



SEASONS

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

September 17th 2023

Diary

John Pridmore

Mon 18th September 7.30pm
 Tues 19th September 7.30pm
 Wed 20th September 7.30pm
Catechism Class Tuesday 19th Sept

**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 Sept

Monday Mass 10.00am
Tuesday Mass 10.00am

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.

Dear Friends,

This weekend John Pridmore will be briefly addressing the congregation at the end of each of the Masses, and offering a personal invitation to join us for the Parish Mission nights. John's powerful testimony is a witness to God's love and mercy, and a reminder of the greatness that we are called to in Christ. The three talks unpack this message along three themes: God's love; God's mercy; God's healing. His message has been well received in the three parishes around Melbourne John has visited earlier this month. I warmly invite you to join us for the Parish Mission.



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A reflection from Loyola Press:

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

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

Those who have passed away recently...



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

John Maxwell, John McLoughlin, Michele Rogic (McCartney), Mildred Hanmer,
Edward Doherty, Charles Doherty, Norman Prendergast, John Bowring,
Celestine Fennessy

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, Sharon Collins, 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.

Parish Mission on September 18, 19 and 20 - 7.30pm to 8.30pm

(Refreshments in the Community Centre will follow the event each night.

You are welcome to bring a 'plate'.)

Come and see, be

touched by God

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



Love, Mercy, Healing

What other people have said about John Pridmore's retreats:

"John's stories were so emotive and made me reflect on personal experience. He was huge; a bit scary to start with, but you could tell how devoted he is to God".

"John Pridmore was very inspiring and his stories were really interesting. They also had an impact on me because they were so personal"

John's stories were engaging, down to earth and resonated deeply with our parishioners. His message that our God is a merciful and forgiving God encouraged many to seek comfort and healing. What a beautiful and grace-filled week! I encourage all parishes to experience John's message and enthusiasm for his Faith.

This was a great retreat for our parish. It filled us with faith and hope and renewed zeal for our prayers. It gave us a sense of the presence of God and the reassurance of our Lord's words: "Do not be afraid for I am with you". Many people have stopped me in the street to say how much they enjoyed the retreat and some parents have spoken of the effect it had on their children too.



September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrows

We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15th. It commemorates the profound union of heart that existed between the Mother of the Redeemer and the Saviour, through which she experienced many interior sorrows as a consequence of His Mission, but particularly during His Passion and death.

Let us offer some little sacrifice today, without complaining, in honour of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at www.caritas.org.au



Children's colouring sheets. After children have finished colouring - parents, please remind your children to put any bags of borrowed pencils back on the table in the foyer, so that other children can use them at other Masses. Thank you.



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

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Next Meeting – Monday September 18

9.30am in the Undercroft

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 7th October.

(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

Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

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 **Sirach 27:30 - 28:7**
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you; and
when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 102**
The Lord is kind and merciful:
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second reading **Romans 14:7-9**
Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation**John 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
Love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel**Matthew 18: 21-35**

To be forgiven, you must forgive.

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

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of
your wings.

Next Sunday's Readings:

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9
2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16