



SEASONS

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

1st Sunday of Lent -Year A

26th February 2023

Infant Baptism Preparation

Thursday March 2nd 7.30pm

STM School Mass

Friday March 3 2.30pm

Mass for the Unborn

Saturday March 5th 10.00am

**313 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

Paul Keane

Sandra Taylor

Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple

Kathy Raccanello

Church Services:

from 27th February

Tuesday	Adoration	6.00 pm
Tuesday	Mass	7.00pm
Wednesday*	Mass	8.30am
Thursday*	Mass	10.00am
Friday	Exposition	9.00am
Mass		10.00am
Saturday	-Mass for Unborn	10.00am

*Rosary before Mass

Sunday Mass

Saturday	Vigil	5.00 pm
Sunday		8.00 am
Sunday		10.00 am
Sunday	Filipino Mass	4.00pm

Reconciliation

Tuesday	6.30pm –7.00pm
Friday	9.30am –10.00am
Saturday	4.30pm - 5.00pm

St Thomas More acknowledges the Traditional Land owners, the Bunurong people on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

Dear Friends,

A reflection from The Catholic Life:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. Matthew 4:1–2

“Forty” is a significant number. In Scripture, it is used more than 145 different times. For example, the rain during the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights. Each time Moses went up Mount Sinai, he remained there for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven. And there are many other uses of “forty” throughout the Bible. Interestingly, forty is even significant within human nature, in that we develop within our mother’s womb for forty weeks before being born. The “forty” that we commemorate today is the forty days and forty nights that our Lord spent in the desert being tempted by the devil while He fasted and prayed. Forty is used to symbolize a time of testing, purification, trial or probation. For that reason, it should also be seen as a symbol of your entire life here on earth. In Saint Matthew’s version of Jesus’ temptation in the desert, he specifically uses the wording “forty days and forty nights.” Saint Bede, in commenting upon this, points out that this period of time not only symbolizes our entire lives, but the “days” represent the many graces and blessings we receive, while the “nights” represent the crosses we endure.

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is important to once again apply the lessons of Jesus’ time in the desert to our entire lives. Let’s consider two lessons we can take from the passage quoted above. First, we see that Jesus was “led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” This teaches us that Jesus not only endured temptation, He confronted it. He was not afraid of the devil and did not fear

his attacks. Instead, He willingly faced those temptations, being led by the Spirit, so as to not only overcome them in His life but also to enable us to confront,



in our lives, every temptation by the power and initiative of the Holy Spirit. We must never be afraid to confront temptations directly and confidently when the Holy Spirit is in the lead.

A second important lesson is that Jesus voluntarily fasted during this time in the desert. This illustrates the importance of the virtue of temperance in life. If we see this period of forty as a symbol of our whole lives, then we will understand that temperance must always be part of our lives. When we experience the joys and blessings of life (the forty days), we must certainly celebrate them. But we must always do so with a certain self-denial, in that we must never allow the passing things of this world to become the primary satisfaction we seek. Saint John of the Cross teaches that we can even become overly attached to spiritual consolations. Conversely, when we experience the crosses of life (the forty nights), we must also practice a certain self-denial, in that we must not allow the difficulties we endure to discourage us or to distract us from seeking out and fulfilling the will of God. Fasting, meaning our acquisition of the virtue of temperance, must lead us always through the ups and downs of life, helping us to keep our eyes on the truths God has revealed to us and rejecting the lies of the devil.

Reflect, today, upon the importance of embracing the virtue of temperance with courage throughout life. Throughout life’s many ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, confronting every circumstance with courage and self-control.

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

Those who have passed away recently...

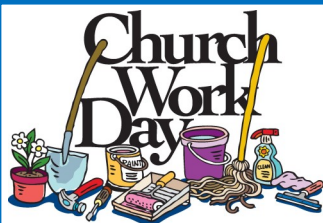


Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Genevieve Payne, Peter Wilson, Hilda Fitzhenry, Vin Pearson, Ann Morrow, Molly Gage, Rosemary Kimpton

The sick... Maureen Mirabella, Adrian & Maree Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, Rodney Abbatangelo, 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, Julian Collins, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose 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.

The Parish Welfare officers for March are Jim and Betty Bourke 0429 011 082



Working Bee

Our next parish working bee will take place:

Saturday March 11

8am-1pm.

There are plenty of jobs to be done to prepare the church and surrounds for Easter.

