
St Vincent de Paul <i>Winter appeal</i>	\$412.90



Thank you everyone for your generous support of our brothers and sisters in need.

World Youth Day Fundraising Dinner -Sunday 23rd July at 6pm

Parishioners are invited to 1001 Nights restaurant in Mount Eliza for a fun night to help support Charles and Matthew Sayah on their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Portugal later this month. The World Youth Days were initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985 in Rome. Pope JP II based these days on the “light-life” model in Poland, where young Catholics would come together in summer camps, volunteer in the community and celebrate their faith together. World Youth Day is actually a whole week, which invites young people aged 16-35 this year to join Pope Francis in Lisbon to pray together, deepen their personal faith through small groups and attend catechesis offered by bishops and speakers from around the world. Our two pilgrims will land in Fatima where they will spend time at the shrine to Our Lady and meeting members of the local Catholic community before travelling to nearby Lisbon. Here, the nearly 600 young pilgrims from Melbourne will be joining an estimated 2-3 million pilgrims in the final week from Portugal, Europe and beyond.

I remember for myself as a 16 year old travelling to my first World Youth Day, this was a defining moment in my life. Until then, my experience of faith was the Sunday Mass at our local Parish—and I was the only teenager at Mass most weeks! Being at the closing Mass with the Pope and millions of other young people was deeply encouraging and a moving celebration which reminded me that I am part of a vibrant, faith filled universal church. It laid the foundations for my vocation as a Priest and the deep friendships made while on pilgrimage would continue over the following two decades.

For Matthew and Charles, we have a target to raise \$2000 each or \$4000 total to cover their remaining costs (\$12,000). The Fundraising Dinner registration includes a glass of wine, beer or soft drink with a shared middle eastern style entrée, main course and desert for \$70 per person. Included in the fee is a \$20 fundraising contribution per person. Further beverages including tea or coffee can be purchased from the restaurant on the night. Registrations can be made on the clipboards after Mass this weekend, or via our trybooking site: <https://www.trybooking.com/CJTRS>

We are delighted that John Canavan is able to join us. John has worked as a comedian and is an accomplished host who will entertain and MC the evening’s raffle and auction. If any parishioners has goods or services to be offered for the auction, please contact the Parish Office. This experience is not intended just for these two pilgrims. When Matthew and Charles return to us, their encounter with the Lord in the Church will be a blessing for our whole Parish and our community. If you would like to make a contribution to their trip, you may do so by leaving an envelope in the collection, or donating via the following link, indicating “WYD” in the comments:



<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=70>

Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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 **Zechariah 9:9-10**
See now, your king comes humbly to you.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 144:**
I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second reading **Romans 8:9,11-13**
If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 11:25-30**

You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children.

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Next Sunday's Readings:
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11
2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23