



# SEASONS

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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

July 30th 2023

## DIARY

**Baptism Preparation night**

Thursday 3rd August 7.00pm

**Parish/School Mass**

Friday 4th August 10.00am

**Mass for the Unborn**

Saturday 5th August 10.00am

**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 31st July

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm  
Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

**Wednesday Mass 8.30am**

Thursday\* Mass 10.00am

Friday Adoration 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

Saturday – Mass for Unborn 10.00

\*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

## Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Sunday 6th Aug (Filipino) 4.00pm

## 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,

Once again I offer my sincere thanks for the tremendous support of Charles and Matthew who are off to World Youth Day in Portugal this weekend. I know as they go many of you have entrusted them with prayer intentions to be taken to Fatima and to the Holy Sites. We look forward to their return and hearing about their experiences of being with the universal church and Pope Francis.

This week the Church celebrates the feast days of four significant saints – Ignatius of Loyola, Alphonsus Ligouri, Dominic and St John Vianney. Each of them made a great contribution to the spiritual lives of Catholics across many centuries. St Ignatius in particular has touched the lives of many Catholics through his deep insights in prayer. In the first reading this Sunday, Solomon is asked by God – to name what he truly desires, what he wants. This theme is central to Ignatian Spirituality which says that God is found in the deepest desires we have. I was blessed to be directed on an 8 day retreat by Fr Bill Barry SJ, who has written many books on prayer. His honest reflections on his own prayer experience give us some practical insights into the power of prayerful desire.

Reflection from Fr Bill Barry:

*Why do we pray? Do we pray for utilitarian reasons—because it benefits our physical or psychological health?*

*Honesty compels me to say that I often do pray for utilitarian reasons. First of all, most of my prayers of petition ask for some good result, either for me or for someone else or for all people. Moreover, I feel contented when I remember in prayer the people who mean much to me, even if my prayer is not answered. I notice, too, that I feel better about myself when I pray regularly. I feel more centered, more in tune with the present, less anxious about the past or the future. So I suspect that I do pray for the purpose of psychological or physical health.*

*But does that exhaust my motivations for prayer?*

*Prayer Is a Relationship*

*Thinking of prayer as a conscious relationship, or friendship, with God may be illuminating.*

*Why do we spend time with good friends?*

*As I pondered this question, I realized that I relish times with good friends for some of the same reasons just adduced for spending time in prayer. If I have not had good conversations with close friends for some time, I feel out of sorts, somewhat lonely, and ill at ease. When I am with good friends, I feel more whole and alive.*

*Still, I do not believe that my only reason for wanting time with them is to feel better. I want to be with them because I love them. I am genuinely interested in and concerned for them. The beneficial effect that being with them has on me is a happy by-product. Moreover, I have often spent time with friends when it cost me trouble and time, and I did it because they wanted my presence. Haven't we all spent time with a close friend who was ill or depressed, even when the time was painful and difficult? Such time spent cannot be explained on utilitarian grounds. We spend that time because we love our friend for his or her own sake.*

*Our Deepest Desires* Prayer is a conscious relationship with God. Just as we spend time with friends because we love them and care for them, we spend time in prayer because we love God and want to be with God.

*Created out of love, we are drawn by the desire for "we know not what," for union with the ultimate Mystery, who alone will satisfy our deepest longing. That desire, we can say, is the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in our hearts, drawing us to the perfect fulfillment for which we were created—namely, community with the Trinity. That desire draws us toward a more and more intimate union with God. (Cont. Page 3)*



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

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



Leonie Purcell, Michael McGrath, Peg Collard, Les Collard, Mary Macdonald,  
Lucy Galvin, Anne Crockett, Lorraine Mackenzie

**The sick...** Adrian Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, 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 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

**Friday Masses**

There is a plan for the children of STM school, to join the parishioners at morning Mass on some Fridays. Next: Friday 4th August 10.00am

**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

- 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.



