



SEASONS

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

1st Sunday of Advent-Year B

December 3rd 2023

Diary

Baptism preparation-infants

Thursday 7th Dec 7.00pm

Working Bee

Saturday 9th December 8.30am

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 4th Dec

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Wednesday * Mass 8.30am

Thursday* Mass 10.00am

Friday Adoration 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.00pm –7.00pm

Friday 9.30am -10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm - 5.00pm

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Filipino Mass 3rd Dec 4.00pm

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

Over the last few weeks the Proclaim Office at the Archdiocese has been hosting a number of events focussed on Parish renewal, evangelisation and outreach. Mr Ron Huntley was invited to address participants at the proclaim conference and run workshops and seminars in Parishes. Ron visited St Thomas More Parish last Sunday and spoke with the Parish Pastoral Leadership Team and Parish Staff. During the last hour we met with the leaders and representatives of different school and parish groups- altogether around twenty people.



Ron's message is drawn from his experience working at Saint Benedict Parish in Nova Scotia, with Fr James Mallon. Ron shared a number of insights into how addressing the challenges facing St Benedict (e.g. dwindling congregation) by engagement with youth / young people, equipping parishioners for leadership and service, collaboration with clergy and a powerful vision, transformed the parish.

During the meeting a number of opportunities were identified for further discussion and discernment at St Thomas More Parish. A key message that we heard drew on Jesus's teaching on fruitfulness. Where something is working well, we should expect to see the fruit of that growing. Where something is not apparently producing much fruit, it may need pruning or replanting in order to continue to grow.

Reflection from Loyola Press:

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

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

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



Lola Lamm, Jim Hutchinson, Clarence Wearne, Ella Hutchinson, Rita Cubranic,
Lloyd Beard, Audrey Hussey

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 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.

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 focussed 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.

Want to become a Catholic?

At S.T.M, we are about to start classes for those who would like to learn about our beautiful Catholic faith.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this invitation, please contact Ann at the parish office on 9787-7777.

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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Scholars believe that Mark’s Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark’s audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’ warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

Frankston Winter Shelter

Frankston Winter Shelter is a local church initiative based on the model by Stable One. The concept is to provide crisis shelter for the homeless in the Frankston area. The winter shelter has several goals:

- To provide food and shelter for those in immediate need
- To provide a safe place where the love of Christ is demonstrated
- To assist in creating a sense of community that will extend beyond the simple meeting of physical needs and to bring together the local churches in a unified purpose; allowing churches to build on existing services and partner together
- To mobilise the wider church community and raise awareness of the issues in their local area.

Click to see more about getting involved [Winter Shelter Flyer Seaford St Annes](#). Or check out the flyer in the foyer.



Working Bee – From 8.30am Saturday 9th December

Are you able to pitch in and also have some fun? Please add your name to the clipboard in the foyer. It would be great to receive any spare **Tip vouchers!**

**Parish BBQ & picnic : Sunday 17th December
after 10am Mass.**

**Meat will be supplied,
please bring your own refreshments.**

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859



Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church



Many will have noticed a black terminal which is fixed to the wall on the left side of the main doors as you exit the church. As we move to become a “cashless” society, this device accepts credit card donations which exclusively support the Church account.

This account facilitates regular parish expenses like staffing, utilities, insurance, liturgical costs, and more. If you wish to donate you will find four preset donation amounts, or you can choose “other” and type in any amount up to \$100. Simply touch the denomination you wish to donate, then you will be prompted to wave your card on the top of the unit. It will “beep” when processed. It is possible to request a printed receipt. If you have any difficulties please approach Fr Patrick or any of the welcomers for assistance.

You can also support the Parish by electronic transfer into our Bank Account for both accounts: **BSB 083-347**

Church Account no. 638 078 704

Presbytery Account no 637 953 335

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none
who hope in you be put to shame.

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 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8**

O that you would tear the heavens apart and
come down!

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 79**

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face
and we shall be saved.

Second reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be
revealed.

Gospel Acclamation **Psalms 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us
your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 13:33-37**

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you
asleep.

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

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth
shall yield its increase.

Next Sunday's Readings:

2nd Sunday of Advent –Year B 

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8