Does anyone have any spare Tip Vouchers?

Please add your name and number to the signup sheet in the Church Foyer if you can help on the day, serve or prepare morning tea.

YOUTH ALPHA (11 TO 16)

**Starting
Tues 28 Feb**

Where: St Thomas More Church
 When: Every Tuesday starting 28th Feb to 20th May
 Time: 5 to 6.45pm
 Includes: Dinner (Free!)

COME AND JOIN US FOR FUN AND DISCUSSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAITH

Contact Faye for further details: 0421 443 632

Parish Social Function

Come and have some fun over breakfast / coffee at the

The Sober Mule

Peninsula Lifestyle Centre
 1098 Nepean Hwy Mornington
9.00am Wednesday 15th March

Book in with Paul Kost
 9787 - 3757 / 0421 467 285

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 yearsPLUS a chance to connect, chat, laugh and share. Our first get together will be Friday 3 March.

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



BISHOP ROBERT RABBAT'S

SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

PLEASE DONATE NOW

The recent Syrian earthquake has hit people who were already displaced in a region that has been devastated by more than a decade of civil war. Yet again, we are seeing people fleeing and desperate for shelter in freezing winter conditions. We want to help provide that light in the deepest darkness, to get through this devastating disaster.

MCF DGR ACCOUNT
Ref: Syrian Appeal
BSB: 062784
Account: 100011493

All donations are Tax Deductible.
For a receipt please email
mcf@melkite.org.au
or contact on (02) 9750 5514

Melkite
iCare

 Melkite
Charitable Foundation

Project Compassion

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

Building Access and Security

As we begin 2023, the Parish has conducted a review of security and access to buildings onsite.

It has been more than twenty years since the current locks were installed and a number of keys were unaccounted for. It was therefore determined that a new key system needed to be installed. This will ensure that we secure access to the parish buildings and simplify the issuing of new keys in the future.

Last year, following a number of vandalism attacks on Churches around the Peninsula, lighting around our property was repaired and upgraded. The top carpark is now lit each evening while the Church and Offices have lights which activate automatically. We have also ensured that the Church now has safe exits and lighting in case of a fire or other emergency.

The review further identified the need for surveillance for those accessing the Church after hours, as well as inside the Sacristy. Privacy remains an important consideration to be protected. Visitors who attend regular scheduled Masses, those using the reconciliation room or any other areas within the Church are not recorded with the exception of those who enter the sacristy. All data will be collected and used in accordance with our privacy policy.

The open access policy for the Parish Community Centre continues as this is a welcoming space for informal gatherings, but access will now be by keycard. Any parishioner is welcome to have FOB to access this area. Please contact the Parish Office to gain access or speak to member of the PPLT for any further information. Fr Patrick Bradford PP

Youth Discipleship and Catechesis & Baptism and Confirmation Preparation (See poster opposite.)

St Thomas More Parish is offering a programme for youth aged 12 to 16 to explore their faith and the "big questions". This is open to anyone whether they are Catholic or not. The first meeting **begins on Tuesday, 28th of March at 5pm** in the Parish Community Centre. Meetings begin with dinner, then we watch a short video, followed by group discussion. Topics include Jesus: Who is he? How can I have faith? How do I pray? How can I make the most of my life? Through our weeks together we will use the Youth Alpha programme which is being used at Churches around the world. Those who attend the programme will have the opportunity to make their baptism and confirmation in May. For more details please contact Faye Sayah— 0421443632

World Youth Day

World Youth Day is scheduled for August 1st to August 6th, 2023. Fr Patrick will be a chaplain to a group of young adults from St Thomas More and neighbouring Parishes who will spend time at the shrine of Fatima, and then onto Lisbon to spend six days together in prayer, catechesis and fellowship. The week culminates in a 15 km pilgrimage walk to the final venue for an open air Mass with Pope Francis, expected to be attended by more than two million pilgrims from around the world. If you (or someone you know) aged 16-35 is interested in attending, registrations will close in mid-March. Please contact the Parish office or speak with Fr Patrick for more information.

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

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 **Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7**
Creation of our first parents, and sin.

Responsorial Psalm:

Be merciful O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second reading **Romans 5:12-19**
However great the number of sins committed,
grace was even greater.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:4**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless
glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every
word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise
to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel **Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

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

One does not live by bread alone, but by every
word that comes from the mouth of God.



Next Sunday's Readings for Mass during the day.

5th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4
2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9