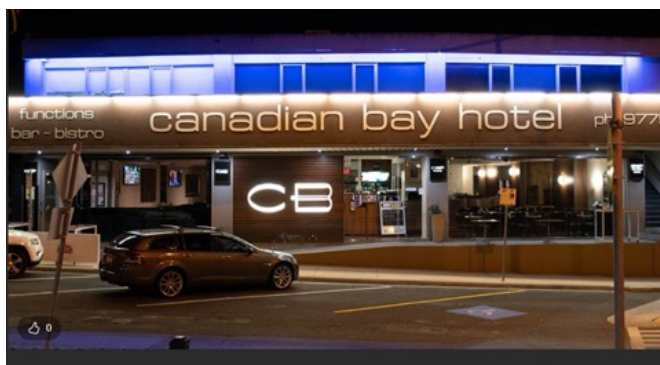
See flyer on Notice board

**Parish Social Function**

Please join us for lunch  
12.30pm on Wednesday 16th August  
Canadian Bay Hotel  
Mt Eliza.

A great chance to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones.

Book with Colleen 0408 314 409  
before Monday 14th August.



**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 4th August.

(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.

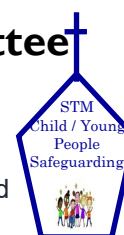
Hope you can come!

Kathy

**Safeguarding Committee**

For information:  
Julie Carter 0420 923 859

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.



(From Page 1)

*We pray, then, at our deepest level, because we are drawn by the bonds of love. We pray because we love, and not just for utilitarian purposes. If prayer has beneficial effects—and I believe that it does—that is because prayer corresponds to our deepest reality. When we are in tune with God, we cannot help but experience deep well-being. Ignatius of Loyola spoke of consolation as a sign of a person's being in tune with God's intention. But in the final analysis, the lover does not spend time with the Beloved because of the consolation; the lover just wants to be with the Beloved.*

*Thanks and Praise* Another motive for prayer is the desire to praise and thank God because of his great kindness and mercy. In contemplating Jesus, we discover that God's love is not only creative but also overwhelmingly self-sacrificing. Jesus loved us even as we nailed him to the cross.

*If we allow the desire for "we know not what" to draw us more and more into a relationship of mutual love with God, then we will, I believe, gradually take as our own that wonderful prayer so dear to St. Francis Xavier that begins O Deus, ego amo te, nec amo te ut salves me: "O God, I love you, and not because I hope for heaven thereby." Gerard Manley Hopkins translated the prayer:*

**I love thee, God, I love thee—  
Not out of hope for heaven for me  
Nor fearing not to love and be  
In the everlasting burning.  
Thou, my Jesus, after me  
Didst reach thine arms out dying,  
For my sake sufferedst nails and lance,  
Mocked and marred countenance,  
Sorrows passing number,  
Sweat and care and cumber,  
Yea and death, and this for me,  
And thou couldst see me sinning:  
Then I, why should not I love thee,  
Jesu so much in love with me?  
Not for heaven's sake, not to be  
Out of hell by loving thee;  
Not for any gains I see;  
But just the way that thou didst me  
I do love and will love thee.  
What must I love thee, Lord, for then?  
For being my king and God. Amen.**

Excerpt from God's Passionate Desire by William A. Barry, SJ.



It was a wonderful night: Great place, tasty food, excellent company, a lot of laughs and a special cause. Many thanks to everyone who assisted. Bon voyage Charlie and Matthew!!

**Some snaps from the  
World Youth Day  
Fundraising Dinner**



**Entrance Antiphon**

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**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**      **1 Kings 3:5, 7-12**

Solomon chooses the gift of wisdom.

**Responsorial Psalm:**      **Psalm 118:**

Lord, I love your commands.

**Second reading**      **Romans 8:28-30**

He predestined us to become true images  
of his son.

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of  
the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Gospel**      **Matthew 13:44-52**

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

**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**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his  
benefits.

Next Sunday's Readings:

**The Transfiguration of the Lord.**

1st Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9