



SEASONS

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

5th Sunday of Easter -Year A

May 7th 2023

DIARY

Youth Alpha

Tuesday 2nd May 5.00pm

STM Mother's Mass

Friday 12th May 11.00am

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

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

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 8th May

Tuesday Exposition 6.00pm

Tuesday Mass 7.00pm

Wednesday * Mass 10.00am

Thursday Mass 8.30am

Friday Exposition 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 6.30pm -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.

Dear Friends,

This weekend marks the beginning of our Thanksgiving Renewal Programme which is being directed and co-ordinated by the Philanthropy Office at the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The Director of the Office, David Powick has been joined by colleague Llew Berchy and in planning how the spiritual and practical work of St Thomas More Parish might be financially resourced now and in the future. We are the first Parish to be invited to be a part of this process and we are grateful for this opportunity. The Philanthropy office focusses on the prayerful and spiritual aspect of giving, connecting this back to our faith and the Mass where we present our offerings before God to be transformed and transfigured with the bread and wine. Whatever we give to God, God gives back to us many times over. Llew will be present at and after the Masses over the next few weekends and is happy to answer any questions or queries you may have about the programme.



St Thomas More's has been an active source of God's grace in Mount Eliza for more than forty years. During this time God's people have been initiated into the Sacraments, strengthened and nourished by participation in the Eucharist and responding to the Word of God; by being a prophetic voice to speaking to the dignity of every person especially the vulnerable in our community. St Thomas More Parish has a proud history of heroic faith and sacrifice with parishioners working together to secure the site we are now blessed to occupy, raising funds to build the Church, Presbytery, Undercroft, Memorial Garden and School precinct. We are hoping to continue building on this foundation in the coming years as a faith community.

Every parish is a kind of family. At home, each family member has something unique to contribute, and each member is blessed by sharing in the gifts shared by others. The recent Parish Census cards which were filled out in February this year give an insight into the presence and participation of our Parish family. We've learnt that we have approximately 110 families who regularly participate in our thanksgiving programme, which helps pay for the everyday expenses of the Parish including staff salaries, utilities, insurance, maintenance and other costs. During weekend Masses, Parishioners also participate in the loose collection which supports clergy including myself as well as Archbishop Peter, sick and retired priests and priests in needy parishes. Since the last census in 2015, the current data shows there are a further 80 or so families, many of them new to our community, who have not yet made a commitment to participate in thanksgiving.

Over the coming weeks the Church's readings and prayers present three themes for us to consider in the light of this special project. This week we will explore the theme of trust— as Jesus says in today's Gospel "trust in God ... and trust in me". A practical way that we demonstrate trust is what we do with the many gifts that God has bestowed on us. God does not micromanage us but trusts us with the freedom to use our gifts—time, treasure and talent— wisely and well. Next week we will consider the theme of generosity. The Holy Spirit is the tangible sign of God's generosity and openness—God does not exist in solitude but in a family of love where each person

(cont. on next page)

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

Those who have passed away recently...

Fr Bob Maguire



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Lucia Henley, Maud Dayes, Keith MacGregor, Scott Reade, Colleen Duyvestyn,
Mary-Jo Flood

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, Barbara Hunt, Annette O'Brian and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre *and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish,*

The Parish Welfare officer for May is Margaret Gallagher 0410 210 500

(From front page)

gives everything they possess to the other. This same spirit is freely given to us to inspire and guide us in our decisions. At the end of Mass we will hear a short reflection from a recent convert to the faith and how God has inspired him like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church. The final week we celebrate the Feast the feast of of the Ascension. The readings speak about Jesus leaving his disciples with a mission to "go, make disciples of all the nations... baptise them, and teach them". St Paul's letter talks about the power and strength of God's spirit to do great things through our "yes". We will be invited to consider in the coming weeks—what can I do to support the Church's mission? What gifts could I share?

The PPLT have discerned that building up community and the Church's Sacramental and Prayer life as key focus areas for our community in the next years. While there has been great progress since we've emerged from the lockdowns especially with youth and young people (youth alpha), faith formation and community events, there is much more that we can do together with your prayerful and practical support. Since 2018 our annual expenditure has dropped by nearly half from \$248k to \$124K. This trend is not sustainable going forward if we are to also rebuild and reconnect our Church. Jesus told his disciples there will be difficult times but that after the cross comes the hope and joy of the resurrection.

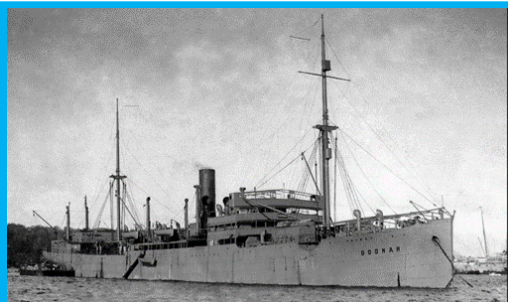
We know the current economic climate presents great pressures for some of our parishioners and many others in our community. My hope and prayer is that despite these obstacles together we can confidently trust in God's providence and the promises that Jesus has made to each one of us before his ascension— "remember that I am with you always, yes even to the end of time".

