



SEASONS

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

2nd Sunday of Advent-Year B

December 10th 2023

Diary

STM End of year Mass

Tuesday 12th December 12.45pm

STM Graduation Mass

Thursday December 14th 7.00pm

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 11th 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

The following reflection has been adapted from 'Catholic World Report'.

The secular world calls it the Holiday Season. The Catholic Church calls it Advent. The two are starkly different, but the one thing they have in common is suffering.

At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, Christmas is not my favourite time of the year. And I really don't mind sounding like Scrooge, the immortal Dickens character from A Christmas Carol. His complaints are compelling, and we can laugh at them in a detached way. But the reason we really like him is that he is a convert. When he falls to his knees, he brings us to our knees along with him. We always rejoice at the end of that story in its countless retellings because a soul has been rescued from hell.

In the meantime, we live through a form of hell that ironically begins early in November. The secular world calls it the Holiday Season. The Catholic Church calls it Advent. The two are starkly different, but the one thing they have in common is suffering. One group has started early with the Christmas cheer, and they wonder why they are so miserable. The other group is waiting, waiting, anticipating the great day, and the wait is hard. Advent is supposed to be a mini-Lent, a time of prayer and penance and abstinence. Let's talk about all three, not in that order.

For me, the chief form of penance during Advent is shopping. I'm not talking about Christmas shopping. I'm talking about any shopping: grocery shopping or hardware shopping or buying petrol at the station. Why? Because every retail establishment feels obligated to inflict on us that grindingly obnoxious "Christmas" music. It starts blaring in the first week of November as if to say, "Stop being thankful, and start feeling the pain."

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

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Tyler Cassidy, Harry Knuckey, Catherine Farrell, Carolyn Royal, Fr. John Pierce,
Henry Haines, Wayne Jackson, William Green, Richard Shea



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, Elaine (Dee) Smith, Sr Elizabeth Browne-Russell, Philip Yee, John Miller, Jim Bourke, Gui Hone 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.

Special Collection this Sunday: Melbourne Overseas Mission

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.

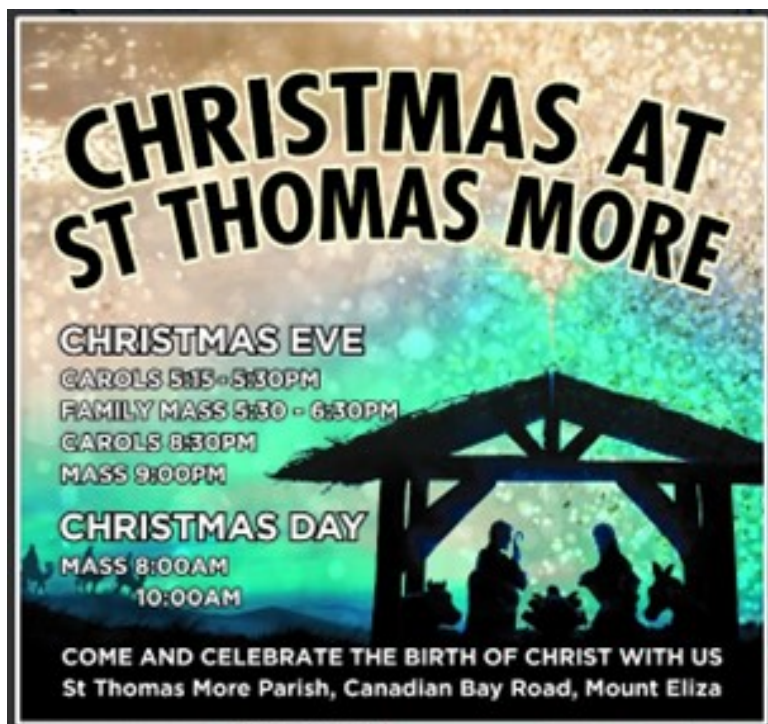
Next get together : **Friday 5th January.**

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 focused 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.

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They won't play the beautiful carols because those tend to mention shepherds and angels and heavenly hosts and virgins, and, when it comes right down to it, that specific baby who apparently never fussed and yet caused all the fuss. No, only music that is empty of Christmas content is allowed: the jingle jangles about Santa and Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman and memories that nobody has about horses and unlikely demands that snow be let and let and let.

To make them more unbearable, the songs have been jazzed up or heavily electrified, and the singers screech rather than sing them. And to these "traditional" tunes, add the more contemporary offerings that involve one pounding line repeated about 47 times. The only time we hear the word "Christmas" is in such titles as "Honky Tonky Christmas." Not sure what that even means. And "All I want for Christmas is You." Pretty sure what that means. Restaurants, which can always be counted on to play bad music, really ramp it up during December. In any case, none of these songs exactly evoke peace on earth. And any good will is put to the extreme test.

Thus the penance, the pain, the longing for relief. The Christmas tree has become a cross.

The good thing is that music chases us out of the shops and back into our homes. There's no place like home for the holidays. That song, by the way, misses the point. There's no place like home the rest of the days.

It all comes to an abrupt and undramatic end on Christmas Day. All the decorations in the stores magically disappear and the horrible music mercifully ceases.

That is when Christmas actually begins. Christmas Day is...the First Day of Christmas. We have twelve days of feasting and celebration. When the world's party has ended, ours has just begun. The holidays—the holy days—can finally be observed in their fullness. And we can start listening to decent music.

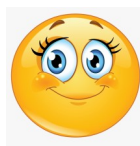
The world is out of whack about most things, as epitomized by its getting Christmas totally wrong. It attempts to celebrate it before it happens and then without the actual reason for celebrating it. It partakes of Christmas pleasures throughout Advent, and then walks away just as the real event gets underway. The result is a pleasure that is unsatisfying. Abstinence is not a concept the world takes a liking to. It has the same problem with Advent that it has with many different things- celebrating too soon, and then not properly celebrating at the right time. Not feasting at the right time and then fasting at the wrong time.

And the Advent prayer? "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom 7:24) Bet you didn't think of that one. It gets the penance and the anticipation just right.

How do we best express that anticipation? Well, let's turn to G.K. Chesterton for help. The march towards finally saying "Merry Christmas" is "the power of expressing, not negative happiness, but positive hilarity... It is this power of rising into the seventh heaven of mere temper the moment a strain is relaxed; of being cut loose like a captive balloon or springing skyward like a released rocket, that is really the reward of virtue. It is not the power of saying, 'Let us feast; for tomorrow we die.' It is the power of saying, 'Let us fast; for tomorrow we feast.'"

Parish BBQ & picnic : Next Sunday!!!

**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

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

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 40:1-5, 9-11**

Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 84: 9-14**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second reading **2 Peter 3:8-14**

We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth.

Gospel Acclamation**Luke 3:4,6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel**Mark 1:1-8**

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next Sunday's Readings:

3rd Sunday of Advent –Year B

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28