



SEASONS

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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

October 29th 2023

Diary

Catechism Classes

Tuesday 31st Oct 4.30pm CC

Baptism Preparation Meeting

Thursday 2nd Nov 7.00pm

Infant baptism

Sun 5th Nov Oct 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 30th Oct

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

All Saints Day

Wednesday * Mass 8.30am

Wednesday Mass 7.00pm

T hursday* Mass 10.00am

Friday Adoration 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

**Saturday Mass 10.00am
(for protection of the unborn)**

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Sunday Filipino Mass 4.00pm

Dear Friends,

November is a month where we remember our beloved dead.

God’s family on earth and God’s family in heaven (and on the way to heaven) are two sides of the same coin. The saints in heaven, and the souls in purgatory can pray for us; and we can pray for them.

On November 14th at 10am the Parish will be hosting a Mass to be offered for the deceased members of the Social Club. Following the Mass, we will proceed to the memorial garden for a short blessing and prayer service. All are welcome to join us. Envelopes are available in the Church foyer if you wish to have a Mass offered for your loved one – these can be filled in with the names of those to be prayed for and dropped into the collection baskets, the Parish Office or our letterbox. On Thursday, November 23rd at 10am we will have a Parish Memorial Mass and prayers with a special invitation to anyone who has lost a loved one in the last twelve months.



Below is an adapted reflection from Fr Benedict Keily:

November in the Northern Hemisphere, often a dreary month of bare trees and grey skies, is a fitting month of the dead in the life of the Church. All Souls is the day when Masses are said for those “who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.” The sign, of course, is the sign of the Cross, marked on a child’s head by parents and godparents as each new Christian is welcomed into the Church. That sign is marked one last time as the priest anoints a departing soul ready to meet his or her Maker when He calls.

The Church has traditionally recommended that Mass for the “Holy Souls”—all those known and unknown who are still awaiting the vision of God’s glory—be celebrated throughout the month of November. The dead, it has been said, are “always with us,” not just as memories or half-remembered dreams, but as part of the mystical Body of Christ. Moderns use the phrase “closure,” to signify that after an acceptable time—perhaps two weeks, perhaps six months—a bereaved person can get on with her life, and consign the dead to the dustbin of memory. Unfortunately, the simplicity of closure has never been part of the human experience. The wisdom of ritual and rite developed through the centuries is designed to give meaning and comfort to those who experience death and bereavement.

For the believer, the ritual of funeral and prayer for the dead is more than just an exterior comfort: It is an act of faith. Cardinal Robert Sarah who formerly headed the Vatican’s liturgy office has written, “postmodern civilization denies death, causes it, and paradoxically unceasingly exalts it.” People today do not die; they “pass away, pass on,” or just “pass.” Pass where, we might ask?

The Russian author Solzhenitsyn wrote that “above all things we have begun to fear death and the dead.” That is the paradox Sarah identifies. The culture of death denies the reality of death. The dead are feared and must be forgotten, yet at the same time our society allows us to choose when to end their own lives (euthanasia) or even the lives of unborn children (abortion). Prayer for the dead, funeral customs, and continued mourning rituals of Christian civilization face death directly with a clear and penetrating gaze and offer not facile optimism but the theological virtue of hope. Prayer for the dead, the heart of November’s liturgy is “an act bequeathed to us in deep wisdom, by men of holiness,” according to Solzhenitsyn.

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

Those who have passed away recently...



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

John Hooper, Mona Kelly, David Mitchell, Irene Ryan, Beverley Smith, Amelia Smith

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'Brian Patrick Guest, Elaine (Dee) Smith, Bernadette Smith, Sr Elizabeth Browne-Russell, Philip Yee, John Miller 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.

November Mass Offerings

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a deceased family member, envelopes are available in the foyer of the Church.

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 +

A chance to connect, chat, laugh and share.

Next get together :

Friday 3rd November.