Death of Fr Bob Maguire

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Fr Bob Maguire, AM who was known and loved by many St Thomas More Parishioners. Below is a Message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli:

It has been sad news to hear of the death of Fr Bob Maguire earlier today. Bob has been a faithful priest of the Catholic Church in Melbourne since his Ordination in 1960, and a fierce friend of the downhearted, the broken and the lost throughout his whole life.

Without a doubt, he was the "larrikin priest", who had a great love for Jesus - who also lived with the outcast and the unloved. Recent months have been a struggle for Bob in both health and relationships. We pray that he is now at peace with his Saviour and Lord. In faith, we now entrust Bob to eternal life. May he be welcomed to the Heavenly feast.



Parish Social Function for May
Pizza Night (B.Y.O. Beverage) in Parish C .C.
WWI "Boonah" Tragedy
Presenter: Maurie Hutchinson
Sunday May 7th at 5.30pm (sharp!)
\$10 p/p (Cash at door)

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli's visit to St Thomas More on June 10th

Parish Patronal Feast Day on June 22nd

Recently Archbishop Comensoli has confirmed that he will be visiting Mount Eliza on June 10th to install me as the fourth Parish Priest of St Thomas More Parish. This celebration will take place during the Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5pm and all parishioners are invited to join us. There will be a reception to follow afterwards, with more details to follow including RSVP instructions.

While the appointment as PP took effect last April, the installation ceremony is an important moment for the life of our Parish, and for me. This visit is a practical and tangible sign of the Archbishop's care and concern for our community. The appointment and ceremony brings with it certainty that we can confidently work together to plan and build the Parish, it represents the stability necessary for the pastor to put down roots, to get to know people, to build relationships (to make mistakes!) and to learn from them. It gives us all an opportunity to plan for the future and respond to the challenges and opportunities of life post COVID. It allows to move forward after a time of change and uncertainty. A small committee will be put together to organise the veneing with info to follow.

Later in June on Thursday the 22nd we will celebrate the feast of St Thomas More. Thomas More was chosen as our Parish patron because like most of the Mount Eliza community, his first vocation was as a parent with responsibilities for his wife and family; for his work and his contribution to society. More also had deep interest in education, and a commitment to justice, to following a well formed conscience and serving God and the King. This year we hope to come together and celebrate More feast day on Sunday, 25th of June. Details will follow in next week's Seasons.

World Youth Day 2023

World Youth Day is a major bi or tri annual festival which brings together youth from around the world to be formed in their faith, to hear from the wisdom and guidance of Pope Francis, to celebrate the sacraments, to meet other young people from around the world and to build relationships with other young Catholics from Melbourne. Our Archdiocese will be taking 585 young people aged 16-35 from parishes and schools to participate in this exciting opportunity.

St Thomas More Parish is pleased that two pilgrims from our Parish will be attending – Matthew and Charles Sayah. I have separately been invited by Archbishop Peter to attend as one of the supporting chaplains to the Melbourne group.



The pilgrimage will leave Melbourne on 29th of July and we will travel to Fatima, where we will spend four days visiting the Shrine of Our Lady, celebrating the Eucharist and being immersed in the faith of Jacinta, Lucia and Francisco. Then our group will join the other 500 pilgrims from Melbourne and several million from around the world for the week in Lisbon. Shortly after our return to Melbourne in September there will be a retreat with the Archbishop ordered towards sending out and equipping pilgrims to live their faith in parish communities. The organisers have ensured our Parish Pilgrims will be journeying together with other young people from neighbouring parishes in Hastings, Mornington, Rosebud and Padua College, and that these relationships will continue to build in time.

The cost for the flights, accommodation and meals for the 14 day trip for each pilgrim is \$5,900. Matthew and Charles are working to raise 1/3; the Parish has agreed to support them with a further 1/3 and it is my sincere hope that we are able to raise the final 1/3 by hosting events and engagement within our community. The fundraising target then for both pilgrims comes to \$4000 At this stage an event(s) are being planned through the PPLT to happen late June or July. We look forward to Matthew and Charles speaking to the congregation in the coming weeks and allowing us all to be involved in this important faith journey.

- Fr Patrick

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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 6:1-7**

They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our
trust in you.

Second reading **1 Peter 2: 4-9**

Christ is the living stone, chosen by God and
precious to Him.

Gospel Acclamation **John 14:6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel **John 14:1-12**

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

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

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says
the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia

Next Sunday's Readings **6th Sunday of Easter**

Ist Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