(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

Managing our 'Sick List'

Following feedback from parishioners, we are intending to make some changes to the administration and publication of our weekly "sick list" in the Parish bulletin. Caring for the sick is one of the seven works of mercy, and an important outreach of St Thomas More Parish. The current practice is that anyone can contact the Parish Office and nominate a loved one to be included on this list. However, as we do not collect any contact details, there is often no way for us to keep this lists accurate and up to date. Unfortunately, there have been occasions where we have been praying for someone on the sick list who has since passed away; other times we are praying for someone on the sick list who has since fully recovered! It is important that we offer care for the sick and housebound in our community through our prayer, personal contact and the ministry of the Sacraments. Going forward, if there is someone you would like to be named on this list in the Parish bulletin you will be asked if they would like a visit from Fr Patrick to administer the Sacraments. You will also be asked to give at least an email address or phone number so that each month the Parish Office can review the lists and ensure that the sick are not only being prayed for at Mass, but also receiving any ongoing spiritual and pastoral care they may need. From 2024, the sick list will be actively monitored and it will be adjusted if we don't know the status of those listed. We welcome the names of sick or housebound parishioners to be emailed or phoned in to the Parish Office. If you prefer, we can of course keep names off the published sick list but continue to pray and keep in contact.
– Fr Patrick



Memorial Wall - Plaque Restoration

Some parishioners have enquired about having the plaques of their relatives restored. Following several enquires, arrangements have been made with A1 Plaques to undertake a total restoration of the standard plaque for \$70 plus GST. If you are interested in taking up this offer you may contact Dave Stenhouse directly on: 1300 558 813 (local call) or via email ... a1plaques@bigpond.com

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Is the Church’s preoccupation with the souls of the dead morbid? Does the insistence on praying for the dead reflect a refusal to accept the reality of death? Quite the contrary. The dead are dead to this world, but they live to God. Our prayers reflect the communion of love that death does not destroy. We remember those whom God placed into our lives here below for a time and who are united with us still, even after they have left our sight. This fact, taught to us by our faith, compels us to act. We pray, and we rejoice at the goodness of God—he who allows us to help those we love who are beyond our earthly vision yet still are seen by God.

This deep wisdom of respecting the dead is first shown in the funeral liturgy itself. Sarah has written, “is no longer uncommon to hear applause and long speeches during a funeral service.” A funeral Mass, in the Catholic and Orthodox Church, is meant to be a solemn event. Solemnity is not the enemy of hope. It is the age-old protector, unmoved by fad or fashion. **The** liturgical colour black expresses the loss of the bereaved and the symbolism of prayer. A funeral is a prayer for the precious immortal soul. It is a confident prayer, filled with trust in the mercy of God, but it is a prayer and petition, not a canonization. It is the supreme act of hope and faith, applying the merits of the Paschal Mystery—the life, saving death, and Resurrection of Christ—to the soul of the departed.

Ultimately, prayer for the dead is an act, “bequeathed to us in deep wisdom,” according to Solzinitzin because it is an act of charity. It answers not only the needs of the human spirit for commemoration and reverence, but it is, as Scripture says, a “holy and wholesome thing to pray for the dead.” It is hopeful and hope-filled; November’s bleakness holds Resurrection’s promise. “Perhaps,” writes the majestic Russian, “we too can help somehow? And a promise: We shall meet again.”

Stewardship

Would the person who is contributing via Envelope No 32 please contact the parish office. Many thanks

SPECIAL OFFER



5.55% p.a.
12-month Term Investment account

Open an account with CDF Community Fund, and save while doing good. Help build classrooms for students, churches for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the poor and vulnerable.

To open an account call 1800 134 135 or scan the QR code.



*Rate subject to change. Interest paid at maturity. See catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au for disclosure information.



FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Featuring:
FR DAVID LEMEWU MGL
St Joseph’s Church, Chelsea, VIC
Saturday 4th, November
7:15 PM

Join us for a night of entertainment, inspiration, joy, good food, and socializing.

For more info & booking
<https://www.trybooking.com/CMJVF>
cogtheatregroup@gmail.com

Parish Social Function –Tuesday 14th November

November Mass at STM & Sages Spring Carnival Luncheon at Sages Rd Baxter



There will be a memorial Mass at 11.00am for all those Parish Elders who have gone before us, followed by a blessing of the plaques in the memorial garden. We will then proceed to Sages Cottage for a light luncheon (e.g. soup, sandwiches, frittata, cakes) accompanied by tea, coffee or a glass of wine.

The delightful gardens should be in full bloom, and strolling through them is welcomed.

Please contact Tom & Maree Shelton on 0418 337 950 as soon as possible, as seating is limited.

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

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 **Exodus 22:20-26**

If you are harsh with the widow and orphan, my
anger will rage against you.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 17**

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading **I Thessalonians 1:5-10**

You turned away from idols to serve God and
await his Son.

Gospel Acclamation**John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my
Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel**Matthew 22:34-40**

You shall love the Lord your God and your
neighbour as your self.

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

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and
exult in the name of our God.

Next Sunday's Readings:

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Malachi 1:14-2: 2, 8-10

2nd Reading: I Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

Gospel: Matthew 23: 1-12